

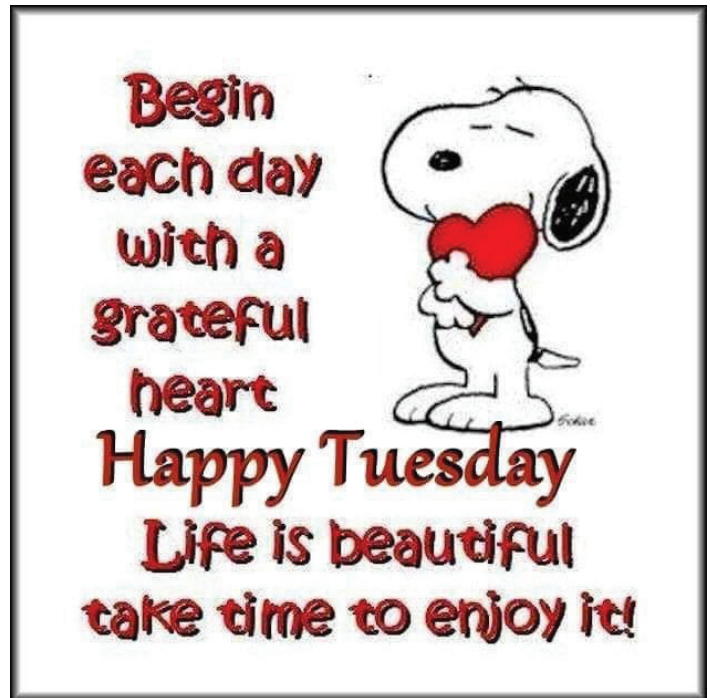
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Tuesday, Sept. 7

Senior Menu: Meat loaf, baked potato, antigua blend, fruited Jello, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.
School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, mixed vegetables.
State Golf Tournament in Vermillion
First Round Soccer Playoffs
St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1 p.m.
First Grade GBB, 3:30 p.m.
Fifth Grade GBB, 4:15 p.m.
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Wage Memorial Library Meeting, 6 p.m.



Wednesday, Sept. 8

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, green beans, pears, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Omelets.
School Lunch: Pasta primavera, cooked carrots.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:30 pm.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Fourth Grade GBB, 3:30 p.m.
Sixth Grade GBB, 6 p.m.

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

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1440

Why 1440? The printing press was invented around the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. More facts: In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. We're here to make each one count.

Middle East Negotiations

Delegates from Israel and Hamas began indirect talks in Egypt yesterday to hash out sticking points in a US-led 20-point proposal to forge a ceasefire and arrange a hostage-prisoner exchange. The negotiations—mediated by the US, Qatar, and Egypt—kicked off on the eve of the war's second anniversary.

The parties have conditionally agreed on the broader contours of the plan, but disagreements remain on the details. The proposal includes Hamas releasing the 48 remaining hostages in Gaza (roughly 20 of whom are believed to be alive) within 72 hours in exchange for Israel freeing 1,700 Palestinians detained after Oct. 7, 2023, and 250 prisoners who are serving life sentences. It also requires Hamas to disarm and surrender governance. Questions remain on whether and when Israeli forces will withdraw from Gaza.

President Donald Trump has said Israel would need to stop attacking Gaza before hostages are released. The Israeli military maintains it is mostly carrying out defensive strikes to protect its troops near the border.

French PM Resigns (Again)

French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu resigned yesterday, less than a day after unveiling his Cabinet. The decision comes after less than a month in the role and makes his government France's shortest-lived in modern history.

Lecornu is France's third prime minister this year, as consecutive governments failed to muster the parliamentary support to pass an austerity budget. Last year, the country's budget deficit reached 5.8%—nearly double the European Union's 3% limit. In July, the bloc added France to its list of countries being monitored for compliance, requiring France to meet target goals by 2029. France's latest budget was due to be presented today.

The announcement has prompted fresh calls for President Emmanuel Macron to hold snap parliamentary elections or resign. After Macron lost his parliamentary majority in last year's snap elections, he has resisted similar calls, pledging to stay in office until his mandate ends in 2027. The euro slid 0.7% on yesterday's news.

Shackleton's Weak Spots

Endurance, the famed 20th-century polar expedition ship that stranded 28 men after being crushed by Antarctic ice, was structurally weaker than long believed, according to a report published yesterday.

For decades, experts attributed Endurance's sinking to extreme ice conditions and a faulty rudder. Newspapers and books hailed the wooden vessel as the strongest polar ship of its time, and famed explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton has been revered for guiding his crew on the perilous monthslong journey to safety (w/video). However, yesterday's first-ever structural analysis of Endurance challenges that narrative. The report found the ship lacked critical support beams needed to endure Antarctic ice, making it weaker than some other 20th-century polar ships. A complementary review of Shackleton's writings also suggests he was aware of Endurance's shortcomings—and the risks they posed—before setting sail.

The report was written by Jukka Tuhkuri, a scientist aboard the Endurance22 mission that discovered the wreck in 2022.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

The 2025-26 NHL regular season kicks off tonight; see preview and predictions for all 32 teams. LeBron James to make major announcement today (12 pm ET), speculated to be regarding his basketball future.

Jilly Cooper, renowned bestselling British romance author and journalist, dies at age 88.

Canadian rock band Rush announces 2026 summer reunion tour, their first concerts since 2015.

Instagram announces Rings awards, which will honor the platform's top creators.

Science & Technology

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine awarded to trio of American and Japanese immunologists for discoveries underpinning new autoimmune and cancer therapies.

Nobel Prize in Physics to be announced this morning at 5:45 am ET.

Deadly tornado that hit North Dakota in June upgraded to strongest classification, marking the first such rating in the US since 2013; winds reached 210 mph, and width peaked at more than 1 mile.

Researchers link fathers' exercise regimens to endurance and metabolic health of children, suggesting sperm microRNAs transmit benefits of physical activity.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed (S&P 500 +0.4%, Dow -0.1%, Nasdaq +0.7%) as the federal government shutdown enters its second week.

OpenAI to purchase computing capacity from chipmaker Advanced Micro Devices for artificial intelligence data centers; AMD shares close up 23.7%.

Fifth Third Bancorp to buy Comerica in \$10.9B all-stock deal, creating ninth largest US bank; operations will span the Southeast, Texas, California, and the Midwest; Comerica shares close up 13.7%.

Politics & World Affairs

US Supreme Court declines to hear an appeal by Ghislaine Maxwell, convicted sex trafficker and former associate of Jeffrey Epstein.

Federal government shutdown enters seventh day after Senate fails to pass either of two competing stopgap bills; Republican-led bill failed 52-42, with Democratic bill failing 50-45.

Rescue efforts begin to save hundreds of hikers stranded on Mount Everest in Tibet amid heavy snowfall, at roughly 16,000-foot elevation

**Boys Soccer Playoff**
Belle Fourche at
Groton Area
on Tues., Oct. 7, 3:00 p.m.





Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE

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For more info: GDILIVE.COM

**Girls Soccer Playoff**
West Central at
Groton Area
on Tues., Oct. 7, 4:30 p.m.





Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

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BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025, 8:45 A.M.

COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS

COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Aaron Walberg, Veteran's Service Officer & Mike Herman to do an Award Presentation
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Opportunity for Public Comment
 - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes.*
5. Authorize Chairman to sign Certification Form for Highway 5-year plan
6. Discuss Proposed Richmond Lane & Drive Road District
7. Lynn Heupel, Auditor
 - a. Discuss reduction of precincts in Brown County
8. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes for September 30, 2025
 - b. Claims/Payroll
 - c. HR Report
 - d. Claim Assignment
 - e. Landfill Tonnage Report
 - f. Travel Requests
 - g. LEMPG Grant 4th Qtr. Report
 - h. Auditor's Report of Accounts for July & August
9. Other Business
10. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
11. Adjourn

You can join the Brown County Commission Meeting via **your computer, tablet, or smartphone** at <https://meet.goto.com/BrCoCommission>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3311](tel:+18722403311) - Access Code: 601-168-909 #

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

Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at <https://www.brown.sd.us/node/454>

Groton Area to Host Boys and Girls First-Round Soccer Playoff Games Tuesday

GROTON — The Groton Area Tigers will host a postseason doubleheader on Tuesday, with both the boys' and girls' soccer teams opening the Class A playoffs at home.

The boys will take the field first at 3:00 p.m., facing Belle Fourche in a 4-vs-5 matchup. Groton enters the playoffs ranked 4th in the state with a 7-5-2 record and 40.50 power points. Belle Fourche holds the 5th spot, carrying a 4-6-2 record and 39.75 power points. The two teams met earlier this season, with Groton earning a 2-1 victory.

At 4:30 p.m., the girls will square off against West Central in another tightly matched 4-vs-5 battle. The two programs have faced each other twice this season, with each winning 1-0. Groton currently sits 4th in the power ratings with a 7-5-0 record and 41.0 points, while West Central is 5th at 7-4-2 with 40.538 points.

Both games will be held on the Groton Area soccer fields. Winners will advance to the state quarterfinal round.



to the Groton Area Soccer Teams in the Playoffs

From these GDILIVE.COM Sponsors

Avantara Groton

Dacotah Bank

Groton American Legion

Groton Chamber of Commerce

Groton Daily Independent

Harry Implement of Ferney

Lori's Pharmacy

Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.

Sun & Sea Travel

Watch the games for free on GDILIVE.COM!

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SDHSAA First Round Soccer Playoffs

Tuesday, October 7th, 2025

Varsity Boys – Groton Area vs. Belle Fourche - 3:00 pm @ Groton Soccer Complex

(40-minute halves, 10-minute halftime)

- We will set the clock to zero out approximately 10 minutes prior to the start of the girl's game. When the clock zeroes out, teams should head to their respective bench area to prepare for pregame announcements.
 - o Lineups
 - o National Anthem

Varsity Girls – Groton Area vs. West Central - 4:30 pm @ Groton Soccer Complex

(40-minute halves, 10-minute halftime)

- o Lineups

LOCKER ROOMS: There will not be any locker rooms available, however, there are bathrooms located at the ice-skating warming house to the south of the field that the players could change in.

ATHLETIC TRAINER: There will be an athletic trainer on site.

AED – In top drawer of file cabinet in little shed on west side of field.

ADMISSION & SPECTATORS: **Adults: \$6.00 Students: \$4.00.** No passes will be accepted.

PUBLIC RESTROOMS: There are public restrooms inside the warming house across the street to the south of the field. **3rd Avenue between Lincoln Street and Garfield Street (the block directly between the soccer field and the warming house/restrooms) will be closed to traffic during the games for the safety of those in attendance.

CONCESSIONS: Limited concessions will be available.

Officials: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Spencer Aberle (Boys HR)- Blair Scoular (Girls HR)- Jeff Sahli- Parker Helwig	Ticket Takers (Report @ 2:30pm): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Janene Harry- Sue Fjeldheim Admin on Duty: Joe Schwan	Announcer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mike Imrie Scoreboard: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kristen Dolan
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Team Benches –

Groton (dark jerseys): Northwest side of field.

Belle Fourche/West Central (light jerseys): Northeast side of field.

Livestream: GDIlive.com

Lightning Delays – Teams / spectators will be expected to go back into their bus/s or cars if a lightning delay occurs.

Groton Soccer Complex – 303 W 3rd Ave Groton, SD 57445

Thank you,

Alexa Sperry, Athletic Director

Alexa.Sperry@k12.sd.us / 605-380-7887

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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.**



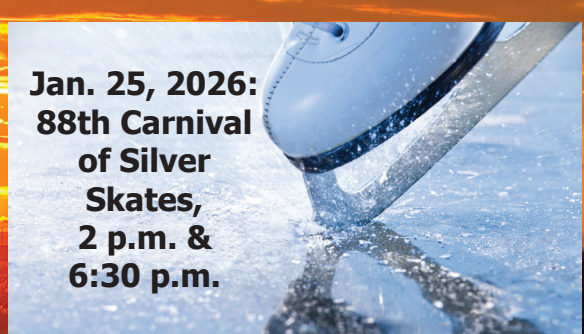
**Nov. 27:
Community
Thanksgiving
at the
Community
Center,
11:30 a.m.
to 1:30 p.m.**



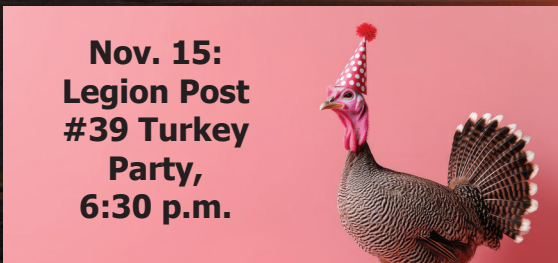
**Dec. 6: Olive Grove Holiday
Party, 6 p.m.**



**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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Lake Region Marching Festival 2025 Line Up

Exhibition Band

10:00 A.M. **#1** Groton Area High School Marching Band

Middle School Bands

10:06 A.M. **#2** Holgate-Simmons Middle School Marching Band

10:12 A.M. **#3** Milbank Middle School Marching Band

High School Bands

10:18 A.M. **#4** Britton-Hecla High School Marching Band

10:24 A.M. **#5** Frederick Area High School Marching Band

10:30 A.M. **#6** Great Plains Lutheran High School Marching Band

10:36 A.M. **#7** Northwestern High School Marching Band

10:42 A.M. **#8** Redfield High School Marching Band

10:48 A.M. **#9** T.F. Riggs High School Marching Band

10:54 A.M. **#10** Warner High School Marching Band

11:00 A.M. **#11** Watertown High School Marching Band

Combined School Bands

11:06 A.M. **#12** Aberdeen Roncalli Marching Band

11:12 A.M. **#13** Castlewood Marching Band

11:18 A.M. **#14** Hoven Marching Band

11:24 A.M. **#15** Ipswich Marching Band

11:30 A.M. **#16** Langford Area Marching Band

11:36 A.M. **#17** Leola Marching Band

Exhibition Band

11:42 A.M. **#18** Groton Area Middle School Marching Band (EXHIBITION)

South Dakota Department of Health Invites High School and Middle School Students to Explore Healthcare Careers through Scrubs Camps

PIERRE, SD – The South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) is excited to announce the return of Scrubs Camps and Camp Meds for the 2025-2026 school year.

"Scrubs Camps and Camp Meds provide high school and middle school students across the state with hands-on experiences and insights into a variety of healthcare careers, allowing them to explore future professions in medicine, nursing, emergency services, and more," said Department of Health Secretary Melissa Magstadt. "We're proud to support the next generation of healthcare workers and help them see the possibilities available in the healthcare industry."

The camps are designed for students in grades 6 – 8 (Camp Meds) and 9 – 12 (Scrubs Camp) who have an interest in pursuing a career in the healthcare field. Through interactive activities, students work alongside healthcare professionals and gain exposure to real-world scenarios. By participating in these camps, students can build a foundation for understanding the education and skills necessary to enter the healthcare workforce.

Each camp is held in a different location throughout the state, ensuring that students from all regions of South Dakota have the opportunity to participate. The DOH partners with schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations to offer this program free of charge to students. Dates and locations of scheduled camps can be found on the Scrubs Camp website.

The DOH provides a variety of resources to help students, educators, and healthcare providers get the most out of Scrubs Camps. This includes activity toolkits, promotional materials, and detailed camp guides. These resources are designed to enhance the Scrubs Camp experience and help students better understand the healthcare landscape in South Dakota.

"As the demand for healthcare professionals continues to grow, Scrubs Camps and Camp Meds serve as a great tool in addressing workforce shortages by encouraging students to pursue careers in healthcare. Students gain hands-on experience in a variety of fields, including nursing, radiology, therapy services, and other vital healthcare professions. These are truly fantastic events, held locally, to support our youth and their potential future in the healthcare workforce," concluded Magstadt.

To learn more about Scrubs Camps and Camp Meds or to register for an upcoming event, visit the DOH website.

At the heart of the Department of Health's mission is a simple goal: to protect and improve the health of all South Dakotans. The department is entrusted with the vital task of promoting wellness, preventing disease, and ensuring access to quality healthcare for all South Dakotans.

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

October 7, 2025 – 7:00pm
City Hall – 120 N Main Street

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

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
3. Department Reports
4. Authorization to Purchase SnowWolf QP114 Plow for Skid-steer
5. Accept Geotechnical Proposal from Soil Technologies, Inc. for Wastewater Project
6. Assistance from City with Demolition of Properties Owned by Groton Development Corporation
7. Open Sealed Bids for 3-year Groton Municipal Airport Land Lease
8. Appoint Doug Daly as Planning and Zoning Board Representative for a 5-year Term
9. Request to Establish 15mph Speed on East 5th Avenue with Signage
10. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 791 – Certifying 2026 City of Groton Property Tax Levy to Brown County
11. 2026 Liquor & Wine License Renewals:
 - The Jungle – package off-sale liquor & retail on-sale liquor
 - American Legion Post #39 – package off-sale liquor & retail on-sale liquor
 - Ken's Food Fair – package off-sale liquor
 - Red Horse Inn – retail on-sale liquor
 - Olive Grove Golf Course – retail on-sale liquor
 - Dollar General – retail on-off sale wine & cider
 - MJ's Sinclair – package off-sale liquor
12. Sign Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law for Abeln Planning and Zoning Appeal on September 16, 2025
13. Authorize the Recommendation of Grant for Groton Development Corporation through The Groton Community Fund
14. 2026 Budget Discussion
15. Minutes
16. Bills
17. Announcement: Pumpkin Fest on October 11th from 10am to 3pm
18. Announcement: Enrich's Winter Gear Distribution on October 9th from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at Groton Community Center
19. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
20. Adjournment

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Groton Tigers Sweep Mobridge-Pollock in "Battle of the Tigers"

GROTON — It was the Battle of the Tigers on Monday night as the Mobridge-Pollock Tigers came to Groton to take on the hometown Groton Area Tigers in volleyball action. The home Tigers came out on top in dominant fashion, sweeping the match 3-0.

Set One: Comeback Surge

The opening set featured four ties, the last at 10-10. Mobridge-Pollock opened with a six-point surge to take a 9-5 lead, but Groton responded with poise. After tying the set at 10, Groton rattled off seven straight points to go up 13-10, then later added another eight-point run to close out a 25-15 win.

Jaedyn Penning led the Tigers in that set with six kills, while Rylee Dunker added four kills and a block. Head Coach Chelsea Hanson noted that she was pleased with how her team responded early. "We survived tonight. Obviously Mobridge is a little bit down offensively. They're defensively pretty good, but you could tell it was hard for them to score points. But our girls definitely came to play for sure," Hanson said.

Set Two: Early Control

Groton seized control right away in the second set, jumping to a 4-0 lead and never looking back on their way to a 25-13 victory. Rylee Dunker and Tevan Hanson each recorded four kills to pace the Tigers offensively.

Hanson emphasized how much this group's offensive firepower stands out. "We were hitting well. I've coached a lot of teams where we don't have anybody that can score points," she said. "These girls don't realize how lucky they are to be surrounded by people that can score points. We had almost 40 kills in a three-set match. Not many high school teams are scoring 10 points a set on kills."

Set Three: Finishing Strong

In the third set, Groton again opened fast with a 5-0 lead. Mobridge-Pollock mounted a mid-set rally, pulling within 15-13, but Groton held firm and finished the sweep with a 25-19 win.

Jaedyn Penning tallied four kills and an ace serve in the final set to lead the way.

Hanson credited her back-row defense as a key complement to the attack. "Our kills are so big that people sometimes aren't recognizing how good Sydney Locke, McKenna Tietz, and Jerica Locke are in the back row keeping the ball alive," she said. "Their ability to score points is going to keep them in every single game. The biggest thing we can do is prevent our own errors, and then we're going to be really tough to stop."

Team Leaders

Jaedyn Penning: 10 kills, 1 ace, 3 assists, 14 digs

Rylee Dunker: 11 kills, 1 assisted block, 29 assists

Tevan Hanson: 6 kills

Taryn Traphagen: 6 kills, 2 assisted blocks, 1 solo block

McKenna Tietz: 1 ace

Makenna Krause: 4 kills

Chesney Weber: 7 kills, 1 block, 29 assists

Sydney Locke: 3 ace serves

Jerica Locke: 21 digs

Mobridge-Pollock Highlights

Bentley Bauer had three kills; Blake Thompson tallied six kills and one solo block; Haley Schlomer added three kills; Pacey Konold recorded two assisted blocks; Brooke Bain had two kills and one assisted block; Ellie Kimnitz posted two kills and two aces; Jada Thompson added a kill and a block; Brooke Merkel had one ace; and Jersey Frederick chipped in four kills.

Underclass Results

Groton won the JV match after dropping the opening set 25-22, rallying to take the next two 25-23 and 15-6. The C-team also came out victorious, winning 25-18 and 28-26.

Looking ahead, Hanson said she's pleased with the team's trajectory. "We play a lot of games really fast and now we'll have a little time off before our next tournament. We're kind of exactly where we need to be right now—beating the teams we should beat and competing where we should be competing. There's always things to work on, but overall, I'm really happy with how things are going," she said.

The match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM with Justin Hanson doing the play-by-play. Game sponsors were Agtegra, Avantara, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Groton Legion, Harry Implement, Heartland Energy, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge and The MeatHouse.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Judge says colleagues are worried about 'their safety and the safety of their families'

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR-OCTOBER 6, 2025 4:57 PM

SIoux FALLS — The leader of an association of federal judges did not hesitate Monday when asked about her colleagues' top concern.

"I think every judge right now is concerned about their safety and the safety of their families," said Judge Karen Schreier, speaking to the Sioux Falls Downtown Rotary Club at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance.

Schreier said judges across the country are facing "never-before-seen levels of threats" and intimidation, which she called "an attack on the rule of law itself."

Schreier, who's based at the federal courthouse in Sioux Falls, is the president of the 1,100-member Federal Judges Association. In May, she was appointed to a new national Judicial Security and Independence Task Force, created by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to address growing threats against federal judges and challenges to the judiciary's independence.

Schreier cited an incident earlier this year when the sister of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett was targeted with a bomb threat. The U.S. Marshals Service has logged 562 threats against federal judges so far this year. More than 100 threatening packages have been delivered to federal judges' homes, Schreier said, "sending a not-so-subtle message that we know where you live."

Schreier also recalled the 2020 killing of federal Judge Esther Salas' son in New Jersey by a lawyer who had previously lost a case in Salas' court. Some judges, Schreier said, have been "doxed" with their private information posted online, while others — including South Dakota's chief federal judge, Roberto Lang — have been "swatted," a hoax in which false reports draw armed police to someone's home.

During an audience question-and-answer session, South Dakota NewsWatch co-founder and former journalist Jack Marsh asked Schreier about criticism of the judiciary from political leaders, specifically President Donald Trump. The president has harshly criticized and even called for the impeachment of judges who ruled against him.

Schreier made general comments but declined to address Trump specifically, saying her restraint reflects the judiciary's obligation to stay above partisan conflict.

"If judges are to protect the rights and liberties of citizens and to act as an effective check on the other branches of government, they must be independent," she said. "They need to be free to decide cases based on the law."

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.

State on the hook for at least \$74,000 if it loses appeal in petition deadline case

BY: SETH TUPPER-OCTOBER 6, 2025 9:36 AM

The state of South Dakota could be forced to pay at least \$74,000 in attorney fees and costs for a group that's suing to protect a longer circulation period for ballot-question petitions.

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The two parties reached a settlement on attorney fees and costs last week. The agreement says the state will pay \$74,000, plus interest at a rate of 3.64%, if the Dakotans for Health ballot question committee remains the winner of the lawsuit.

The state is appealing a federal judge's September order. The order prohibits the state from enforcing a new law that moves the election-year filing deadline for ballot-question petitions from May to February. That would shrink the circulation window by three months and, according to the judge, violate petitioners' First Amendment rights.

The law enforcing the earlier deadline started as legislation last winter from state House Speaker Jon Hansen, of Dell Rapids, who is one of several Republican candidates for governor next year.

The filing deadline dictates the amount of time petitioners have for gathering signatures to put a question on the statewide ballot. Petitioners need 17,508 signatures from registered voters to propose a law, which is known as an initiative, and the same number of signatures to put a bill passed by legislators on hold for consideration by voters, which is known as a referendum. The number of signatures required to propose a state constitutional amendment is 35,017.

Dakotans for Health, which has worked on numerous ballot-question campaigns, is represented in its lawsuit by attorney Jim Leach, of Rapid City. The state is represented by Assistant Attorney General Grant Flynn.

The litigation is part of a broader struggle over citizen lawmaking. Numerous Republican legislative efforts to restrict ballot questions in recent years have come in response to voter approval of measures that raised the minimum wage, expanded Medicaid eligibility and legalized medical marijuana, among others.

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.

Government shutdown enters day six with talks over health care at an impasse

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT-OCTOBER 6, 2025 5:07 PM

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump sent mixed messages Monday about whether he would negotiate a deal with Democrats to extend the enhanced tax credits for people who get their health insurance from the Affordable Care Act Marketplace, one of the main issues that led to the government shutdown.

His comments came shortly before the Senate deadlocked for a fifth time on short-term government funding bills, voting 45-50 on Democrats' proposal and 52-42 on a House-passed Republican stopgap spending bill. Both needed at least 60 votes to advance.

Nevada Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto and Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman, both Democrats, as well as Maine independent Sen. Angus King voted with Republicans to advance their multi-week funding bill. Kentucky GOP Sen. Rand Paul voted no.

Trump said during a press conference "some very good things could happen with respect to health care" and that "if we made the right deal, I'd make a deal, sure," before sharply criticizing the 2010 health care law, also called Obamacare.

"That's the problem with Obamacare. The subsidies are so much — billions and billions of dollars is being wasted," Trump said. "And we could have much better health care than we have right now. And we're talking to them. I'm not saying that's going to happen."

Trump centered much of his 2016 campaign for the presidency around repealing and replacing the health care law, but Republicans were unable to do so with unified control of government during the first half of his first term.

After Democrats swept in the 2020 elections, they enhanced the tax credits for people who buy their health insurance through the ACA Marketplace in a coronavirus relief law. Those enhanced subsidies are set to expire at the end of December.

Democratic leaders for weeks have called on Republicans to negotiate a bipartisan agreement to extend

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those enhanced tax credits ahead of open enrollment beginning on Nov. 1.

That didn't happen and Democrats have largely voted against advancing a stopgap spending bill written by Republicans that was needed to fund the government past the end of September.

'On another planet'

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said during a floor speech shortly before Trump spoke from the Oval Office that the president and GOP leaders seem "to be on another planet."

"Instead of trying to solve this shutdown crisis, Donald Trump spent the weekend golfing and posting memes and deepfakes on the internet," Schumer said. "He seems to think this shutdown is some big joke. He's wrong."

Schumer released a statement following Trump's press conference, saying the two sides aren't negotiating, despite the president saying "we are speaking with the Democrats."

"For months, Democrats have been calling on Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans to come to the table and work with us to deliver lower costs and better healthcare for the American people," Schumer wrote. "If President Trump and Republicans are finally ready to sit down and get something done on healthcare for American families, Democrats will be there — ready to make it happen."

Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said during a morning press conference he will only negotiate with Democrats on the enhanced ACA Marketplace tax credits after the shutdown ends.

But Johnson did indicate he believes the expiring expansion likely needs a resolution before open enrollment begins next month.

"They've been saying that some of the insurance companies will be sending out notices in early November. The last time I checked, it's Oct. 6. We have the entire month of October," Johnson said. "We'll stay here around the clock to work through all these things, but we have to get government open again to do it."

Discussion about passing bills

The House has been in recess since mid-September and Johnson has refused to bring representatives back until after the Senate approves a bill to reopen the government.

Johnson revealed during the press conference that he had a "fruitful conversation" a few days ago with Senate Appropriations Committee ranking member Patty Murray, D-Wash., about the annual government funding process, which lawmakers were supposed to complete by the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1.

Johnson said he gave Murray assurances that he would hold floor votes on the final bipartisan versions of the dozen full-year bills after the Democrats and Republicans in charge of each subcommittee worked out an agreement.

"I'm ready to go," Johnson said. "But we've got to open government up so that they can move to that next level, so that the conference committee can get that work done. That is small-d democracy at its best; you get Rs and Ds, everybody in the room, and they hash it out, and whatever that final product is, we will move through the process."

The House has passed three of the full-year government funding bills along party-line votes and the Senate has approved three with a broadly bipartisan vote.

Congress' failure to approve all of the bills on time, combined with its inability to approve a stopgap spending bill to keep funding on autopilot while lawmakers work out a final full-year agreement, is why a shutdown began.

Dems say bipartisan talks needed to end shutdown

Murray posted later in the day on social media that bipartisan talks between the congressional leaders are the best option to end the shutdown.

"I'll reiterate now what I told @SpeakerJohnson: the only path forward begins with him & @LeaderJohnThune talking with Leaders Schumer & Jeffries," Murray wrote. "Premium hikes are going out THIS MONTH. We need a deal that reopens the government & stops premiums from doubling."

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said during an afternoon briefing before Trump spoke that he "is definitely committed to fixing and improving our health care system," though she declined to say if he supports extending the enhanced ACA tax credits as they exist.

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Leavitt also opted not to fully answer questions about when the administration will begin laying off federal workers by the thousands, saying the White House budget office continues to consult with Cabinet secretaries to determine which workers may lose their jobs.

"We'll see how the vote goes tonight," Leavitt said, referring to the Senate's Monday evening vote on the stopgap spending bills.

Rural air service, air traffic controllers

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said during a press conference at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey that the shutdown means there are only a few days left of funding for the Essential Air Service program, which provides federal "subsidies to airlines to service" rural communities.

"That money runs out this Sunday, so there are many small communities across the country that will now no longer have the resources to make sure they have air service in their community," Duffy said.

Alaska will be the most affected by that particular funding lapse, he said.

Duffy said there has been a "slight" increase in the number of air traffic controllers calling out sick during the shutdown but added it hadn't caused any safety challenges yet. That will all change if transportation officials feel the staffing isn't adequate for the number of flights.

"If we see there are issues in the tower that are affecting the controllers' ability to effectively control the airspace, we'll reduce the rate and you'll see more delays or you might see a cancellation," Duffy said. "I'm willing to do that before we're willing to risk anyone's life in the air."

Duffy, a former Republican congressman from Wisconsin, said he had spoken earlier in the day with air traffic controllers who were thinking about taking on jobs at ride-sharing companies to pay the bills, since they will not be paid until after the shutdown ends.

He said the effects of the funding lapse, including air traffic controllers worrying how they'll make ends meet, are problematic, especially if they're distracted by it while on shift or exhausted from working other jobs.

"I don't want them finding a second job to pay the bills," Duffy said. "I want them to get paid for the work they're doing today, keeping our planes in the air and our skies safe."

Duffy also reiterated the Transportation Security Administration, or TSA, which screens people entering airports, is housed within the Department of Homeland Security, not DOT.

Shauneen Miranda contributed to this report.

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

Trump troop deployment to Oregon, Illinois intensifies confrontation with Democratic-led states

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY AND JACOB FISCHLER-OCTOBER 6, 2025 4:18 PM

WASHINGTON — The White House slammed a President Donald Trump-appointed federal judge Monday for blocking the deployment of National Guard troops to Oregon, as hostilities escalate between the administration and Democratic states where Trump has begun sending in troops over governors' objections.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the Trump administration is within legal bounds and will appeal the district court's decision, which she described as "untethered in reality and in the law."

"The president is using his authority as commander in chief, U.S. Code 12406, which clearly states that the president has the right to call up the National Guard in cases where he deems it's appropriate," Leavitt said at the press briefing, referring to a section in Title 10 of the U.S. Code that authorizes the president to send in the National Guard in cases of invasion or rebellion.

Leavitt told reporters that a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, facility in Portland where nightly protests have been occurring has been "under siege" by "anarchists."

"They have been disrespecting law enforcement. They've been inciting violence," Leavitt said.

Mainstream local media reports and statements from local officials have contradicted that claim.

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"There is no need for military intervention in Oregon. There is no insurrection in Portland. No threat to national security," Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek, a Democrat, said in a statement Sunday.

Federal agents used tear gas and pepper balls on nonviolent protesters Saturday evening, according to local media reports.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker also filed a legal challenge against the administration Monday morning. A federal judge set a hearing for Thursday. Illinois and Chicago sought a temporary restraining order to stop Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth from ordering Texas and Illinois Guard troops to the country's third-largest city.

Trump teases Insurrection Act

Trump on Monday afternoon raised the possibility of invoking the Insurrection Act of 1807, a tool to expand the president's legal authority for using military personnel for domestic law enforcement.

Asked by a reporter in the Oval Office the conditions under which he would invoke the law, Trump said "if it was necessary," and speculated that he could use it to defy courts or state officials.

"So far it hasn't been necessary," he said. "But we have an Insurrection Act for a reason. If I had to enact it, I'd do that. If people were getting killed and courts were holding us up or governors or mayors were holding us up, sure, I'd do that. I want to make sure that people aren't killed. We have to make sure our cities are safe."

Court battle in Portland

In Oregon, federal District Judge Karin Immergut broadened her order Sunday night barring the Trump administration from deploying any National Guard troops to Portland.

The edict came after Trump and Hegseth defied a temporary restraining order that Immergut issued Saturday halting 200 Oregon National Guard troops from being sent there.

Immergut was nominated by Trump in 2019 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate by voice vote.

The administration maintains the Guard is needed to protect federal agents, as sustained small protests pop up outside an ICE facility 2 miles south of city hall. Kotek rebuffed Trump's claims that the city is "on fire" and said local authorities are equipped to handle the demonstrations that lately range from a dozen or so people to roughly 100.

Trump ordered 101 California National Guard troops to Portland overnight, without the knowledge of Kotek, she said Sunday. California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a fellow Democrat, confirmed that Trump had ordered up to 300 of his state's National Guard troops to Oregon.

Just before Immergut's Sunday night emergency hearing, an Oregon assistant attorney general filed a memo with the court showing that Hegseth had ordered 400 Texas National Guard troops to Portland and Chicago.

California joined Oregon and Portland in suing the administration.

'A domestic militarization'

Pritzker said he has urged Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to "immediately withdraw his support for this decision and refuse to allow Texas National Guard members to be used in this way."

"Let me be clear, Donald Trump is using our service members as political props and as pawns in his illegal effort to militarize our nation's cities," Pritzker said at a press conference Monday afternoon.

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul said the deployment "is unfair to National Guardsmen, it is unfair to local law enforcement, and it is certainly unfair to the law-abiding citizens of Illinois who do not want to be subject to military occupation."

Chicago is nearly a month into a federal immigration crackdown. Dozens of federal agents raided an apartment building in the city's South Shore neighborhood on Sept. 30, ziptying adults and children, and detaining some U.S. citizens, according to multiple media reports. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security published a highly produced video of the raid on social media.

Trump's federalization and deployment of National Guard troops to mostly Democratic-run states has alarmed political and constitutional experts.

Pat Eddington, senior fellow in homeland and civil liberties at the libertarian Cato Institute, said he agrees

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with Pritzker's concerns.

"I share his belief 100% that the use of the American military and all these massive employment of ICE and HSI and FBI and marshals and the rest for ostensible immigration enforcement and ostensible crime control, it's really designed to lay the groundwork to normalize a militarization, essentially a domestic militarization of Americans, civic life," Eddington told States Newsroom in an interview in late September.

On a Monday afternoon press call, Hima Shansi, the head of the American Civil Liberties Union's national security program, said Trump's use of military and federal police forces in recent months "raises serious constitutional concerns in terms of federalism, the separation of powers between the federal government and the states which generally exercise police power."

"What that means in real-people language is that, as the states have been saying, they are fully capable of doing their jobs as needed, and there is absolutely no reason for the president to assert federal power in the way that he is forcibly doing."

Starting in Los Angeles

Trump federalized California National Guard troops and deployed U.S. Marines to Los Angeles in June in response to protests against aggressive immigration enforcement there.

Newsom objected to the plan and sued to stop the deployment. A federal judge initially sided with the Democratic governor and blocked the deployment, but an appeals panel reversed the decision.

The trial court ruled again in September that Trump had overstepped the line separating military forces from law enforcement. The administration has appealed.

While that case in California was ongoing, Trump also ordered the District of Columbia National Guard to assist local police in the nation's capital. Because the district is a federal territory, it is relatively clear that move was within the president's legal authority, even if many Trump critics questioned its necessity.

National Guard troops from several Republican states also deployed to the district in a more legally dubious move.

Trump also ordered Tennessee National Guard troops to Memphis last month, with the approval of the state's Republican governor.

Ashley Murray reported from Washington, D.C. Jacob Fischler reported from Portland, Oregon.

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

Jacob covers federal policy and helps direct national coverage as deputy Washington bureau chief for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

GOP candidates for Iowa governor voice their opposition to CO2 pipelines

Landowners and state lawmakers gather for anti-pipeline rally

BY: CAMI KOONS-OCTOBER 6, 2025 3:24 PM

EARLING — A mostly red-clad audience at a barn in Shelby County on Sunday asked Republican candidates for governor about the carbon sequestration pipeline and associated concerns of eminent domain.

The event was also in support of Rep. Steven Holt, R-Denison, and featured state representatives who have been active in opposing the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline project.

Lawmakers spoke about their plans to continue opposing the pipeline that would transport sequestered carbon dioxide from ethanol plants in Iowa and surrounding states to underground storage in North Dakota.

"Let the words go out from this place in this day: No eminent domain for private gain in the state of Iowa," Holt said, opening the event.

Holt, along with Rep. Charley Thomson, R-Charles City, have been central to proposing and pushing legislation aimed at limiting the abilities of carbon sequestration pipeline companies to use eminent domain.

In the spring, the duo sponsored several bills that were eventually wrapped into House File 639, which the Senate passed after significant debate on the floor. The bill, which Gov. Kim Reynolds vetoed, caused controversy and disagreement among the Iowa Republican Party.

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Holt said all Republican candidates who have said they plan to run for governor were invited. Rep. Ed-die Andrews, R-Johnston, former Iowa Representative Brad Sherman, and former Director of the Iowa Department of Administrative Services Adam Steen, attended the event and spoke about their plans if elected governor.

U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra is also running for the Republican slot on the ticket and Sen. Mike Boussetot, R-Ankeny, launched an exploratory committee for governor but has not said if he is officially running.

Andrews says pipeline issue would end 'day one' if elected

Andrews, a Republican representing urban Polk County, where the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline would not cross, has also been a vocal opponent to the pipeline. While he spoke Sunday, Andrews had a slideshow of selfies he has taken over the years with various landowners at the capitol.

Andrews said he's often asked why he cares about the issue — which pushed him to run for governor — even though it hardly impacts his constituents.

"When I raised my right hand to defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Iowa, it was to defend property rights and not to add to the pocket of Bruce Rastetter," Andrews said, referencing the founder of the Summit Agricultural Group which founded Summit Carbon Solutions.

Andrews said he would support a bill, like one that was enacted in South Dakota, that blocks eminent domain for carbon sequestration pipelines. Andrews said he would also like to pass a constitutional amendment that would "really address property rights."

He said he would also support reform for the Iowa Utilities Commission, including an effort to remove the utility's authority over eminent domain.

"It disgusts me, quite honestly, that we've collectively allowed this to go on so far," Andrews said. "This will end on day one, if I'm governor, if not before."

Sherman calls for transparency, and principles

Sherman has been a pastor for more than 40 years and served in the Iowa House of Representatives from January 2023 through January this year.

He called the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline a "boondoggle" and said the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is regulated by the plants that convert it into oxygen and that carbon dioxide is "not hurting our atmosphere."

Sherman said he would support a bill blocking eminent domain for CO2 pipelines, if he were elected.

Sherman said a major part of his efforts, if elected governor, would be to put the "founding principles" of the nation into the educational system.

"So the people know that rights come from God, not government, the purpose of government is to protect those rights, and that the people then understand how to preserve their own freedoms," Sherman said.

Sherman also called for "total transparency" on government spending. For example, he alleged some big school districts spent taxpayer money to hire multiple diversity equity and inclusion directors.

"And of course, we know what DEI is," Sherman said.

Sherman said total transparency in the government would alleviate some property tax issues.

"I think if people could see what's going on, they would make some — demand some — changes," Sherman said. "... If the government gets out of the way, business people will get it done. Government doesn't need to tell people how to run a business, it just needs to get out of the way and get rid of regulations."

Steen says it's time for an awakening

Steen served as Reynolds' director of the Iowa Department of Administrative Services from 2021 until his recent resignation to pursue the Republican nomination for governor.

Steen was part of Reynolds' staff when HF 639 was vetoed, but said the decision was outside his pur-view. Now no longer part of the staff, Steen said he was "shocked and surprised" by the governor's veto.

Steen said he has three farms in his family and would "fight for the rights of Iowans every step of the way."

"Ain't no way a private entity is going to abuse eminent domain on my watch," Steen said. "There's no chance."

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Steen also said the pipeline issue and the other issues facing the state of Iowa are examples of "evil infiltrating politics in a way that we have never seen before."

Steen, who has labeled himself as a "faith guy" running for governor, said he noticed this when he started living his life intentionally.

"I didn't become woke, but I woke up and realized that America is under attack. Iowa is under attack," Steen said.

He said Iowa needs someone who will say "enough is enough."

Steen said the situation that led to the arrest and detainment of former Des Moines Public Schools Superintendent Ian Roberts, is "insanity at its highest level."

Roberts was detained by U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement Sept. 26 and DMPS has since learned the immigrant from Guyana was in the country unlawfully.

"That doesn't happen, that doesn't happen unless it's a DEI hire that has been infiltrated by the enemy," Steen said.

Steen said his priorities if elected would include fixing property taxes, prioritizing skilled labor, "bringing the family back to the dinner table" and reaching up to "revitalize and shake up the local church."

"You got somebody who knows how to work with the Legislature, you got somebody who's going to be a champion for culture, and you got somebody who knows how to operate the state day one," Steen said.

Steen said he believes Reynolds is the "best governor the state's ever had," but he said he is not "Governor Reynolds, 2.0."

Pipeline fight continues for another year

At the Sunday event, Holt called on the Iowa Senate to pass a bill restricting eminent domain on CO2 pipelines and for the governor to support the bill. He said there were already a number of bills in the works for the upcoming legislative session.

Thomson called the Summit pipeline project a "dagger aimed at the heart of what it means to be an Iowan" and later a "parasite" on Iowa's government.

Summit filed, in September, a petition to amend part of its permit from the Iowa Utilities Commission, and allow the company to explore a different ending location for the pipeline, which is currently slated to end in North Dakota.

Thomson said the filing has the "smell of desperation."

Thomson said while the governor and certain members of the Senate did not act the way he had hoped, but said the previous session forced the "other side" to come "out of the bushes."

Thomson said this will be an advantage moving forward.

Some of the dozen GOP senators who refused to vote on vital budget bills until the Senate debated, and ultimately passed, a bill related to restrictions for hazardous liquid pipelines and the use of eminent domain, were also present at the Sunday event.

Steve Kenkel, a fifth-generation Shelby County landowner who formerly served as a Shelby County supervisor, hosted the event at his farm.

Shelby County, along with Story County, passed county ordinances related to pipeline setbacks and other regulations in response to the pipeline. Summit sued the counties over the ordinances and federal judges sided with Summit in the case. The county supervisors filed a petition for certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case.

Kenkel thanked the landowners, lawmakers and groups that have spent time opposing the pipeline, these people he said are the "protectors" of private property rights in the state.

"We can't do this by ourselves," Kenkel said. "So I'm putting a challenge out there to you and the entire state of Iowa ... when you go to the polls this next year, and following years, you do your homework and you find out who the protectors are for property rights."

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

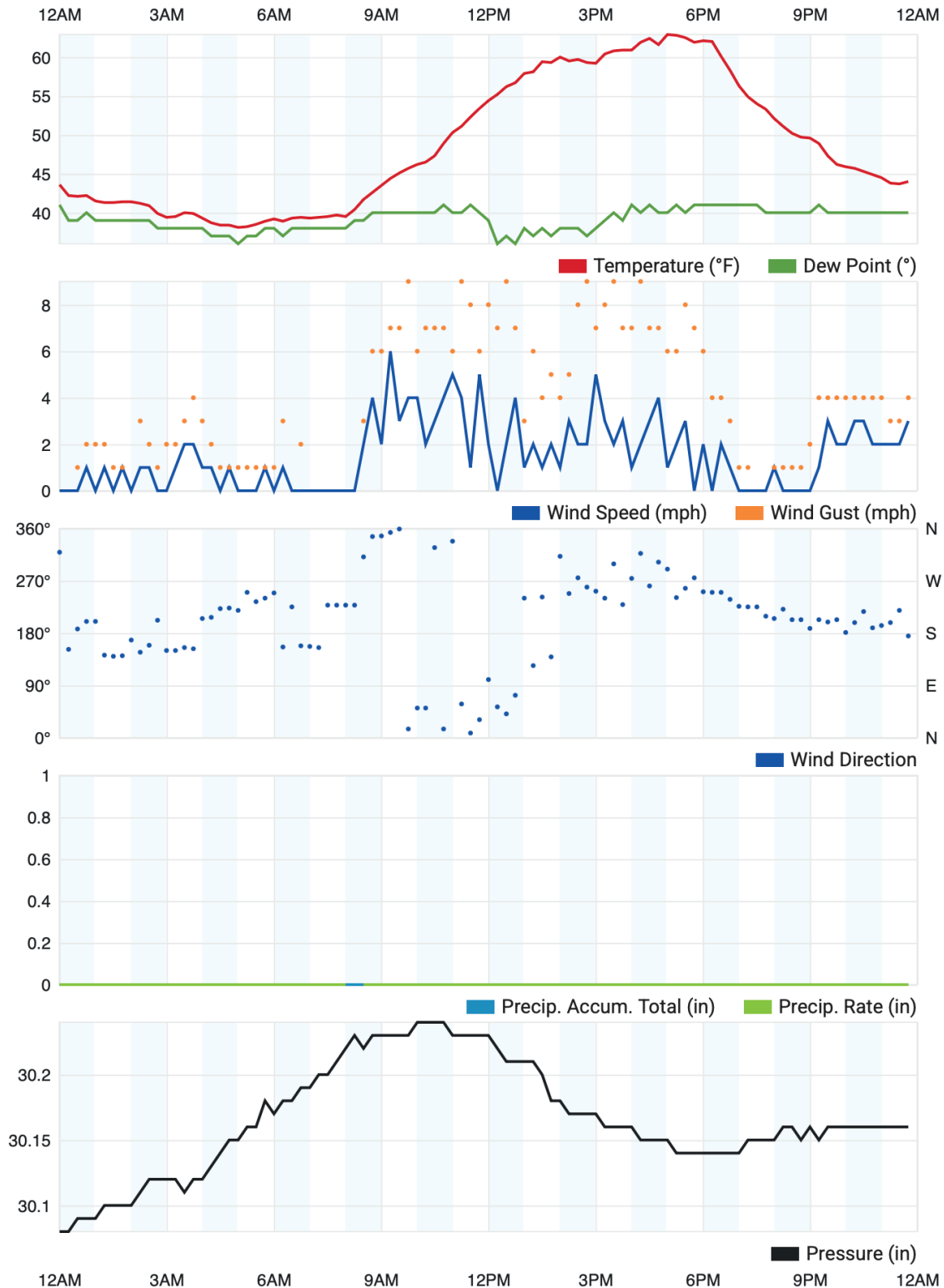
Cami Koons is an Iowa Capital Dispatch reporter covering agriculture and the environment. She previously worked at publications in Kansas and Missouri, covering rural affairs.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

October 6, 2025



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Today



High: 61 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 39 °F

Mostly Clear

Wednesday



High: 70 °F

Sunny then
Sunny and
Breezy

Wednesday
Night



Low: 52 °F

Mostly Clear
then Mostly
Clear and
Breezy

Thursday



High: 75 °F

Sunny

Today



Highs: 57-67°F

Lows: 35-45°F

-Few clouds and possible sprinkles this morning
-Areas of frost late tonight over portions of NE SD

Wednesday



Highs: 68-71°F

Lows: 45-54°F

-Sunny and windy
-Southerly winds with gusts 30-40 mph

weather.gov/aberndeen October 7, 2025



Isolated (10%) sprinkles and a few passing clouds early this morning, otherwise, sunny for the rest of the day. Areas of frost is possible over portions of northeastern SD overnight. Winds will increase out of the south for Wednesday with gusts of 30 to 40 mph with warmer temps.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 63 °F at 5:18 PM

Low Temp: 38 °F at 5:03 AM

Wind: 11 mph at 5:19 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 91 in 1909

Record Low: 14 in 2012

Average High: 65

Average Low: 38

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.54

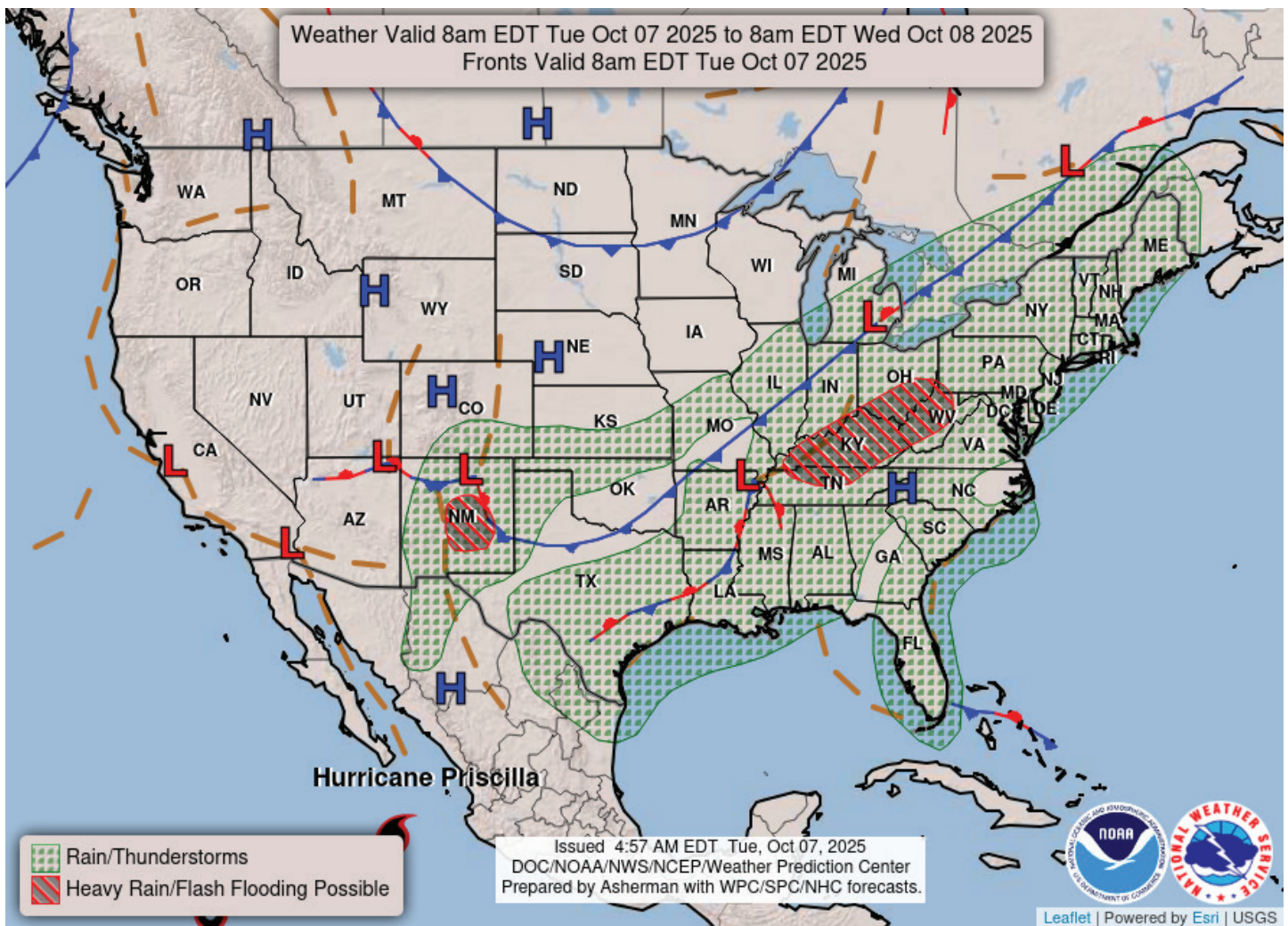
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 18.87

Precip Year to Date: 22.92

Sunset Tonight: 7:01 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:39 am



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Today in Weather History

October 7, 1970: On October 7th through the 10th, 1970, a record-breaking early season snowstorm hit parts of southern South Dakota. Snowfall of 5 to 9 inches was typical across the southwest and south-central on the 7th. Late on October 8th and into the 9th of 1970, the state's southeast portion was hit. The 5 inches that fell in Sioux Falls is the earliest significant snow on record for the area.

The heavy snows also affected portions of Kansas, Nebraska, western Iowa, and western Minnesota. Amounts of up to 7 inches were recorded in northwest Iowa. The heavy, wet snow snapped many tree branches and downed power lines. Sioux City recorded their heaviest snow for so early in the season. The snow was very wet and heavy but melted quickly over the next several days.

1825: Raging forest fires in the Miramichi region of New Brunswick, Canada, destroy over 3 million acres of forest. As many as 500 people were killed. The blaze has been partly attributed to unusually hot weather in the fall and summer of 1825, coupled with outdoor fires by settlers and loggers.

1849: High winds swept the passengers of the St. John out to sea. This resulted in a loss of 143 people.

1959: The Soviet spacecraft, Luna 3, captured the first images of the far side of the Moon. The first image was taken at 3:30 UTC on the 7th of October.

1970 - Widespread flooding took place across Puerto Rico. Rainfall amounts for the day ranged up to seventeen inches at Aibonito. A slow moving tropical depression was responsible for six days of torrential rains across the island. Totals in the Eastern Interior Division averaged thirty inches, with 38.4 inches at Jayuya. Flooding claimed eighteen lives, and resulted in 62 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1981 - Seattle, WA, received four inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the city. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - It was another hot day in the southwestern U.S. Tucson, AZ, hit 101 degrees for the second day in a row to again equal their record for the month of October. Phoenix AZ reported a record high of 103 degrees, and Blythe CA and Yuma AZ tied for honors as the hot spot in the nation with afternoon highs of 108 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Morning fog in the central U.S. reduced the visibility to near zero at some locations. Morning lows of 28 degrees at Rockford IL and 24 degrees at Waterloo IA were records for the date. Afternoon highs of 92 degrees at Hollywood FL and Miami FL were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms in central Texas drenched San Antonio with 3.10 inches of rain in six hours causing local flooding in northeastern sections of the city. Temperatures dipped below the freezing mark from the Northern Rockies to the Upper Mississippi Valley. (The National Weather Summary)

2016: Hurricane Matthew was off the northeast coast of Florida. Matthew brought intense rainfall to the Carolinas on the 8th and 9th.

2017: A tornado touched down near Jenner in Alberta, Canada.

2018: Only 8 hours after becoming a depression, the National Hurricane Center upgraded the system to Tropical Storm Michael. Tropical storm force winds and torrential downpours were affecting portions of the coastal east-central Yucatan Peninsula.

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Daily Devotion

A Life of Becoming

Who we are becoming is more important to God than what we are doing.

2 Corinthians 4:7-18: ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. ¹² So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

¹³ It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Probably the greatest obstacle to understanding God's purpose for brokenness is this: Many think of Christianity as a series of activities. We pray. We read the Bible. We go to church. We worship. We tithe. We do and do and do—with the assumption that's the sum total of the Christian life.

However, authentic Christianity is about becoming rather than doing. The life of faith that God designed involves receiving Jesus into our heart and allowing Him to change us so we become increasingly like Him (1 John 2:6).

This realization will change our perspective on the heartaches we must endure. You see, when we recognize that the Christian life is about Jesus' persistent work of "re-creation" in us, then the role of brokenness makes more sense. It's the process the Lord uses to strip away obstacles to our spiritual growth.

God doesn't want to be Lord of most of our life; He wants to be Lord of all of our life. For that reason, He removes everything for which we rely on "self" so we can live moment by moment, day by day, in full dependence on Him. Won't you open your heart today, asking God to reveal anything that needs to be surrendered to Him?

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: 16 Hrs 33 Mins 39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.06.25

3 11 21 25 32 6

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$4,320,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 48 Mins 39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.06.25

6 11 30 34 39 10

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 3 Mins 39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.04.25

11 16 24 26 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$41,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 3 Mins 39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.06.25

9 21 37 40 52 5

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 32 Mins 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.06.25

28 29 32 66 67 3

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$223,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 32 Mins 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

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

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Baltic def. McCook Central-Montrose, 25-15, 25-17, 25-21
Castlewood def. Dell Rapids St Mary's, 25-23, 23-25, 26-24, 25-22
Chester def. Colman-Egan, 26-24, 25-13, 25-22
Dakota Valley def. Dell Rapids, 23-25, 25-22, 18-25, 25-22, 15-6
Garretson def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 29-27, 25-21, 21-25, 25-21
Groton def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-15, 25-13, 25-19
Hot Springs def. Edgemont, 31-29, 25-13, 25-20
Jones County def. Dupree, 25-14, 25-11, 25-11
Langford def. Wilmot, 25-19, 25-18, 25-15
Lyman def. Stanley County, 25-11, 25-23, 25-17
Parkston def. Ethan, 25-17, 25-21, 28-26
Warner def. Wolsey-Wessington, 27-25, 25-15, 25-19
Webster def. Leola-Frederick High School, 25-11, 25-21, 25-16

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

EF5 tornado that killed 3 in North Dakota was the nation's first in 12 years

By SARAH RAZA Associated Press

A deadly tornado that tore across southeastern North Dakota this summer has been upgraded to an EF5 with winds topping 200 mph (322 kph), the strongest classification of tornado and the first confirmed on American soil in a dozen years, meteorologists said Monday.

The June 20 twister near the town of Enderlin killed three people and at its largest was 1.05 miles wide (1.7 kilometers), carving a path across the prairie for just over 12 miles (19 kilometers). Meteorologists from the National Weather Service office in Grand Forks estimated the tornado's winds reached 210 mph (338 kph), according to the newly released analysis.

The 1999 Bridge Creek-Moore tornado in Oklahoma holds the record of the strongest winds ever recorded in the U.S. at 321 mph (517 kph).

Since the National Weather Service began using Enhanced Fujita scale in 2007, there have been 10 tornadoes categorized as EF5. The 12-year gap between top-of-the-scale ratings is the longest since the agency started keeping records in 1950. The earlier tornadoes were assessed using an older version of the EF scale called the Fujita scale.

"In the last kind of 12 years, there's been several strong tornadoes that have come close, but there haven't been known damage indicators at that time to support the EF5 rating," said Melinda Beerends, meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service in Grand Forks.

"It's hard sometimes to get tornadoes to hit something," she said.

The morning after the EF5 tornado, meteorologists from the Grand Forks office headed into the field to assess the damage. They studied how the twister had uprooted trees, tipped over fully loaded rail cars, toppled transmission towers and destroyed farmsteads, including one that had its foundation swept clean with just the basement remaining.

"The city of Enderlin, other than losing power, pretty much went unscathed," said Mayor Deon Maasjo. Two men and a woman were killed at two locations east of the town, which is about 40 miles (65 kilometers) southwest of Fargo.

Determining a tornado's strength usually takes days or weeks, as meteorologists study the damage to

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buildings and trees. This case took much longer because of the unusual damage to rail cars, including one that was picked up and hurled far from the rest. The meteorologists worked with engineers and wind damage experts to conduct additional surveys and forensic analysis to determine the EF5 rating, up from the initial estimate of EF3.

The tornado was caused by warm, moist air in a place that's ripe for a thunderstorm, Beerends said. But there was also a high amount of wind shear, which is a variation of wind speed and direction that created the conditions for the tornado.

In recent years, tornadoes have been occurring with greater frequency east of the Mississippi River, said Victor Gensini, professor of atmospheric sciences at Northern Illinois University.

"If you look 40 to 50 years ago, the tornadoes that were happening in places like Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas are kind of happening there with less frequency, and we're seeing more tornadoes in places like Birmingham, Little Rock and Memphis," he said.

Though meteorologists aren't sure what's causing the trend, the higher frequency of tornadoes in the Mid-South and Midwest is notable because it's closer to population centers, Gensini said, so there's a greater chance a tornado may hit something.

The last recorded EF5 tornado was on May 20, 2013, in a town outside Oklahoma City, killing 24 people and injuring more than 200 others. That tornado tore through hundreds of homes, a school, hospital and bowling alley in Moore, where nearly a decade later, droves of moviegoers lined up to watch the 2024 film "Twisters."

Gaza peace talks enter second day on two-year anniversary of the beginning of the war

By SAMY MAGDY and DAVID RISING Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Peace talks between Israel and Hamas were resuming at an Egyptian resort city on Tuesday, the two-year anniversary of the militant group's surprise attack on Israel that triggered the bloody conflict that has seen tens of thousands of Palestinians killed in Gaza.

The second day of indirect negotiations in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh are focused on a plan proposed by U.S. President Donald Trump last week that aims to bring about an end to the war in Gaza.

After several hours of talks Monday, an Egyptian official with knowledge of the discussions said the parties agreed on most of the first-phase terms, which include the release of hostages and establishing a ceasefire. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meetings.

The plan has received widespread international backing and Trump told reporters on Monday that he thought there was a "really good chance" of a "lasting deal."

"This is beyond Gaza," he said. "Gaza is a big deal, but this is really peace in the Middle East."

Trump's peace plan

Many uncertainties remain, however, including the demand that Hamas disarm and the future governance of Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has long said Hamas must surrender and disarm, but Hamas has not yet commented on whether it would be willing to.

The plan envisions Israel withdrawing its troops from Gaza after Hamas disarms, and an international security force being put in place. The territory would then be placed under international governance, with Trump and former U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair overseeing it.

The war began on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel and killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251.

The devastating war that has ensued has upended global politics, resulted in the deaths of 67,160 Palestinians nearly 170,000 wounded, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, and has left the Gaza Strip in ruins.

The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and combatants, but says more than half of the deaths were women and children. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government, and the United Nations and many independent experts consider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties.

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A growing number of experts, including those commissioned by a U.N. body, have said Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip amounts to genocide - an accusation Israel vehemently denies.

On Tuesday at the area attacked by Hamas two years ago, thousands of Israelis gathered to pay tribute to their loved ones who were killed and kidnapped. An explosion from Gaza echoed across the fields as they reflected, following the launch of a rocket in northern Gaza. No damage or injuries were reported.

In Gaza City, meantime, residents said Israeli attacks continued until the early hours of the morning on Tuesday, though there were no immediate reports of casualties.

A promise of humanitarian relief

Ahead of the resumption of talks on Tuesday, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an end to the hostilities, which have created "a humanitarian catastrophe on a scale that defied comprehension."

"The recent proposal by US President Donald J. Trump presents an opportunity that must be seized to bring this tragic conflict to an end," Guterres said.

"A permanent ceasefire and a credible political process are essential to prevent further bloodshed and pave the way for peace. International law must be respected."

Mediators from Qatar and Egypt were facilitating the talks, meeting first on Monday with members of the delegation from Hamas, then later with those from Israel.

Israel's delegation included Gal Hirsch, coordinator for the hostages and the missing from Netanyahu's office, while Hamas representatives included Khalil Al-Hayya, the group's top negotiator.

White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said Monday that U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner were on hand to talk part in the talks and keep the president apprised.

She did not comment on a specific deadline for concluding the talks, but said it is important "that we get this done quickly."

Part of the plan is to surge humanitarian aid into Gaza, where more than two million Palestinian are facing hunger and in some areas famine.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the organization was poised and ready to act.

"The machinery is cranked up and ready to go as soon as we get the green light," Dujarric said. "There are many thousands of metric tons in the pipeline of goods ready to enter" from Jordan, the Israeli port of Ashdod and elsewhere, he added.

France's government collapses again: What could happen next?

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron is running out of wiggle room. The abrupt resignation of his prime minister Monday — Macron's fourth in more than a year of almost ceaseless political upheaval — puts the French leader in a bind.

None of the options now look appealing for Macron, from his perspective at least. And for France, the road ahead promises more of the political uncertainty that is eroding investor confidence in the European Union's second-largest economy and is frustrating efforts to rein in France's damaging state deficit and debts.

Domestic turmoil also risks diverting Macron's focus from pressing international issues — wars in Gaza and Ukraine, security threats from Russia, and the muscular use of American power by U.S. President Donald Trump, to name just a few.

Here's a closer look at the latest act in the unprecedented political drama that's been roiling France since Macron stunned the nation by dissolving the National Assembly in June 2024, triggering fresh legislative elections that then stacked Parliament's powerful lower house with his opponents:

A 14-hour government collapses

When Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu tendered his resignation on Monday morning, he pulled the rug from under the new Cabinet that he'd named less than 14 hours earlier, on Sunday night. The collapse of the blink-and-you-missed-it government — with ministers out of a job before they'd even had a chance to settle in — was a bad look for Macron, bordering on farcical for his critics.

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It reinforced the impression that Macron — who in 2017 famously described himself as “the master of the clocks,” firmly in control, on his way to winning the French presidency for the first time — is no longer in full command of France’s political agenda and that his authority is ebbing away.

One of Macron’s loyal supporters, the just-reappointed but now outgoing ecology minister, Agnès Pannier-Runacher, captured the mood, posting: “Like many of you, I despair of this circus.”

Perhaps more damaging for Macron were the reasons that Lecornu subsequently gave for his resignation, in an address on the front steps of L’Hôtel de Matignon, the 18th-century office of France’s prime ministers that, at this rate, may soon need fitting with a revolving door.

The 39-year-old Lecornu explained that the job Macron had given him less than one month ago, after the previous prime minister was tossed out by a National Assembly vote, had proven to be impossible.

Lecornu said three weeks of negotiations with political parties from across the political spectrum, unions and business leaders had failed to build consensus behind France’s top domestic priority: agreeing on a budget for next year.

“Being prime minister is a difficult task, doubtless even a bit harder at the moment, but one cannot be prime minister when the conditions aren’t fulfilled,” Lecornu said.

France, he appeared to be signaling, is verging on ungovernable.

No tradition of coalitions

When the snap legislative elections called by Macron backfired, delivering a hung Parliament since July 2024, the French leader held to the belief that his centrist camp could continue to govern effectively, despite having no stable majority, by building alliances in the National Assembly.

But the voting mathematics in the 577-seat chamber have been a recipe for turmoil, with lawmakers broadly split into three main blocs — left, center and far-right — and none with enough seats to form a government alone.

France, unlike Germany, the Netherlands and some other countries in Europe, doesn’t have a tradition of political coalitions governing together.

Macron’s political opponents in the National Assembly, particularly those on the far left and far right, have been in no mood to play ball.

Despite their own bitter ideological differences, they have repeatedly teamed up against the president’s prime ministers and their minority governments, toppling them one after another — and now seemingly convincing Lecornu that he’d be next if he didn’t resign first.

The left was mustering efforts to topple Lecornu’s new government as soon as this week, and the far right was signaling that it could vote against him, too.

Having burned since September 2024 through Gabriel Attal, Michel Barnier, François Bayrou and now close ally Lecornu as prime ministers, any successor Macron chooses will be on similarly shaky ground.

On Monday evening, Macron gave Lecornu another 48 hours to seek some sort of exit from the deadlock, buying himself a little more time.

Another dissolution

The unpalatable alternative for Macron would be dissolving parliament again, ceding to pressure from the far right in particular for another unscheduled cycle of legislative elections.

Macron has previously ruled out resigning himself, vowing to see out his second and last presidential term to its end in 2027.

But new elections for the National Assembly would be fraught with risk for the French leader.

The far-right National Rally party of Marine Le Pen, already the largest single party, could come out on top, an outcome that Macron has long sought to avoid. That could leave Macron having to share power for the remainder of his time in office with a far-right prime minister.

Macron’s unpopularity could also deliver a crushing defeat to his centrist camp, giving him even less sway in parliament than he has now and possibly having to make deals and share power with a stronger coalition of left-wing parties.

Or France could get more of the same: political deadlock and turmoil that weakens Macron at home but

that doesn't tie his hands on the world stage.

"It's not a very good image of stability but the central institution remains the president of the Republic," said Luc Rouban, a political science researcher at Sciences Po university in Paris.

"I don't think Emmanuel Macron is going to resign. He remains the leader on international affairs. So he'll stick to his positions on the situation in Ukraine, or the Middle East and relations with the United States."

A divided Israel marks 2 years since Oct. 7 attack as war in Gaza grinds on and hostages languish

By ALON BERNSTEIN and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

REIM, Israel (AP) — Thousands of people converged on southern Israel on Tuesday to mourn the dead as the nation marked two years since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack plunged the region into a devastating war, while Israel and Hamas pressed on with indirect peace talks in Egypt.

The main memorial is being organized by the bereaved families, separate from a ceremony that the government will hold on the anniversary next week according to the Hebrew calendar. The split reflects deep divisions over Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership, which many blame for the failure to secure a ceasefire that would free the remaining hostages held by the militants.

In the Gaza Strip, where Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed tens of thousands of people and razed entire towns and cities, those who can are fleeing another Israeli invasion of Gaza City while others are sheltering in place. Many are unable to make the arduous and costly journey south.

The worst attack in Israel's history

It's been two years since thousands of Hamas-led militants poured into southern Israel after a surprise barrage of rockets. They stormed army bases, farming communities and an outdoor music festival, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, including women, children and older adults.

They abducted 251 others, most of whom have since been released in ceasefires or other deals. Forty-eight hostages remain inside Gaza, around 20 of them believed by Israel to still be alive. Hamas has said it will release them only in exchange for a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal. Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until all of the captives are returned and Hamas has been disarmed.

The attack set in motion a cascade of events that led Israel into combat with Iran and its allies across the region, including Lebanon's Hezbollah, which suffered major losses. The United States joined Israel in attacking Iran's military and nuclear program in a 12-day war in June.

Israel has killed several top militants as well as Iranian generals and nuclear scientists, and it has vastly depleted the military capabilities of its enemies while seizing control over most of Gaza as well as parts of Lebanon and Syria.

But the failure to return the hostages has left the country deeply divided, with weekly mass protests against Netanyahu. Israel is more isolated internationally than it has been in decades.

A memorial at the scene of a massacre

Nearly 400 Israelis were killed and dozens abducted from the Nova music festival in the border community of Reim. Over the last two years, it has emerged as a memorial site, with portraits of the kidnapped and fallen affixed to Israeli flags.

There's no official ceremony at the Nova site, due to the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which coincides with the anniversary. Yet, scores of people at the site shared memories of relatives and friends who were killed, weaving through hundreds of photos encircling the spot where DJ booth stood. At 6:29 am, the exact time the attack began, the music — the same track that revelers were listening to at the time — stopped for a moment of silence.

People embraced and spoke of their loss. Alon Muskinov, 28, who was at the festival and lost three of his closest friends, said the survivors live with the horrors of that day.

"We are reliving this every day anew, every day we remember them," he said.

Yehuda Rahmani, whose daughter Sharon — a police officer at the festival — was also among those

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killed, said he visits the Nova site daily, to be at the last place where she was alive.

To this day, Rahmani keeps hoping he will run into a survivor who could tell him about his daughter's last moments. He is angry at the government for not launching an inquiry into security failures of that day.

"When you don't know what happened, it makes it so much harder," he said.

Meanwhile, explosions echoed from Gaza and smoke billowed over the strip. The army said a rocket was launched from northern Gaza in the morning, but no damage or injuries were reported.

In Tel Aviv, the main memorial ceremony got underway, organized by Yonatan Shamriz, whose brother Alon was among three hostages mistakenly killed by Israeli forces after they escaped captivity early in the war.

Shay Dickmann, who lost her aunt outside her house in Kibbutz Be'eri on the day of the attack while her cousin, Carmel Gat, was taken hostage by Hamas and killed 11 months later, said all everyone wants is for the war to end.

"There is a deal on the table, there is an opportunity to end this war and bring everybody back home," she said. "We all deserve it, we deserve it, our neighbors deserve it, we want this war to end and all to come back to their homes."

Israel and Hamas discuss Trump peace plan

In neighboring Egypt, in the resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, Israel and Hamas held indirect talks Monday to discuss U.S. President Donald Trump's peace plan. The talks were to continue Tuesday.

The war has already killed over 67,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, part of the Hamas-run government, which does not say how many were civilians or combatants. It says women and children make up around half the dead, and many independent experts say its figures are the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties.

Israel's offensive has displaced around 90% of Gaza's population of some 2 million, often multiple times, and restrictions on humanitarian aid have contributed to a severe hunger crisis, with experts saying Gaza City is experiencing famine.

Experts and major rights groups have accused Israel of genocide, and the International Criminal Court is seeking the arrest of Netanyahu and his former defense minister for using starvation as a method of war.

Israel vehemently denies the allegations, saying it is waging a lawful war of self-defense and taking extraordinary measures to avoid harming civilians. It blames Hamas for the death and destruction in Gaza because the militants are deeply embedded in populated areas.

Hamas portrayed the Oct. 7 attack as a response to decades of Israeli land seizures, settlement construction and military occupation. But the attack has exacted a catastrophic toll on the Palestinians, whose dream of an independent state appears more distant than ever.

Blake Snell shines on mound and Dodgers hold off Phillies 4-3 for 2-0 lead in NLDS

By DAN GELSTON AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Blake Snell had yielded to the Los Angeles Dodgers' bullpen after a masterful start and was just a bystander when the Philadelphia Phillies — without any help from their All-Star trio at the top of the batting order — finally mustered a rally in the ninth inning.

A leadoff single. A two-run double. A headfirst slide — safe!

Phillies bats and a previously silenced crowd both finally rising to the occasion and their feet.

Through all the drama, Snell's confidence in the playoff-tested Dodgers never wavered.

"We know we're going to win," the pitcher said.

Snell allowed one hit in six shutout innings, striking out nine, and the Dodgers made a couple of clutch defensive plays to barely turn back Philadelphia's late rally Monday night for a 4-3 victory in Game 2 of their NL Division Series.

Freddie Freeman made a game-saving pick at first base and Shohei Ohtani delivered an RBI single that helped the Dodgers take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five playoff. The defending World Series champs can

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reach their 17th National League Championship Series with a Game 3 win Wednesday in Los Angeles.

"That was a heck of a ballgame. Lots to unpack in that one," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said after his team improved to 4-0 this postseason. "Great ballgame, great plays. Huge win."

Will Smith had a two-run single in a four-run seventh, and the Dodgers took a 4-1 lead into the bottom of the ninth.

That's when the Phillies finally mounted a major threat.

Nick Castellanos slid headfirst into second base, narrowly eluding a tag, for a two-run double off Blake Treinen that at last sent the Philadelphia crowd of more than 45,000 into a frenzy and made it a 4-3 game.

Alex Vesia came in to face Bryson Stott, who tried to advance Castellanos with a bunt. But third baseman Max Muncy wheeled and threw to shortstop Mookie Betts sprinting over to cover the bag in time to tag out Castellanos.

"Those guys executed it to perfection. It was a lot tougher — they made it look a lot easier than it was," Roberts said. "And for me, that was our only chance, really, to win that game in that moment."

Pinch-hitter Harrison Bader singled and Max Kepler grounded into a fielder's choice that left runners at the corners with two outs.

Roki Sasaki entered and retired NL batting champion Trea Turner on a groundout to second for the rookie's second career save — both in this series. Freeman went to his knees to pick Tommy Edman's poor throw on his backhand, keeping his right toe on the bag before rolling over onto his back with the ball in his mitt.

"Obviously, Tommy threw one into the dirt. Thankfully I was able to catch it and stay on the base," Freeman said. "That was a stressful inning."

Phillies manager Rob Thomson said he will likely hold a team meeting once the team gets to Los Angeles.

"I love the fight in the eighth and ninth inning," he said. "They fought like hell, and hopefully that carries over into Wednesday. But this is a resilient group. Our backs are against the wall. We've just got to come out fighting."

Kepler flashed some of that late spirit when he tripled in the eighth and scored on Turner's single to trim it to 4-1.

A two-time Cy Young Award winner, Snell was sensational in holding the Phillies to another mostly punchless effort in the playoffs. Turner, NL home run champion Kyle Schwarber and two-time NL MVP Bryce Harper went a combined 1 for 10 with five strikeouts.

On the 15-year anniversary of Phillies ace Roy Halladay's playoff no-hitter against the Reds, Snell had one going until Edmundo Sosa's two-out single in the fifth.

Snell, who walked four and threw 99 pitches, was tangled in a duel with Jesús Luzardo until the seventh.

Luzardo threw 24 pitches in the first before the left-hander settled down and retired 17 straight Dodgers until Game 1 star Teoscar Hernández singled leading off the inning. Freeman doubled and that was all for Luzardo.

After reliever Orion Kerkering got a strikeout, Kiké Hernández hit a slow roller to shortstop and Turner rushed an off-target throw home that allowed Teoscar Hernández to score with an excellent slide.

Smith lined a two-run single for a 3-0 lead and Ohtani — who struck out four times in the opener and again leading off Game 2 — ripped a run-scoring single off left-handed reliever Matt Strahm for his first hit of the series.

The NL West champion Dodgers, who used the injured list this season 37 times for 2,585 days, according to Major League Baseball, are finally mostly healthy and need to win just once in two potential home games to clinch the series. Teams taking a 2-0 lead in a best-of-five postseason series have won 80 of 90 times, including 54 sweeps.

The NL East champion Phillies were 1 for 18 with nine strikeouts through six innings.

"We missed some pitches over the plate," Harper said. "Haven't done a very good job with guys on base. Just need to be better."

Up next

The Dodgers send RHP Yoshinobu Yamamoto to the mound in Game 3. Yamamoto struck out a post-

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season-high nine while pitching into the seventh inning in the Wild Card Series clincher against Cincinnati. Aaron Nola starts for the Phillies.

ICC makes the first conviction over past atrocities in Sudan's Darfur

By MIKE CORDER Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The International Criminal Court on Monday convicted a leader of the feared Janjaweed militia of playing a leading role in a campaign of atrocities committed in the Sudanese region of Darfur more than 20 years ago — including ordering mass executions and bludgeoning two prisoners to death with an ax.

It was the first time the court has convicted a suspect of crimes in Darfur. The three-judge panel ruled that the atrocities, including mass murders and rapes, were part of a government plan to snuff out a rebellion there.

Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb, wearing a suit and tie and listening through a headset, showed no emotion as Presiding Judge Joanna Korner read out 27 guilty verdicts. He will be sentenced at a later date. He faces a maximum life sentence.

He was convicted of crimes for leading Janjaweed militia forces in Darfur that went on a campaign of killing and destruction in 2003-2004.

"He encouraged and gave instructions that resulted in the killings, the rapes and destruction committed by the Janjaweed," Korner said, adding that the verdicts were unanimous.

Abd-Al-Rahman was transferred to ICC custody in 2020, after surrendering in Central African Republic. He pleaded innocent to charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity when his trial opened in April 2022 and argued he was not the person known as Ali Kushayb. The judges rejected that defense, saying he even identified himself by his name and nickname in a video when he surrendered.

"Finally a victory for justice, and justice for the victims of Darfur," Enaam al-Nour, a Darfur rights defender and journalist, said of the verdict.

The court's prosecution office also welcomed the conviction.

"It sends a resounding message to perpetrators of atrocities in Sudan, both past and present, that justice will prevail, and that they will be held accountable for inflicting unspeakable suffering on Darfuri civilians, men, women and children," Deputy Prosecutor Nazhat Shameem Khan said in a statement.

A court under intense pressure

The verdicts came as allegations of atrocities and famine continue to emerge from Sudan in a new conflict. In July, the ICC's deputy prosecutor told the United Nations that war crimes and crimes against humanity continue in Sudan's vast western Darfur region where civil war has raged for more than two years.

The convictions were a success for the court that has been under intense pressure since issuing arrest warrants last year for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for crimes they allegedly committed in Gaza. Netanyahu and Gallant reject the allegations. The Trump administration has slapped the ICC's top prosecutors and others at the court with sanctions.

Separately, the court's chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, has stepped aside from his position while an independent panel investigates sexual misconduct claims made against him.

Mass killings and other atrocities

The judges ruled that Abd-Al-Rahman was a senior commander in the Janjaweed militias during the Darfur conflict that erupted when rebels from the territory's ethnic central and sub-Saharan African community launched an insurgency in 2003, complaining of oppression by the Arab-dominated government in the capital, Khartoum.

Then-President Omar al-Bashir's government responded with a scorched-earth campaign of aerial bombings and raids by the Janjaweed, who often attacked at dawn, sweeping into villages on horseback or camelback.

Up to 300,000 people were killed and 2.7 million were driven from their homes in Darfur over the years.

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Al-Bashir has been charged by the ICC with crimes including genocide, but he has not been handed over to face justice in The Hague, despite being ousted from power and detained.

Al-Bashir is being held in a military-run detention facility in northern Sudan, his lawyer Mohamed al-Hassan al-Amin told The Associated Press on Monday. A former defense minister who is also wanted by the ICC has been released, he said.

During the trial, judges heard from 56 witnesses who described horrific violence and the use of rape as a weapon to terrorize and humiliate.

Abd-Al-Rahman was also found guilty of ordering the summary executions of scores of prisoners in March 2004 and of personally killing captive civilians, beating two men to death with an ax, Korner said.

Defense lawyers called 17 witnesses and argued that Abd-Al-Rahman was not a militia leader, but rather "a no one" who had no involvement in the Darfur conflict.

A new bloody conflict in Darfur

Conflict now rages in Sudan between the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces — born out of the Janjaweed militias — and Sudan's military. Tensions erupted in 2023 between the two previous allies that were meant to oversee a democratic transition after a 2019 uprising.

A political activist and former minister in the post-Bashir government, Khalid Omar, hailed the verdict, saying it has brought justice to Darfur victims. He called for handing over other wanted suspects to the ICC, including al-Bashir.

"Justice for the victims will come, even if it takes some time," he wrote in a Facebook post.

The fighting has killed at least 40,000 people, according to the World Health Organization, and displaced as many as 12 million. More than 24 million face acute food insecurity, according to the World Food Program.

Liz Evenson, international justice director at Human Rights Watch, noted the "long-awaited landmark conviction for serious crimes in Darfur."

"With the current conflict in Sudan producing new generations of victims and compounding the suffering of those targeted in the past, the verdict should spur action by governments to advance justice by all possible means," Evenson said.

Democrats could have a slight shot at flipping a US House seat in Utah under a new congressional map

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah's Republican-led Legislature approved a revised congressional map Monday that could give Democrats an improved chance at flipping a seat as they fight to topple the GOP's slim majority in the U.S. House. But in a state dominated by Republicans, it remains a long-shot that Democrats could win a district next year.

Republicans currently hold all four of Utah's House seats.

In the court-ordered redraw, two districts become slightly competitive for Democrats — one more than the other — but all four still lean Republican. The map places Salt Lake City in a single district that stretches into rural areas, instead of splitting the heavily Democratic city among multiple districts.

Redistricting experts say it's the least competitive proposal lawmakers considered, and likely Republicans' best bet at safeguarding their seats. But Ken Martin, chair of the Democratic National Committee, said he sees "a prime pickup opportunity."

The districts still must be reviewed by a judge, who is expected to approve a new map by November.

In August, Judge Dianna Gibson struck down the congressional map adopted after the 2020 census because the Legislature had circumvented standards established by voters to ensure districts don't deliberately favor a party, a practice known as gerrymandering.

The mandated redraw comes as President Donald Trump has urged other Republican-led states to take up mid-decade redistricting ahead of the midterm elections to add winnable seats for the party.

Utah's revised map creates some uncertainty in a state that was thought to be a clean sweep for the

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GOP. Nationally, Democrats need to net three House seats next year to wrest control of the chamber from Republicans, who are trying to buck a historic pattern of the president's party losing seats in the midterms.

Republican state Sen. Scott Sandall, a co-chair of the Legislature's redistricting committee, said there are a lot of things they would have done differently if not for the time crunch. Still, he thinks the judge will have no reason to reject the map.

After taking public comment on several proposals, Republicans chose to move forward with the least competitive option. Commenters appeared to favor a proposal from Democrats until the Utah Republican Party sent out an email to rally support for the map now approved by lawmakers.

Democratic state Sen. Nate Blouin was scolded by Republican leaders on the Senate floor when he said he thinks it's no coincidence that the map most favorable to Republicans was chosen. Sandall insisted the committee did not consider political data.

A handful of Republicans joined Democrats in opposing the map.

During Monday's special session, Republicans also amended Proposition 4 — a voter-approved ballot initiative from 2018 that sparked the redistricting case — requiring each new district to have a partisan vote share similar to Utah's recent statewide election results. Republican Gov. Spencer Cox signed it into law later Monday, and the voting rights groups involved in the legal challenge responded with a motion arguing lawmakers were trying "to change the rules of the game."

Jonathan Cervas, a redistricting expert at Carnegie Mellon University, ran data from past elections in Utah against the redrawn map and found that Democrats would lose every time. That indicates that the map is uncompetitive, he said.

"Although it's not as competitive as I think the plaintiffs would want, I think it's far better than the map that currently exists — a stark improvement," Cervas said.

The map thrown out by Gibson more significantly divided Salt Lake County — Utah's population center and an island of Democratic support. Before the map was adopted in 2021, one district had traded hands between Democrats and Republicans. All have since elected Republicans by wide margins.

Gibson will now review the map approved by lawmakers and consider alternate proposals from the voting rights groups. If she shoots it down, Cervas anticipates a legal battle over whether the court has authority or an obligation to put in place a map of its own.

If the revised map stands, redistricting analyst Jason Fierman thinks "it's not insurmountable" for Democrats.

"An extremely strong candidate in a blue wave year might be able to possibly break this cycle of Democrats not winning any of these seats," said Fierman, who has consulted on maps in other states. Former U.S. Rep. Ben McAdams could be one such candidate, he said. "This could really be a 'game on' moment for Democrats, but it would be challenging."

The Nobel Prize in medicine goes to 3 scientists for key immune system discoveries

By KOSTYA MANENKOV, LAURAN NEERGAARD and LINDSEY WASSON Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Three scientists won the Nobel Prize in medicine Monday for discoveries about how the immune system knows to attack germs and not our own bodies.

The work by Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Dr. Shimon Sakaguchi uncovered a key pathway the body uses to keep the immune system in check, called peripheral immune tolerance. Experts called the findings critical to understanding autoimmune diseases such as Type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and lupus.

In separate projects over several years, the trio of scientists — two in the U.S. and one in Japan — identified the importance of what are now called regulatory T cells. Scientists are currently using those findings in a variety of ways: to discover better treatments for autoimmune diseases, to improve organ transplant success and to enhance the body's own fight against cancer, among others.

"Their discoveries have been decisive for our understanding of how the immune system functions and

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why we do not all develop serious autoimmune diseases,” said Olle Kämpe, chair of the Nobel Committee. Brunkow, 64, is now a senior program manager at the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle. Ramsdell, 64, is a scientific adviser for San Francisco-based Sonoma Biotherapeutics. Sakaguchi, 74, is a distinguished professor at the Immunology Frontier Research Center at Osaka University in Japan.

The award, officially known as the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, is the first of the 2025 Nobel Prize announcements and was announced by a panel at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.

The physics prize will be announced on Tuesday, chemistry on Wednesday and literature on Thursday. The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday and the Nobel Memorial Prize in economics Oct. 13.

The work that won the 2025 Nobel Prize in medicine

The immune system has overlapping ways to detect and fight bacteria, viruses and other intruders. But sometimes certain immune cells run amok, mistakenly attacking people’s own cells and tissues to cause autoimmune diseases.

Scientists once thought the body regulated this system only in a centralized fashion. Key immune soldiers such as T cells get trained to spot bad actors and those that go awry in a way that might trigger autoimmunity get eliminated in the thymus.

The Nobel winners unraveled an additional way the body keeps the system in check if immune cells later get confused and mistake human cells for intruders, which is what happens when a person has an autoimmune disease.

Sakaguchi said he “was curious about the mechanism of immune response that is supposed to protect oneself but also reacts to and attacks itself.”

His experiments in mice showed that the thymus pathway couldn’t be the only explanation. In 1995, he discovered a previously unknown T cell subtype, the regulatory T cells, that also could tamp down over-reactive immune cells like a biological security guard.

Then in 2001, Brunkow and Ramsdell were working together at a biotech company investigating mice with an autoimmune disease. In painstaking work at a time when mapping genes was still an evolving field, they figured out that a particular mutation in a gene called *Foxp3* was to blame — and quickly realized it could be a major player in human health, too.

“From a DNA level, it was a really small alteration that caused this massive change to how the immune system works,” Brunkow told AP.

Back in Japan, Sakaguchi noticed: “It was getting a lot of attention as one gene that can explain multiple autoimmune diseases, but still, why the gene causes the diseases was a mystery,” he said.

Two years later, Sakaguchi linked the discoveries to show the *Foxp3* gene controls the development of those regulatory T cells so they’re able to curb other, overreactive cells.

Why this work matters

The work opened a new field of immunology, said Karolinska Institute rheumatology professor Marie Wahren-Herlenius.

Until the trio’s research was published, immunologists didn’t understand the complexity of how the body differentiates foreign cells from its own, said Dr. Jonathan Schneck, a cellular immunology expert at Johns Hopkins University.

One goal now, Schneck said, is to figure out how to increase the number of regulatory T cells — also known as T-regs — to help fight autoimmune diseases. That would decrease the need for today’s therapies, which instead suppress the immune system in ways that leave patients vulnerable to infection.

The American Association of Immunologists said the winners’ work “has fundamentally reshaped our understanding of immune balance.”

The discoveries haven’t yet led to new therapies, Schneck cautioned. But “it’s incredibly important to emphasize, this work started back in 1995 and we’re reaping the benefits but yet have many more benefits we can reap” as scientists build on their work.

How Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Dr. Shimon Sakaguchi reacted

Thomas Perlmann, secretary-general of the Nobel Committee, said he reached Sakaguchi in his lab by

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phone Monday morning "and he sounded incredibly grateful, expressed that it was a fantastic honor. He was quite taken by the news."

At a news conference hours later — which was interrupted by a congratulatory call from the Japanese prime minister — Sakaguchi called his win "a happy surprise."

"There are many illnesses that need further research and treatment, and I hope there will be further progress in those areas so that findings will lead to prevention of diseases. That's what our research is for," he added.

Brunkow, meanwhile, got the news of her prize from an AP photographer who came to her Seattle home in the early hours of the morning.

She said she had ignored the earlier call from the Nobel Committee. "My phone rang and I saw a number from Sweden and thought: 'That's just, that's spam of some sort.'"

"When I told Mary she won, she said, 'Don't be ridiculous,'" said her husband, Ross Colquhoun.

Ramsdell couldn't be reached immediately by the AP or his employer, who thought he might be away on a backpacking trip.

Ramsdell "is one of the most humble people you'll ever meet," Jeff Bluestone, CEO of Sonoma Biotherapeutics, told AP. "It's going to be great for us to toot his horn for him."

The award ceremony will be Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, who founded the prizes. Nobel was a wealthy Swedish industrialist and the inventor of dynamite. He died in 1896.

The trio will share prize money of 11 million Swedish kronor (nearly \$1.2 million).

Chicago and Illinois sue to stop Trump's Guard deployment plan after Portland ruling

By CHRISTINE FERNANDO Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Illinois leaders went to court Monday to stop President Donald Trump from sending National Guard troops to Chicago, escalating a clash between Democratic-led states and the Republican administration during an aggressive immigration enforcement operation in the nation's third-largest city.

The legal challenge came hours after a judge blocked the Guard's deployment in Portland, Oregon.

The lawsuit in Chicago also raised the stakes after a violent weekend: Authorities said a woman was shot by a federal agent when Border Patrol vehicles were boxed in and struck by other vehicles. The city's police superintendent rejected suggestions that his officers were on the government's side in volatile situations like that one.

The Trump administration has portrayed the cities as war-ravaged and lawless amid its crackdown on illegal immigration. Officials in Illinois and Oregon say military intervention isn't needed and that federal involvement is inflaming the situation.

The lawsuit alleges that "these advances in President Trump's long-declared 'War' on Chicago and Illinois are unlawful and dangerous." Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker said a court hearing was scheduled for Thursday.

"Donald Trump is using our service members as political props and as pawns in his illegal effort to militarize our nation's cities," Pritzker, a Democrat, said.

Governor: Federal wave is an 'invasion'

Pritzker said some 300 of the state's guard troops were to be federalized and deployed to Chicago, along with 400 others from Texas.

Pritzker said the potential deployment amounted to "Trump's invasion," and he called on Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to block it. Abbott pushed back and said the crackdown was needed to protect federal workers who are in the city as part of the president's increased immigration enforcement.

Abbott posted a picture on the social platform X on Monday night of Texas National Guard members boarding a plane, but didn't specify where they were going.

White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson confirmed in a weekend statement that Trump authorized using Illinois National Guard members, citing what she called "ongoing violent riots and lawlessness" that local leaders have not quelled.

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The sight of armed Border Patrol agents making arrests near famous landmarks amplified concerns from Chicagoans already uneasy after an immigration crackdown that began last month. Agents have targeted immigrant-heavy and largely Latino areas.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson said Monday that he signed an executive order barring federal immigration agents and others from using city-owned property, such as parking lots, garages and vacant lots, as staging areas for enforcement operations.

Mayor limits protest hours at ICE site

Protesters have frequently rallied near an immigration facility outside the city, and federal officials reported the arrests of 13 protesters Friday near the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in Broadview. Mayor Katrina Thompson, citing safety and other factors, said she was limiting protests to 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The ACLU of Illinois on Monday sued Trump, Department of Homeland Security, ICE, Border Patrol and national and local leaders at several agencies, accusing them of unleashing a campaign of violence and intimidation against peaceful protesters and journalists during weeks of demonstrations outside that facility. The lawsuit alleges that federal agents used "indiscriminate" and "violent force," including tear gas, rubber bullets, pepper balls and flash grenades, interfering with First Amendment rights.

DHS Spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in response to the lawsuit that "the First Amendment protects speech and peaceful assembly — not rioting."

Elsewhere, DHS acknowledged that agents shot a woman Saturday on Chicago's southwest side. The department said it happened after Border Patrol agents patrolling the area were "rammed by vehicles and boxed in by 10 cars."

Chicago Police Superintendent Larry Snelling said it's reasonable for agents to use force if they believe they're being ambushed. He noted officers were redeployed from other parts of the city to assist the agents and that 27 were affected by tear gas.

"We cannot become a society where we just decide to take everything in our own hands and start to commit crimes against law enforcement," Snelling said.

He said it's difficult to "toe the line" between not helping federal immigration agents and maintaining public safety.

Portland says no crime crisis there

In Portland, U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut on Sunday granted a temporary restraining order sought by Oregon and California barring the deployment of Guard troops to Oregon from any state and the District of Columbia.

Immergut, who was appointed by Trump during his first term, seemed incredulous that the president moved to send National Guard troops to Oregon from neighboring California and then from Texas on Sunday, just hours after she had ruled against it the first time.

"Aren't defendants simply circumventing my order?" she said. "Why is this appropriate?"

White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt criticized the decision and said the president was using his authority as commander in chief.

Portland's ICE facility has been the site of nightly protests for months, peaking in June when Portland police declared a riot, with smaller clashes occurring since then.

In recent weeks, the nightly protests typically drew a couple dozen people — until Trump ordered the National Guard. Over the weekend, larger crowds gathered outside the facility and federal agents fired tear gas. Portland police made multiple arrests.

Since June, federal agents have charged 30 people with federal crimes related to the protests at the ICE building, including assaulting federal officers, failure to comply and depredation of government property, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Oregon said Monday.

Most violent crime around the U.S. has declined in recent years, including in Portland, where homicides from January through June decreased by 51% to 17 this year compared to the same period in 2024, data shows.

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Since starting his second term, Trump has sent or talked about sending troops to 10 cities, including Baltimore; Memphis, Tennessee; the District of Columbia; New Orleans; and the California cities of Oakland, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

A federal judge in September said the administration "willfully" broke federal law by deploying guard troops to Los Angeles over protests about immigration raids.

What we know about National Guard deployments in Chicago and Portland

By The Associated Press undefined

Illinois has followed California and Oregon in filing lawsuits to stop President Donald Trump from sending National Guard troops to Democrat-led big cities.

The lawsuit filed Monday by Illinois and Chicago alleges Trump's authorization to deploy 300 troops to the Windy City is "unlawful and dangerous." Trump continues to flex federal power and claims the troops are needed to protect federal immigration enforcement efforts and crack down on crime.

In Oregon, a federal judge on Sunday temporarily blocked a deployment of troops, hours after that state's governor said California National Guard members had arrived, with more on the way and headed to Portland.

Sending the National Guard to states over their governor's objections is not a new idea in Trump's inner circle.

Stephen Miller, the White House deputy chief of staff, said in November 2023 that a second Trump administration would order the Guard in sympathetic Republican-led states to Democrat-run states that refuse to cooperate with his drive for mass deportations.

Here's a snapshot of where things stand:

Trump's efforts meet pushback

The lawsuit filed by Illinois and Chicago comes after Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker said some 300 of the state's guard troops were to be federalized and deployed to the nation's third-largest city, along with 400 others from Texas.

"Donald Trump is using our service members as political props and as pawns in his illegal effort to militarize our nation's cities," Pritzker said after the lawsuit was filed. He said a court hearing was set for Thursday.

The ACLU of Illinois also filed suit Monday against Trump, the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and several of the agencies' leaders, accusing them of unleashing a campaign of violence and intimidation against peaceful protesters and journalists during protests outside an ICE detention facility in Broadview, Illinois.

At the facility, about 12 miles (19 kilometers) west of Chicago, federal agents have repeatedly fired tear gas, pepper balls and other projectiles toward crowds. At least seven people have faced federal charges after being arrested in those clashes.

Filed by a coalition of news outlets, media associations and protesters, including the Illinois Press Association, Block Club Chicago and the Chicago Headline Club, the lawsuit alleges federal agents used "indiscriminate" force and interfered with First Amendment rights, including freedom of speech and press.

Broadview Mayor Katrina Thompson issued an executive order Monday requiring protesters to demonstrate outside the ICE facility only between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily. Thompson said the order was an effort to "balance the constitutional rights of protestors with the needs and safety of Broadview's residents and businesses."

Latest federal deployments target Portland, Chicago

White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson confirmed that the president authorized using Illinois National Guard members, citing what she called "ongoing violent riots and lawlessness" that local leaders have not quelled.

Trump has characterized Portland and Chicago as rife with crime and unrest. Since the start of his second

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term, he has sent or talked about sending troops to 10 cities, including Baltimore, Maryland; Memphis, Tennessee; the District of Columbia; New Orleans; and Oakland, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek talked to Trump in late September and said a deployment was unnecessary. She refused to call up Oregon National Guard troops, so Trump did so himself in an order to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. That prompted a lawsuit from city and state officials that led to Sunday's temporary hold.

In Chicago, alarms raised about racial profiling

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson signed an executive order Monday barring federal agents from using city-owned property as staging areas. It applies to parking lots, garages and vacant lots.

The sight of armed, camouflaged and masked Border Patrol agents making arrests near famous downtown landmarks has amplified concerns about racial profiling. Many Chicagoans were already uneasy after the immigration crackdown began. Agents have targeted immigrant-heavy and largely Latino areas.

DHS acknowledged that federal agents shot a woman Saturday on the southwest side of Chicago. A department statement said it happened after Border Patrol agents patrolling the area "were rammed by vehicles and boxed in by 10 cars."

"The officers exited their trapped vehicle, when a suspect tried to run them over, forcing the officers to fire defensively," the statement said.

No law enforcement officers were seriously injured, DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said.

The woman who was shot is a U.S. citizen and was armed with a semiautomatic weapon, according to McLaughlin. She was being treated at a hospital, according to fire officials.

"Federal agents, ICE, HSI are officers," Chicago Police Superintendent Larry Snelling told reporters Monday. "If you box them in with vehicles, it is reasonable for them to believe that they are being ambushed and this could end in a deadly situation, and its reasonable for them to use force based on those conditions."

Deployment in Portland temporarily blocked by judge

About 400 protesters marched Saturday to a Portland ICE detention facility. Federal agents used chemical crowd control munitions, including tear gas canisters and less-lethal guns that sprayed pepper balls, the Oregonian reported.

U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut temporarily blocked the deployment of Oregon National Guard troops on Saturday, saying the relatively small protests did not justify the use of federalized state forces and that the deployment could harm Oregon's sovereignty.

The Trump administration responded by attempting to send in National Guard troops from California and Texas, prompting Kotek and California Gov. Gavin Newsom, also a Democrat, to go back to court Sunday. Immergut blocked any National Guard troops from being sent to Oregon for 14 days.

White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller told reporters the administration would appeal the ruling.

The Portland ICE facility has been the site of demonstrations for months. Since June, 30 people have been charged with federal crimes related to the protests since June, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Oregon said Monday.

Efforts in Memphis and Louisiana

On Wednesday, Hegseth, Miller and Attorney General Pam Bondi rallied members of a federal law enforcement task force that began operating in Memphis as part of Trump's crime-fighting plan. Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, a Republican, has supported the effort.

On Sept. 30, Republican Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry asked for a guard deployment to New Orleans and other cities to help fight crime.

Appellate court weighs California deployment

Trump deployed guard soldiers and active duty Marines in Los Angeles during the summer over the objections of Newsom, who sued and won a temporary block after a federal judge found the president's use of the guard was likely unlawful.

The Trump administration appealed, and the block was put on hold by a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The appellate case is still underway, but the panel has indicated that it believes the administration is likely to prevail.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs' lawyers want him sent to a New Jersey federal prison that offers drug treatment

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Sean "Diddy" Combs' lawyers want the hip-hop mogul sent to a low-security federal prison in New Jersey to serve his four-year, two-month prison sentence, telling a judge Monday that the facility's drug treatment program will help him stay clean.

In a letter, Combs' lawyers urged the judge presiding over his case, Arun Subramanian, to "strongly recommend" that the federal Bureau of Prisons place Combs at FCI Fort Dix, a massive prison located on the grounds of the joint military base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

FCI Fort Dix, one of several dozen federal prisons with a residential drug treatment program, will best allow Combs "to address drug abuse issues and to maximize family visitation and rehabilitative efforts," Combs lawyer Teny Geragos wrote.

Also Monday, President Donald Trump told reporters that Combs had asked him for a pardon. Trump, referring to Combs by the nickname "Puff Daddy," did not say if he would grant the request. Messages seeking comment on Trump's remarks was left for Combs' lawyers and his publicity team.

Combs' sentencing Friday on charges he transported people across state lines for sexual encounters capped a federal case that featured harrowing testimony about violence, drugs and so-called "freak-offs," and exposed the sordid private life of one of the most influential figures in music.

The "I'll Be Missing You" singer was convicted in July under the federal Mann Act, which bans transporting people across state lines for any sexual crime. His trial ended in a split verdict, with acquittals on sex trafficking and racketeering charges that could have put him behind bars for life.

Combs has been locked up at a federal jail in Brooklyn, the Metropolitan Detention Center, since his September 2024 arrest. His time there will be subtracted from his sentence, meaning he could get out in about three years.

In a letter to Subramanian on the eve of sentencing, Combs said he has gone through a "spiritual reset" in jail and is "committed to the journey of remaining a drug free, non-violent and peaceful person."

"I thank God that I'm stronger, wiser, clean, clear and sober," he wrote.

Subramanian has not yet acted on the request to recommend placement at FCI Fort Dix.

Judges often make recommendations about where inmates should serve time, but it's up to the Bureau of Prisons to decide. Those decisions, the agency has said, are based on a variety of factors, including the severity of the offense, the required security level and an inmate's programming needs.

FCI Fort Dix, the largest single federal prison by population with just under 3,900 inmates, is about 64 miles (103 kilometers) southwest of New York City, where Combs was born and rose to fame as a rapper and entrepreneur in an array of businesses, including fashion, television and liquor. An adjacent minimum-security prison camp has 210 inmates.

Combs once owned a home in New Jersey, selling it nearly a decade ago.

His primary residence, according to court papers, has been a \$48 million mansion on an island near Miami. That home and a mansion he owns in Los Angeles were raided by federal agents last year during the investigation that led to his arrest.

FCI Fort Dix has been home to a number of high-profile inmates over the years, including reputed mobsters, drug traffickers, corrupt politicians and "Pharma Bro" Martin Shkreli. For a time, it was run by the warden who had been in charge of a Manhattan federal jail when financier Jeffrey Epstein killed himself at the jail in 2019. That warden, Lamine N'Diaye, has since retired.

In 2021, a 27-year-old Fort Dix inmate was stabbed in the eyeball by a fellow prisoner.

In 2019, a Fort Dix inmate, a former inmate and two other people were arrested for using a drone to smuggle in contraband including cellphones, tobacco, weight-loss supplements and eyeglasses. The same year, a Fort Dix correctional officer pleaded guilty in a separate case to pocketing bribes to smuggle in contraband.

During his time at Fort Dix, Shkreli ended up in solitary confinement amid allegations he was using a

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contraband smartphone to run his drug company from behind bars. Inmates are forbidden from conducting business and possessing cellphones.

Trump says he's open to health care deal but government must reopen first

By KEVIN FREKING and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump cracked the door slightly to negotiations with Democrats on the health care subsidies they've made central to the shutdown fight, then abruptly closed it Monday, leaving the two sides once again at a seemingly intractable impasse.

Democrats are conditioning their support for a short-term funding patch on extending the health subsidies that lessen the cost of plans offered under the Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as Obamacare.

"We have a negotiation going on right now with the Democrats that could lead to very good things," Trump told reporters. "And I'm talking about good things with regard to health care."

The comments were one of the few hopeful signs Monday as the government shutdown hit its sixth day. Negotiations between the two parties have been virtually nonexistent since the start of the shutdown despite the impact on federal services.

But Trump later followed up those comments on his social media site to reinforce what GOP leaders in Congress have been saying: The shutdown must end. And work on extending the enhanced tax credits for health insurance would take place separately.

"I am happy to work with the Democrats on their Failed Healthcare Policies, or anything else, but first they must allow our Government to re-open. In fact, they should open our Government tonight!" Trump wrote.

Before Trump walked back his remarks, the two Democratic leaders in Congress, Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, has both denied there were any negotiations with Trump. Jeffries said the White House "has gone radio silent" since a meeting in the Oval Office last week.

"Trump's claim isn't true, but if he's finally ready to work with Democrats, we'll be at the table," Schumer said.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune told reporters "there may be a path forward" on ACA subsidies, but stressed, "I think a lot of it would come down to where the White House lands on that."

More doomed Senate votes

The president's comments came as the Senate took another doomed pair of votes Monday on funding the federal government. Neither the Republican measure nor the Democratic proposal came close to gaining the 60 votes needed to advance.

Both parties used much of the day to ramp up the pressure on the other to end the impasse.

Thune said a critical food aid program for women, infants and children was starting to run low on funds, blaming Democrats and saying "now it's the American people who are suffering the consequences."

Schumer said his side was ready to work with Republicans to "reopen the government and end the health care crisis that faces tens of millions of Americans."

"But it takes two sides to have a negotiation," Schumer said.

Earlier in the day, the two sides dug in. House Speaker Mike Johnson said "there's nothing for us to negotiate" while Jeffries declared the "time is now" to work out a deal on health care.

Johnson, R-La., told reporters they could stop asking why he wasn't negotiating an end to the impasse. It was up to a handful of Democrats to "stop the madness" and pass a stopgap spending bill that had earlier passed the House, he said.

"We did the job to keep the government open, and now it's on the Senate Democrats," Johnson said.

The House is not expected to be in session this week, focusing attention on the Senate to take the lead on any deal in the Republican-led Congress. Yet even with House lawmakers away, the Republican and Democratic leaders have been holding almost daily briefings as they frame their arguments and seek to shift blame for the shutdown.

Turmoil for the economy

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The stalemate comes at a moment of troubling economic uncertainty. While the U.S. economy has continued to grow this year, hiring has slowed and inflation remains elevated as the Republican president's import taxes have created a series of disruptions for businesses and hurt confidence in his leadership. At the same time, there is a recognition that the nearly \$2 trillion annual budget deficit is financially unsustainable.

The Trump administration sees the shutdown as an opening to wield greater power over the budget, with multiple officials saying they will save money as workers are furloughed by imposing permanent job cuts on thousands of government workers, a tactic that has never been used before.

Trump had seemingly suggested Sunday night that layoffs were already taking place, but White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Trump was talking about furloughs. Under a furlough, workers cannot report to work, but they will return to their job and get paid retroactively after the shutdown ends. She said layoffs were still planned if the shutdown continues.

The talk of layoffs has escalated an already tense situation in which Washington lawmakers have struggled to find common ground and build mutual trust. Leaders in both parties are betting that public sentiment has swung their way, putting pressure on the other side to cave.

More states are moving to redraw US House districts after Trump urged it for partisan gain

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

A mid-decade battle over congressional redistricting is playing out in state capitals, in courtrooms and on the ballot.

The efforts to redraw U.S. House districts for partisan advantage got jump-started when President Donald Trump called upon Republican-led Texas to reshape districts so that the GOP could win more seats in next year's elections.

Since then, lawmakers in Democratic-led California and Republican-led Missouri have approved revised districts, and officials in more states are considering it. Utah's Republican-led Legislature endorsed an altered congressional map Monday — though in response to a court order, not Trump's demands.

U.S. House districts typically are redrawn once a decade, immediately after a census. But some states have no prohibition on doing it more frequently. And the U.S. Supreme Court has said there is no federal prohibition on political gerrymandering, in which districts are intentionally drawn to favor one party.

The stakes are high, because Democrats need to gain just three seats in the 2026 elections to take control of the House, which would allow them to impede Trump's agenda. The president's party historically has lost seats in midterm elections, a fate Trump is trying to avoid.

Texas judges hear legal challenge to new districts

Federal judges in Texas are considering a legal challenge to new congressional districts passed at Trump's urging during a special legislative session in August. Civil rights groups and dozens of Black and Hispanic voters contend the new map intentionally reduces minority voters' influence in violation of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution. They want to prevent the new districts from being used.

Republicans hold 25 of the 38 congressional seats in Texas. The revised map could give Republicans a shot at picking up five additional seats in next year's elections.

California voters are deciding on new House districts

Voting began Monday in California in advance of a Nov. 4 election that will determine whether new congressional districts are implemented.

Democrats already hold 43 of California's 52 seats. But after Texas undertook redistricting, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom urged California lawmakers to reciprocate. They did so by passing a revised U.S. House map that could give Democrats a chance to gain five additional seats.

Unlike Texas, California has an independent citizens' commission that handles redistricting after the census. So any changes to the map need voter approval.

Missouri redistricting faces potential referendum

After Texas and California took action, Missouri lawmakers joined the redistricting battle by passing a

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revised U.S. House map designed to give Republicans a shot at winning seven of the state's eight districts — one more than they currently hold. The map targets a seat held by Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver by stretching the Kansas City-based district into rural Republican areas and reducing the number of minority voters.

Opponents are pursuing a referendum petition that, if successful, would force a statewide vote on the new map. Opponents also have filed several lawsuits asserting that mid-decade redistricting isn't allowed under the state constitution.

Utah lawmakers back new US House map

Utah's Republican-led Legislature passed a revised U.S. House map Monday that could give Democrats an improved chance at competing for a seat. Republicans currently hold all four of the state's seats.

The revised map would place Democratic-leaning Salt Lake City in a single district that stretches into rural areas, instead of splitting the city among multiple districts. But the revision still must be reviewed by a judge, who is expected to approve a new map by November.

A Utah judge in August struck down the House districts adopted after the 2020 census because the Republican-led Legislature circumvented an independent redistricting commission established by voters.

Kansas Republicans may call themselves into session

Republican lawmakers who hold a supermajority in the Kansas Legislature have been gathering petition signatures from colleagues in an attempt to call a special session on congressional redistricting in November. They are taking that route because Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly is unlikely to call a special session.

Republicans already hold three of the state's four congressional districts. A revised map would target the suburban Kansas City district held by Democratic Rep. Sharice Davids.

Indiana governor says redistricting session is probable

Republican Gov. Mike Braun has said that a legislative session on redistricting probably will happen, potentially as soon as November. Republican legislative leaders have met privately with Trump. But Braun has been waiting to call a special session until he is confident it will succeed.

Republicans hold a 7-2 edge over Democrats in Indiana's congressional delegation. The GOP likely would target a northwest Indiana seat held by Democratic Rep. Frank Mrvan. They also could attempt to slice up an Indianapolis district held by a Democrat, but that could stir opposition by diluting minority voters' influence.

Ohio must redraw its maps before the 2026 midterms

Ohio will have new U.S. House districts for the 2026 elections, though their shape remains to be determined. Republicans currently hold 10 of the state's 15 congressional seats.

Ohio's constitution requires new U.S. House districts because the ones adopted by Republican officials after the 2020 census didn't have sufficient bipartisan support. If bipartisan consensus remains elusive, Republican lawmakers in November could adopt revised districts without need of any Democratic votes.

Maryland Democrats are proposing new districts

Some Democratic state lawmakers have said they will file redistricting legislation for the 2026 session, and Democratic Gov. Wes Moore also has expressed support.

"If we are going to have states in mid-cycle, in mid-decade, determining whether or not they have fair maps or not, then so will Maryland. Then, we should have that conversation, too," Moore said last week.

Democrats control seven of the state's eight U.S. House seats and could target an eastern Maryland district held by Republican Rep. Andy Harris.

Revised Louisiana districts hinge on a court case

The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments Oct. 15 in a legal challenge to Louisiana's U.S. House districts, currently held by four white Republicans and two Black Democrats. A lawsuit contends state lawmakers wrongly used racial demographics when redrawing districts in response to a previous court ruling to give Black voters a better chance at electing the representative of their choice in two districts instead of one.

State lawmakers have been told to keep their calendars open between Oct. 23 and Nov. 13 in case the Supreme Court rules quickly and lawmakers could return for a special session on redistricting.

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A trio of highly populated states have talked about redistricting. Officials Florida, Illinois and New York all have raised the possibility of redrawing U.S. House districts. Republican Florida House Speaker Daniel Perez has created a special committee to look into redistricting. Republicans currently hold 20 of the state's 28 seats.

Democrats already hold 14 of the 17 U.S. House seats in Illinois. But Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker has said it's possible to redraw even more districts favoring Democrats.

New York has an independent commission that redraws districts after every census. State Democrats have introduced legislation to allow mid-decade redistricting, but the soonest new maps could be in place would be for the 2028 elections. That is because the proposal would require an amendment to the state constitution, a change that would have to pass the Legislature twice and be approved by voters.

Taylor Swift's 'The Life of a Showgirl' breaks record, sells 2.7 million copies in U.S. on first day

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's the life of a saleswoman. Taylor Swift's 12th studio album, "The Life of a Showgirl," sold 2.7 million copies in traditional album sales — which include physical and digital formats — in its first day in the U.S. That's according to Luminate, an industry data and analytics company.

The album was released Friday.

The sales are impressive for a number of reasons. Swift has broken her record for most first week sales... in one day. Her last album, 2024's "The Tortured Poets Department," amassed 2.61 million equivalent album units in the U.S. in its first week.

"The Life of a Showgirl" has also become the second-largest sales week for any album in the modern era, since Luminate began tracking sales in 1991. That was also accomplished in just one day.

Currently, Adele's "25," which sold 3.378 million copies in its first week in 2015 in the U.S., holds the top spot.

Also, according to Luminate, "The Life of a Showgirl" has already broken the record for the most copies of a vinyl album sold in a single week in the U.S., with 1.2 million copies. The previous record holder? "The Tortured Poets Department," which sold 859,000 copies on vinyl in its first week.

Swift's many variants may have something to do with the album's economic success. One of her major partners, Target, carries three CD variants, titled as "It's Frightening," "It's Rapturous" and "It's Beautiful" editions. There is also an exclusive vinyl release, "The Crowd Is Your King" edition in "summertime spritz pink shimmer vinyl."

There are a number of other vinyl variants as well: "The Tiny Bubble in Champagne Collection," "The Baby That's Show Business Collection," "The Shiny Bug Collection," and the standard LP and cassette, in "sweat and vanilla perfume Portofino orange vinyl."

Artwork varies throughout, likely inspiring diehard fans to pick up multiple copies.

And most recently, on Saturday, Swift announced four new CD variants featuring acoustic renditions of the album's tracks. Each edition features two different stripped-down recordings.

She also dominated the box office over the weekend with her three-day event, "The Official Release Party of a Show Girl," which debuted at No. 1 with \$33 million in North America, according to Sunday estimates from Comscore.

Bari Weiss is the new editor-in-chief of CBS News after Paramount buys her website

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Paramount said Monday that it has bought the news and commentary website The Free Press and installed its founder, Bari Weiss, as the editor-in-chief of CBS News, saying it believes the

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country longs for news that is balanced and fact-based.

It's a bold step for the television network of Walter Cronkite, Dan Rather and "60 Minutes," long viewed by many conservatives as the personification of a liberal media establishment. The network is placing someone in a leadership role who has developed a reputation for resisting orthodoxy and fighting "woke" culture.

"I am confident her entrepreneurial drive and editorial vision will invigorate CBS News," said David Ellison, who took over this summer as the corporate leader overseeing the network when his company, Skydance, purchased Paramount. "This move is part of Paramount's bigger vision to modernize content and the way it connects — directly and passionately — to audiences around the world."

No purchase price was announced for The Free Press, which has grown to reach 1.5 million subscribers since Weiss started it in 2021 after leaving The New York Times as an opinion editor. When she left the Times, she wrote a letter of resignation that spoke of a culture of intolerance at the newspaper and said she was bullied by colleagues who disagreed with her.

Weiss will report directly to Ellison and partner with the current CBS News President Tom Cibrowski, who reports to Paramount executive George Cheeks.

Editor-in-chief is a new role at CBS News. Ellison said that Weiss will "shape editorial priorities, champion core values across platforms and lead innovation in how the organization reports and delivers the news."

In a letter to CBS News employees on Monday, Weiss said that watching CBS was part of a family tradition growing up in Pittsburgh. Her goal in the next few weeks is to get to know the staff, she said.

"I want to hear from you about what's working, what isn't, and your thoughts on how we can make CBS News the most trusted news organization in America and the world," Weiss wrote. "I'll approach it the way any reporters would — with an open mind, a fresh notebook and an urgent deadline."

Some at CBS News have been concerned about what they see as signs that the news division is moving in a direction more friendly to President Donald Trump. Paramount's merger with Skydance was approved by the administration shortly after Paramount settled the president's lawsuit against "60 Minutes." Ellison has hired Kenneth Weinstein, former head of a conservative think tank and a Trump contributor, as an ombudsman to examine complaints about CBS News.

"60 Minutes," which is two weeks into its new season, has been seeking an interview with Trump.

CBS isn't the only news organization to face pressure from the president. He also settled a lawsuit against ABC News, has sued The New York Times and Wall Street Journal, and is fighting a battle with The Associated Press over access.

Broadcast news organizations are generally fading in influence with the growth of online alternatives, and have aging audiences. CBS is generally third in popularity behind ABC and NBC, but "60 Minutes" and "CBS News Sunday Morning" have devoted fan bases.

Rather, who stepped down as anchor and managing editor of the "CBS Evening News" in 2005, told The Associated Press that he did not know Weiss and hopes she gets to know the people at CBS News before making any big changes.

"No one has to send a memo to everyone down the line at CBS News about what is going on with journalism and this presidency," Rather said. "It is obvious that there is tremendous pressure to bend the knee to the Trump administration. The fear is that this appointment is part of that overall play."

Weiss has worked in opinion journalism and has little background in broadcast journalism. She has described herself politically as a centrist and wrote a column for the New York Post in 2021 headlined, "10 ways to fight back against woke culture."

Writing for the liberal website the Unpopulist, Matt Johnson said that "one reason for The Free Press' popularity is that it offers intellectual reassurances to legions of anti-anti-Trump readers — sophisticated conservatives who may be uneasy about Trumpism, yet want to believe that wokeness and other left-wing excesses are the primary threats to western civilization."

Weiss told fellow CBS News employees that she stood for the same core journalistic values that have defined the profession from the beginning, including reporting on the world as it actually is and being fair,

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fearless and factual.

In separate staff memos, Ellison and Weiss outlined similar philosophies about a mainstream America being ill-served by a destructive form of partisanship.

"When we reduce every issue to 'us vs. them' or 'my way vs. the wrong way,' we close ourselves off from listening, learning and ultimately growing, both as individuals and as a society," Ellison wrote. "I don't pretend to have a solution to this challenge. But I do believe we each have a responsibility to do our part."

Weiss will remain as the boss of The Free Press, which she indicated would continue on the same course but expand more quickly with Paramount's money. Indeed, she said in a letter to subscribers that The Free Press will help reshape CBS News.

She said mainstream Americans — which she defined as being politically mixed and pragmatic — are being ill-served by an illiberalism from the fringes of society.

"On the one hand, an America-loathing far left," she wrote. "On the other, a history-erasing far right. These extremes do not represent the majority of the country, but they have increasing power in our politics, our culture and our media ecosystem."

In a Pew Research Center survey taken earlier this year, 56% of Americans who are Democrats or lean Democrats say they trust CBS News, while only 23% of Republicans say the same thing. Those levels are similar across all major broadcast media outlets, with Republicans primarily turning to Fox News Channel.

Israel and Hamas launch indirect talks in Egypt on eve of Gaza war anniversary

By SAMY MAGDY, MELANIE LIDMAN and WAFAA SHURAFI Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Israeli and Hamas officials launched indirect talks Monday at an Egyptian resort on a U.S.-drafted peace plan to end the ruinous war in Gaza on the eve of its second anniversary.

The talks, which went on for several hours, unfolded amid many questions about the plan presented by U.S. President Donald Trump last week, including the disarmament of the militant group — a key Israeli demand — and the future governance of Gaza. Trump has indicated that an agreement on Gaza could pave the way for a Middle East peace process that could reshape the region.

Despite Trump ordering Israel to stop the bombing, Israeli forces continued to pound Gaza with airstrikes, killing at least 19 people in the last 24 hours, the territory's Health Ministry said.

An Egyptian official with knowledge of the talks said the parties wrapped up Monday's round of negotiations at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, and the discussions were set to resume Tuesday afternoon. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks, said the parties have agreed on most of the first-phase terms, which include the release of hostages and establishing a ceasefire.

The Israelis are led by top negotiator Ron Dermer, while Khalil al-Hayyah leads the Hamas delegation. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said foreign policy adviser Ophir Falk would be present for Israel.

Egypt's state-owned Al-Qahera News television station reported that the talks began with a meeting between Arab mediators and the Hamas delegation. Mediators were to meet later with the Israeli delegation, the station said.

U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner were also expected to join the talks, local Egyptian media said.

Hamas said negotiations will focus on the first stage of a ceasefire, including the partial withdrawal of Israeli forces as well as the release of hostages held by the militants in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention.

This latest push for peace comes after Hamas accepted some elements of the U.S. plan that Israel also said it supported. Under the plan, Hamas would release the remaining 48 hostages — about 20 of whom are believed to be alive — within three days. It would give up power and disarm.

The talks in Egypt are expected to move quickly. Netanyahu said they would be "confined to a few days maximum," though some Hamas officials have warned that more time may be needed to locate bodies of

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hostages buried under rubble.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi hailed Trump's efforts, underscoring the importance of preserving the U.S.-crafted "peace system" in the Middle East since the 1970s, which he said "served as a strategic framework for regional stability."

El-Sisi spoke in a televised address commemorating the anniversary of the start of the 1973 war with Israel that led to Egypt reclaiming the Sinai Peninsula, where Sharm el-Sheikh is located.

US wants Israeli bombing to stop

The U.S. has said Israel's heavy bombardment of Gaza would need to stop for the hostages to be released. Israel says it's largely heeding Trump's call. The Israeli military said it is mostly carrying out defensive strikes to protect troops, though dozens of Palestinians have been killed since the military's statement Saturday night.

Gaza's Health Ministry said Monday that the bodies of 19 people, including two aid-seekers killed by Israeli strikes and gunfire, had been brought to hospitals over the past 24 hours. Another 96 were wounded. The deaths brought the Palestinian toll to 67,160 since the Hamas attack on Oct. 7, 2023, triggered the war, with nearly 170,000 wounded, the ministry said.

The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and combatants, but says more than half of the deaths were women and children. 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.

Hamas-led militants abducted 251 people and killed around 1,200, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack. Most of the largely Israeli hostages have been released in ceasefires or other deals.

Meanwhile, families of Israeli hostages petitioned the Nobel Prize Committee to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Trump for what they called his unprecedented contributions to global peace.

"At this very moment, President Trump's comprehensive plan to release all remaining hostages and finally end this terrible war is on the table," the families wrote. "For the first time in months, we are hopeful that our nightmare will finally be over."

In a commemoration ceremony for Israelis killed at the Nir Oz Kibbutz on Oct. 7, Daniel Lifshitz said the primary focus of talks should be the swift release of all remaining hostages.

"Israel will pay painful concessions by releasing mass murderers and terrorists that killed many among our friends and families here in Israel, but we cherish life and in Trump we trust to make it happen," said Lifshitz, grandson of slain hostage Oded and released hostage Yocheved Lifshitz.

'Living in fear, war and displacement'

In Gaza, families of Palestinian babies born on the day the war began hoped to celebrate their second birthday with the sound of laughter and cheers instead of the cacophony of bombs and bullets.

The babies' mothers have been repeatedly displaced and live in constant fear for their safety. They also lack access to health care.

Amal al-Taweel and her husband, Mostafa, had their son, Ali, after three years of trying for a child. They now live in a tent without proper sanitation, food, vaccinations or toys.

"I was envisioning a different life for him ... He couldn't experience what a safe family life feels like," al-Taweel said.

The Vatican marked the second anniversary of the Oct. 7 attacks by condemning the "inhuman massacre" of innocent people in Israel and calling for the return of hostages. But it also said Israel's razing of Gaza is itself a disproportionate massacre, and called on countries to stop supplying Israel weapons to wage the war.

"Those who are attacked have a right to defend themselves, but even legitimate defense must respect the principle of proportionality," Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, said on the eve of the anniversary. "The perverse chain of hatred can only generate a spiral that leads nowhere good."

The Supreme Court begins a term that will examine Trump's expansive claims of presidential power

By MARK SHERMAN and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday began a new term that will have a sharp focus on President Donald Trump's robust assertion of executive power.

Pivotal cases on voting and the rights of LGBTQ people also are on the agenda. On Tuesday, the justices will hear arguments over bans passed by nearly half of U.S. states on therapy aimed at changing sexual orientation or gender identity.

Chief Justice John Roberts formally opened the term Monday as the court rejected more than 800 pending appeals, including a challenge by Ghislaine Maxwell to her conviction for luring teenage girls to be sexually abused by Jeffrey Epstein.

In its first arguments, the court also appeared to be inclined to rule against a criminal defendant from Texas in a case about the constitutional right to a lawyer. Approaching an overnight break in the defendant's testimony, the trial judge ordered defense lawyers not to talk to their client about his testimony.

A major thrust of the next 10 months, however, is expected to be the justices' evaluation of Trump's expansive claims of presidential power.

The court's conservative majority has so far been receptive, at least in preliminary rulings, to many emergency appeals from Trump's Republican administration. But there could be more skepticism when the court conducts in-depth examinations of some Trump policies, including the president's imposition of tariffs and his desired restrictions on birthright citizenship.

The justices are hearing a pivotal case for Trump's economic agenda in early November as they consider the legality of many of his sweeping tariffs. Two lower courts have found the Republican president does not have the power to unilaterally impose wide-ranging tariffs under an emergency powers law.

In December, the justices will take up Trump's power to fire independent agency members at will, a case that probably will lead the court to overturn, or drastically narrow, a 90-year-old decision. It required a cause, like neglect of duty, before a president could remove the Senate-confirmed officials from their jobs.

The outcome appears to be in little doubt because the conservatives have allowed the firings to take effect while the case plays out, even after lower-court judges found the firings illegal. The three liberal justices on the nine-member court have dissented each time.

Another case that has arrived at the court but has yet to be considered involves Trump's executive order denying birthright citizenship to children born in the United States to parents who are in the country illegally or temporarily.

The administration has appealed lower-court rulings blocking the order as unconstitutional, or likely so, flouting more than 125 years of general understanding and an 1898 Supreme Court ruling. The case could be argued in the late winter or early spring.

France's premier quits hours after naming government, plunging the country into more political chaos

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN and JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu resigned after less than a month in office on Monday and less than 24 hours after naming a new government that prompted a key coalition ally to withdraw support.

The move deepened the country's political crisis and left President Emmanuel Macron with few options.

The presidency said that Macron, who has been hitting record lows in opinion polls, accepted the resignation.

Lecornu had replaced his predecessor, François Bayrou, on Sept. 9 to become France's fourth prime minister in barely a year during a prolonged period of political instability. Lecornu is now the shortest-serving prime minister in the history of the Fifth Republic, which started in 1958.

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French politics have been in disarray since Macron called an early legislative election last year that produced a deeply fragmented National Assembly. Far-right and left-wing lawmakers hold more than 320 seats in the lower house, while the centrists and allied conservatives hold 210, with no party having an overall majority.

Lost support

Despite more than three weeks of efforts to secure enough support to avoid a no-confidence vote, Lecornu was forced out just hours after forming his Cabinet on Sunday, having lost the support of conservatives who hold 50 seats and who objected to his choice for defense minister.

Lecornu's government will manage day-to-day affairs until a new prime minister and Cabinet are appointed. It's now up to Macron either to name a new head of government or to dissolve the National Assembly and call an early legislative election.

Macron's office announced Monday evening that he has asked Lecornu to hold more "final negotiations" over the next two days in the interest of national stability — suggesting a potential second chance for Lecornu to stay and attempt to form a new government. The brief statement gave no additional details.

Lecornu, a faithful ally of Macron, responded that he agreed to hold final talks with political forces "for the country's stability" and that he would tell him on Wednesday evening "if it's possible or not, so that he can draw all the necessary conclusions."

Lecornu previously said that conditions were no longer met to remain in office after failing to build a consensus.

He said that he believed the new government could have succeeded with just a little more work and if the coalition partners had only been a bit more "selfless," in an apparent jab at Bruno Retailleau, the head of the conservatives.

"One must always put one's country before one's party," Lecornu said.

Macron the main target

With less than two years before the next presidential election, Macron's opponents immediately tried to capitalize on the shocking resignation, with the far-right National Rally calling on him to either call for another early parliamentary election or resign.

"This raises a question for the President of the Republic: can he continue to resist the legislature dissolution? We have reached the end of the road," far-right leader Marine Le Pen said. "There is no other solution. The only wise course of action in these circumstances is to return to the polls."

On the far left, France Unbowed also asked for Macron's departure, while voices on the left called for the revival of a coalition made up of leftists, socialists, greens and communists.

The resignation rattled investors, sending the CAC-40 index of leading French companies plunging. The index fell by nearly 2% in the wake of the resignation before later making up some of the losses.

Ministers appointed just the previous night found themselves in the bizarre situation of becoming caretaker ministers — kept in place only to manage day-to-day affairs until a new government is formed — before some of them had even been formally installed in office.

Agnès Pannier-Runacher, the newly reappointed minister for ecology, posted on X: "I despair of this circus."

Lecornu's method didn't work

Lecornu's choice of ministers has been criticized across the political spectrum, particularly his decision to bring back former Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire to serve at the defense ministry, with critics saying that France's public deficit soared under his watch.

Lecornu's main task would have been to pass a budget, as France is faced with a debt crisis. At the end of the first quarter of 2025, France's public debt stood at 3.346 trillion euros (\$3.9 trillion), or 114% of gross domestic product. Debt servicing remains a major budget item, accounting for around 7% of state spending.

Other key positions remained largely unchanged from the previous Cabinet, with Retailleau staying on as interior minister in charge of policing and internal security, Jean-Noël Barrot remaining as foreign minister and Gérald Darmanin keeping the justice ministry.

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Retailleau, the head of the conservative Republicans party, said that he didn't feel responsible for Lecornu's fall, despite lashing out at the composition of the new government.

Retailleau blamed Lecornu for not letting him know Le Maire would be part of the government.

"It's a matter of trust," he told broadcaster TF1. "You promise a break and end up with returning horses. This government embodied all the conditions to be censured."

Le Maire said that he offered Macron his immediate withdrawal from the government, a proposal that the president accepted.

"I hope this decision will allow talks to resume to form the new government France needs," he said.

Seeking consensus at the National Assembly, Lecornu consulted with all political forces and trade unions before forming his Cabinet. He also vowed that he wouldn't employ a special constitutional power that his predecessors had used to force budgets through parliament without a vote and would instead seek compromise with lawmakers from the left and the right.

Snowstorm traps hundreds of hikers on Mount Everest during China's national holiday

BEIJING (AP) — Rescuers were helping hundreds of hikers trapped by heavy snow at tourist campsites on a slope of Mount Everest in Tibet, Chinese state media said.

About 350 hikers had reached a meeting point in Tingri country and rescuers were in contact with another 200, state broadcaster CCTV said late Sunday. There was no immediate update on rescue efforts on Monday.

The hikers were trapped at an elevation of more than 4,900 meters (16,000 feet), according to an earlier report from Jimu News, a Chinese online site. Mount Everest is about 8,850 meters (29,000 feet) tall.

A hiker who rushed to descend before snow blocked the way told Jimu News that others still on the mountain told him the snow was 1 meter (3 feet) deep and had crushed tents.

Hundreds of rescuers headed up the mountain Sunday to clear paths so that trapped people could come down, the Jimu report said. A video shot by a villager showed a long line of people with horses and oxen moving up a winding path in the snow.

The snowstorm struck during a weeklong national holiday in China, when many travel at home and abroad.

In another mountainous region in western China, one hiker died of hypothermia and altitude sickness and 137 others were evacuated in the north part of Qinghai province, CCTV said Monday.

The search in an area in Menyuan county with an average altitude of more than 4,000 meters (13,100 feet) was complicated by the terrain, unpredictable weather and continuous snowfall, a CCTV online report said.

Mount Everest, known as Mount Qomolangma in Chinese, straddles the border between China and Nepal, where recent heavy rains have left more than 40 people dead.

Climbers attempt to scale the world's tallest peak from base camps in both countries. The base camp for climbers is separate from the tourist camp where hikers were trapped by the snowfall.

A strong earthquake killed at least 126 people in the same area in January.

The Chinese side of Everest is in Tibet, a remote western region where the government has cracked down harshly on dissent and poured in funds for economic development including roads and tourism.

The Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, fled during a failed uprising in 1959 and lives in India, where some Tibetans have set up a government in exile.

Canada's last hockey stick factory survives in face of tariff threats and globalization

By KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer

BRANTFORD, Ontario (AP) — Wearing protective gloves and earplugs, a worker feeds lengths of wood into a machine that makes an earsplitting whine as it automatically cuts a groove into the end of each piece.

Nearby, stacks of wooden wedges wait to be slotted into those grooves to form the beginnings of a

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hockey stick. Further down the Roustan Hockey production line, other workers are busy shaping, trimming, sanding, painting and screen printing as they turn lumber into a Canadian national symbol.

It's a typical day on the job for the 15 workers at Canada's last major hockey stick factory, 60 miles (100 kilometers) southwest of Toronto.

The operation has origins that date back to the 1800s and has survived decades of trade globalization to hang on as the last North American commercial manufacturer of traditional wooden hockey sticks. Now it's facing fresh headwinds from the trade war launched by U.S. President Donald Trump, who has ripped up free trade deals in North America and imposed tariffs on Canadian exports.

The uncertainty is making life a headache for Roustan.

"You never know" what Trump will do, said Bo Crawford, the factory's general manager. "You just have to roll with it and the president of the U.S. can change his mind day to day, week to week, hour to hour. So yeah, we have to deal with it the best we can," he said.

Roustan has spent months dealing with U.S. customer worries and navigating the trade challenges.

Trump has repeatedly threatened to impose tariffs on Canadian imports, though many goods have ultimately remained exempted because they're already covered by the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement negotiated during his first term.

Then, in late August, the Trump administration eliminated a widely used customs exemption for international shipments worth \$800 that resulted in new uncertainty over cross-border trade, said owner and CEO Graeme Roustan.

"Even if somebody buys one or two or five or 10 sticks and it's under \$100, they're going to be affected by the tariffs, so the jury is still out on how that's going to impact business," Roustan said.

Roustan Hockey's factory churns out about 400,000 wooden hockey sticks a year under the Christian, Northland and Sherwood brands, with about 100,000 exported to the United States. It also makes plastic-bladed road hockey sticks and foam-core goalie sticks.

Crawford said shipments to the U.S. have been held up for manual inspections at the border, where they've been hit with surprise tariffs, which the company's customs broker has managed to get waived.

It's not just sticks. Shipments of goalie pads, which Roustan manufactures at a separate factory in Toronto, were recently flagged for an unexpected 200% tariff, which company managers said they're trying to resolve with new forms from their shipping company.

The disruption underscores the broader trade turmoil that's left the Canadian economy reeling.

Canada's economy shrank 1.6% in the second quarter, in the first contraction since 2023 and the biggest decline since the COVID-19 pandemic. Exports slumped 7.5%, as uncertainty over tariffs and trade pummeled exports to the country's biggest trading partner, the United States.

Those figures overshadow the longer-term decline of Canadian manufacturing. Some 37,800 manufacturing jobs were lost in the year to August, according to official data.

Real investment in industrial machinery and equipment fell in the second quarter to the lowest level since records began in 1981, experts at the National Bank of Canada pointed out in a recent research note.

"How did we get here? Years of excessive regulation, and a chronic lack of ambition by successive governments in promoting domestic transformation of our natural resources—recently made worse by Washington's protectionist agenda," wrote economists Stéfane Marion and Matthieu Arseneau. "That failure has eroded Canada's manufacturing base and left us at risk of becoming irrelevant in global supply chains."

The Roustan operation started life in 1847 as an agricultural workshop, 20 years before Canada became a country and 70 years before the National Hockey League was created.

It's all that survives of the golden era of North American wooden hockey stick manufacturing in the 1970s and '80s when there were numerous workshops in Ontario and Quebec, as well as U.S. production centered in Minnesota.

Roustan, a businessman who also owns The Hockey News and once attempted to buy the Montreal Canadiens, acquired the operation in 2019 — by then named Heritage Wood Specialties — and moved it from aging facilities in the town of Hespeler, 20 miles (30 kilometers) north of Brantford, hometown of

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hockey legend Wayne Gretzky.

Nowadays, global production amounts to about 5 million hockey sticks a year, but wood makes up only about a tenth. No NHL player has regularly used a wooden stick in well over a decade, underlining the sport's embrace of newer technology.

Composite sticks, made of carbon fiber and other lightweight advanced materials, are now far more popular and preferred by both amateurs and professionals. But composite sticks are pricier because of the advanced manufacturing processes involved.

Meanwhile, over the years, Canadian and U.S. production consolidated or moved to Asia and Mexico amid a wider global shift by Western consumer brands in search of cheaper manufacturing overseas.

"It's very hard to compete against some of the Asian markets and some of our competitors that are in other countries," said Crawford. "But our quality kind of stands for itself."

Roustan acknowledges that the wooden hockey stick market is not a growth industry and, at best, production will hold steady.

"Right now, we have, you know, 5-10% of the market. But it's diminishing every year. And the kids that are growing up today, they are all about composite. So yes, it's a shrinking market for sure."

At Roustan's 130,000 square foot factory, the manufacturing process is low-tech and artisanal.

At one workstation, a worker uses liquid epoxy to glue fiberglass reinforcing sheets to wooden blades, in batches of six. Nearby, another worker uses a band saw to trim dried excess fiberglass off each blade. In the paint room, sticks are dipped in white paint and then hung on a line of moving hooks to dry.

The factory's story is not just about evolving trade patterns and modern industrial practices, but also about the place that the national winter sport has in the Canadian soul, Roustan said.

"It's important to any country to have a manufacturing base of products that you consume on a regular basis," said Roustan. "Having a factory that makes hockey sticks in Canada really serves two purposes. One, it contributes to the manufacturing base. But two, (it) has the legacy and the tug of the heartstrings of the game that we all love in Canada."

Using helicopters and chemical agents, immigration agents become increasingly aggressive in Chicago

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Storming an apartment complex by helicopter as families slept. Deploying chemical agents near a public school. Handcuffing a Chicago City Council member at a hospital.

Activists, residents and leaders say increasingly combative tactics used by federal immigration agents are sparking violence and fueling neighborhood tensions in the nation's third-largest city.

"They are the ones that are making it a war zone," Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker said Sunday on CNN. "They fire tear gas and smoke grenades, and they make it look like it's a war zone."

More than 1,000 immigrants have been arrested since an immigration crackdown started last month in the Chicago area. The Trump administration has also vowed to deploy National Guard troops in its agenda to boost deportations.

But U.S. citizens, immigrants with legal status and children have been among those detained in increasingly brazen and aggressive encounters which pop up daily across neighborhoods in the city of 2.7 million and its many suburbs.

Arriving by helicopter

Activists and residents were taking stock Sunday at an apartment building on Chicago's South Side where the Department of Homeland Security said 37 immigrants were arrested recently in an operation that's raised calls for investigation by Pritzker.

While federal agents have mostly focused on immigrant-heavy and Latino enclaves, the operation early Tuesday unfolded in the largely Black South Shore neighborhood that's had a small influx of migrants resettled in Chicago while seeking asylum.

Agents used unmarked trucks and a helicopter to surround the five-story apartment building. NewsNa-

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tion, which was invited to observe the operation, reported agents "rappelled from Black Hawk helicopters." Agents then went door to door, woke up residents and used zip ties to restrain them.

Residents and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, which canvassed the area, said those who were zip tied included children and U.S. citizens.

Rodrick Johnson, a U.S. citizen briefly detained, said agents broke through his door and placed him in zip ties.

"I asked if they had a warrant, and I asked for a lawyer," the 67-year-old told the Chicago Sun-Times. "They never brought one."

Dixon Romeo with Southside Together, an organization that's also been helping residents, said doors were knocked off the hinges.

"Everyone we talked to didn't feel safe," he said. "This is not normal. It's not OK. It's not right."

Pritzker, a two-term Democrat, directed state agencies to investigate claims that children were zip tied and detained separately from their parents, saying "military-style tactics" shouldn't be used on children. Several Democratic members of the Illinois congressional delegation met near the site Sunday, calling for an end to immigration raids.

DHS officials said they were targeting connections to the Tren de Aragua gang. Without offering details on arrests or addressing how children were treated, DHS said "some of the targeted subjects are believed to be involved in drug trafficking and distribution, weapons crimes, and immigration violators."

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem on Saturday posted heavily edited video clips of the operation to X showing agents blasting through doors, helicopters and adults in zip ties, but music played over most of the roughly 1 minute video.

Agency officials did not return a message left Sunday.

Brandon Lee, with ICIRR, said while some residents were placed on ankle monitors, others remained unaccounted for.

More tear gas and smoke bombs

Meanwhile, the use of chemical agents has become more frequent and visible in the past week. Used initially to manage protesters, agents used it this week on city streets and during immigration operations, according to ICIRR.

An emergency hotline to report immigrant agent sightings topped 800 calls on Friday, the same day activists said agents threw a canister of a chemical near a school in the city's Logan Square neighborhood. The activity in the northwest side neighborhood prompted nearby Funston Elementary School to hold recess indoors.

The same day Chicago Alderperson Jessie Fuentes was placed in handcuffs at a hospital. She said she asked agents to show a warrant for a person who'd broken his leg while chased by ICE agents who then transported him to the emergency room.

"ICE acted like an invading army in our neighborhoods," said state Rep. Lilian Jiménez, a Democrat. "Helicopters hovered above our homes, terrifying families and disturbing the peace of our community. These shameful and lawless actions are not only a violation of constitutional rights but of our most basic liberty: the right to live free from persecution and fear."

Immigration agents shot a woman they allege was armed and tried to run them over after agents were "boxed in by 10 cars." She and another person were charged Sunday with forcibly assaulting, impeding and interfering with a federal law enforcement officer. However, activists said immigration agents caused the multi-vehicle crash and detained the woman, who is a U.S. citizen.

Noem has defended the aggressive tactics, calling the mission treacherous to agents and alleging threats on officers' lives.

"It's an extremely dangerous situation," she said Sunday on the "Fox & Friends" weekend show.

Going to court

Leaders of a Chicago suburb that's home to an immigration processing center have taken their fight against federal agents to court.

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The village of Broadview has become a front line in the immigration operation. The center in the community of 8,000 people is where immigrants are processed for detention or deportation.

Protests outside have become tense with near daily arrests. Civil rights organizations have blasted aggressive tactics by agents, while village officials have launched three separate criminal investigations against federal agents.

City officials have demanded the federal government remove an 8-foot fence they say was “illegally” put up outside the facility. They filed a federal lawsuit Friday seek a temporary restraining order and the immediate removal of the fence they say blocks fire access.

“The fence also constitutes an immediate public safety hazard,” the lawsuit said.

Also pending is an expected ruling on alleged violations of a 2022 consent decree on how federal immigration agents can make arrests in six states including Illinois. While the order expired in May, attorneys have sought an extension and filed dozens of more alleged violations in the past month.

Ukraine says it struck Russian ammunition plant, oil terminal and weapons depot

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Long-range Ukrainian drones and missiles hit a major Russian ammunition plant, a key oil terminal and an important weapons depot behind the front line, Ukraine’s president and military said Monday, as Kyiv cranked up pressure on Moscow’s military logistics.

The Sverdlov ammunition plant in the Nizhny Novgorod region of western Russia was struck overnight, causing multiple explosions and a fire, the Ukrainian General Staff said. The plant supplies Russian forces with aviation and artillery ordnance, aviation bombs and anti-aircraft and anti-tank munitions, it said.

Ukraine also hit an oil terminal on the Russia-annexed Crimean Peninsula, starting a blaze, and an ammunition depot of Russia’s 18th Combined Arms Army, the General Staff said.

Russian authorities acknowledged a major Ukrainian drone attack over 14 regions, as well as Crimea and around the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. But they gave few details beyond saying that air defenses shot down 251 Ukrainian drones — making it one of the biggest Ukrainian barrages of Russian territory since the war began on Feb. 24, 2022.

Gleb Nikitin, the governor of the Nizhny Novgorod region, said that air defenses fended off an attack by 20 Ukrainian drones on a local industrial zone that includes the ammo plant and that no facilities were damaged.

Ukraine’s long-range attacks on refineries and other oil facilities contributed to Russian fuel shortages at the pump in August.

Weapons productions

Improving domestically produced weapons, especially drones, has been one of Ukrainian authorities’ chief goals as it strives to counter Moscow’s invasion and reach deeper into Russia with strikes that put military, political and social pressure on President Vladimir Putin.

Though Russia’s national economy and army are much bigger than those of Ukraine, Kyiv has largely limited Russian battlefield gains to slow and costly progress across the Ukrainian countryside as cutting-edge drone technology makes up in part for its shortage of soldiers.

Uncertain of what Western military support it can count on, Ukraine has swiftly developed its defense manufacturing capacity. It’s already sharing its drone expertise with European countries and is discussing possible technology and production cooperation with the United States.

Ukrainian officials have suggested they would like Washington to supply Tomahawk cruise missiles so that more Russian assets in the rear can be targeted. Meanwhile, Ukraine is increasingly using domestically developed long-range drones, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday, and Ukraine expects to expand such capabilities, if it can ensure funding from abroad.

He also indicated that Ukraine had used its own missiles for the strikes on Russian soil.

“The main thing to understand is that in recent days Ukraine has used exclusively Ukrainian-made weap-

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ons, not only drones,” Zelenskyy said during a news conference with Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof in Kyiv.

“We expect greater capabilities, but they depend on financial resources,” he said.

Ukraine’s defense industry

Ukraine’s mushrooming defense industry could begin exporting surplus weapons production by the end of this year, using the revenue to help buy sophisticated systems it can’t make itself, Zelenskyy said Monday.

By the end of this year, Ukraine hopes to provide at least half the weapons its troops need on the front line, Zelenskyy told a defense industry forum in Kyiv.

“Already at the front, more than 40% of the weapons used are weapons produced in Ukraine or with Ukraine,” Zelenskyy said in a speech.

Last year, Ukraine produced and delivered 2.4 million shells to the front line, according to the Ukrainian leader.

Ukraine is currently producing 40 Bohdana self-propelled artillery systems a month, Zelenskyy said. By comparison, the production rate in April 2024 stood at 10 units per month.

“The time has come to launch the export of our Ukrainian weapons — those types of weapons that we have in surplus, and therefore can be exported, so that there is funding for those types of weapons that are especially needed for defense,” Zelenskyy said in a speech, possibly referring to American-made Patriot air defense systems.

He said that Ukraine already has agreements to start exports to Europe, the United States and the Middle East, and purchases could begin by the end of this year.

No. 2 Miami jumps Oregon in AP Top 25, Penn State and Texas fall out of poll

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Miami moved back to No. 2 in The Associated Press college football poll on Sunday, Texas Tech has its highest ranking since 2008 and Penn State and Texas fell all the way out of the Top 25 for the first time since 2022 after the two top-10 teams lost to unranked opponents.

No. 1 Ohio State was dominant in its win over Minnesota, but its 40 first-place votes were its fewest since ascending to the top five weeks ago. The Hurricanes, who moved ahead of idle Oregon, went from receiving four first-place votes last week to 21 this week after winning at Florida State.

Miami also had been No. 2 two weeks ago following an open date and gave up that spot last week after Oregon’s overtime win at Penn State.

Oregon, which received the other five first-place votes, was followed by idle No. 4 Mississippi and No. 5 Texas A&M. The Aggies hammered Mississippi State and earned their highest ranking since Jimbo Fisher’s 2021 team was No. 5 in early September.

Oklahoma slipped from No. 5 to No. 6 despite its 44-0 shutout of Kent State. Indiana, which had an open date, is No. 7 and No. 8 Alabama got a two-spot promotion for its 16-point win over Vanderbilt.

No. 9 Texas Tech, which won 35-11 at previously unbeaten Houston, cracked the top 10 for the first time since it was No. 8 in the final regular-season poll in 2008. Georgia moved up two spots to No. 10 after its win over Kentucky.

Texas was the AP’s preseason No. 1 team and Penn State was No. 2. Both are now out of the rankings.

Penn State took one of the biggest falls in the 89-year history of the poll for its loss at previously winless UCLA a week after the Bruins fired their coach. The Nittany Lions had slipped from No. 2 to No. 7 following their loss to Oregon. They went to UCLA as 24.5-point favorites, according to BetMGM Sportsbook, and lost 42-37. Penn State is unranked for the first time since September 2022.

The plunge out of the Top 25 matched 1959 Oklahoma for second-biggest drop out of the rankings, not counting preseason polls or the 2020 pandemic season. The ’59 Sooners went from No. 2 to out of the Top 20 after losing their opener to Northwestern.

Texas lost at Ohio State as the preseason No. 1 and was No. 9 entering its game at Florida. The Long-

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horns' 29-21 loss at the Swamp sent it tumbling out of the Top 25. They hadn't been unranked since November 2022.

Before Sunday, the last time two top-10 teams fell out of the poll the same week was Sept. 16, 1986, when it happened to No. 8 Tennessee and No. 10 Ohio State.

In and out

— No. 23 Memphis, four spots out of the Top 25 a week ago, is in for the first time since it was No. 24 in the final poll last season. The Tigers are out to their best start since 2015 and the first team to be 6-0, making them bowl-eligible for the 12th straight year.

— No. 24 South Florida (4-1) has won two straight since its lopsided loss at Miami and is back after a one-month absence.

— Penn State (7) and Texas (9) dropped out.

Poll points

— Ohio State's 40 first-place votes are fewest for a No. 1 team since Alabama also got 40 in the poll Sept. 29, 2024.

— Miami's No. 2 ranking is its highest in an October poll since 2003.

— The teams ranked Nos. 14-19 — Missouri, Michigan, Notre Dame, Illinois, BYU and Virginia — each received five-spot promotions, biggest of the week.

— Iowa State took the biggest fall of any team that remained in the Top 25, falling eight spots to No. 22 after losing at Cincinnati.

Conference call

SEC (9) — Nos. 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 20.

Big Ten (5) — Nos. 1, 3, 7, 15, 17.

Big 12 (4) — Nos. 9, 18, 21, 22.

ACC (4) — Nos. 2, 13, 19, 25.

American (2) — Nos. 23, 24.

Independent (1) — No. 16.

Ranked vs. ranked

— No. 1 Ohio State (5-0) at No. 17 Illinois (5-1): This is the first meeting since 2017 and first Top 25 matchup since 2001. The Buckeyes have won nine straight in the series and haven't lost in Champaign since 1991. The lone blemish for the Illini was a blowout loss at Indiana.

— No. 7 Indiana (5-0) at No. 3 Oregon (5-0): The Hoosiers didn't have to play Oregon last year, the Ducks' first in the Big Ten. Indiana is 0-2 against top-five opponents under second-year coach Curt Cignetti.

— No. 8 Alabama (4-1) at No. 14 Missouri (5-0): The Crimson Tide beat the Tigers 34-0 in Tuscaloosa last year, are on a four-game win streak and looking to knock off a third straight ranked opponent. Huge opportunity here for Missouri for a marquee win in the chase for the SEC title and College Football Playoff seeding.

For many Palestinians in Gaza, anticipation, hope and skepticism over talks on a possible ceasefire

By SAMY MAGDY, WAFAA SHURAF and MARIAM FAM Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinians in Gaza were following the latest effort to stop the war there and release the hostages with a mix of anticipation, cautious optimism and skepticism as Israeli and Hamas officials met Monday for indirect talks in Egypt.

"We're all praying that they will succeed this time and the war stops," said Ahmed Hashem, a father of four from Jabaliya refugee camp who was in Gaza City. He said he was following the news on his phone.

The talks on a U.S.-drafted peace plan to end the war in Gaza were beginning on the eve of the second anniversary of the Israel-Hamas war. Hamas said negotiations would focus on the first stage of a ceasefire, including the partial withdrawal of Israeli forces as well as the release of hostages held by the militants in

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Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention.

Israel's offensive in Gaza, launched in response to Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians. The war has also caused vast destruction, displacement and devastation in Gaza, forcing weary families to repeatedly move and giving rise to images of children hollowed out by hunger.

Hopes and optimism

Essam Hararah, a 55-year-old Palestinian from northern Gaza, said he hopes the negotiations will end up with a deal to "end the human suffering" in Gaza.

"This is the priority," he said from Muwasi, an area crowded with tents sheltering Palestinians who were forced to flee their homes. "The situation in Gaza has become deplorable."

Ayman al-Masri, a Palestinian from northern Gaza, appeared optimistic given Hamas' agreement to release all hostages, and what he said appeared to be more interest from U.S. President Donald Trump to stop the war "because he wants the Nobel prize."

"The atmosphere and the circumstances helped to reach this point," he said by cellphone from Muwasi. "If God wills, it will end with an agreement soon."

This latest push for peace comes after Hamas accepted some elements of the U.S. peace plan, a move welcomed by Trump. Israel has said it supported the new U.S. effort.

Trump has said he thinks Hamas is ready for a "lasting peace" and has told Israel to stop bombing the territory, but warned that "all bets will be off" if Hamas doesn't move quickly. Despite Trump's order, Israeli forces continued to pound Gaza with airstrikes, killing at least 19 people in the last 24 hours, the territory's Health Ministry said.

Prayers, skepticism and past disappointments

Hussein Abu Arabiya, who was displaced from Jabaliya, said he was praying for the ceasefire effort to succeed.

"The people are truly tired after two years of displacement. We are very tired," he said. "Today we appeal to God to end the suffering of the Palestinian people after this great destruction that we never expected."

Some were skeptical, saying their previous hopes had been dashed.

"We are two years into this war and we have not seen any progress or anything on the ground that would make us hopeful," said Nabila Shunnar, who was displaced from Gaza City.

Many uncertainties remained around the plan, including over the future of Gaza.

Mohamed Abu Taha, a Palestinian father from the city of Rafah, said from Muwasi: "We don't expect that this war will end as long as Hamas doesn't end its rule of Gaza."

On Friday, a Hamas statement 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. That statement made no mention of Hamas disarming, a key Israeli demand. The statement also reiterated its longstanding openness to handing power over to a politically independent Palestinian body.

Hamas-led militants abducted 251 people and killed around 1,200, mostly civilians in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack. Most of the hostages have been released in ceasefire or other deals.

Gaza's Health Ministry said the Palestinian death toll in the war has exceeded 67,000. The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and combatants, but says more than half of the dead were women and children. 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.

Omar Nashar, a Khan Younis resident, expressed cautious optimism, saying that tremendous regional and international pressure will yield positive outcomes. Still, he said he was concerned that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could derail the talks for domestic reasons.

"We hope that international and Arab pressure on the occupation will continue, so that these negotiations can continue to completely end the war, rebuild, and allow all our people to return to their homes," he said.

Supreme Court rejects appeal from Ghislaine Maxwell, imprisoned former girlfriend of Jeffrey Epstein

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected an appeal from Ghislaine Maxwell, the imprisoned former girlfriend of Jeffrey Epstein.

On the first day of their new term, the justices declined to take up a case that would have drawn renewed attention to the sordid sexual-abuse saga after President Donald Trump's administration sought to tamp down criticism over its refusal to publicly release more investigative files from Epstein's case.

Lawyers for Maxwell, a British socialite, argued that she never should have been tried or convicted for her role in luring teenage girls to be sexually abused by Epstein, a New York financier. She is serving a 20-year prison term, though she was moved from a low-security federal prison in Florida to a minimum-security prison camp in Texas after she was interviewed in July by Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche.

As is their custom, the justices did not explain why they turned away the appeal.

Trump's Republican administration had urged the high court to stay out of the case.

Maxwell's lawyers contended that a non-prosecution agreement reached in 2007 by federal prosecutors in Miami and Epstein's lawyers also protected his "potential co-conspirators" from federal charges anywhere in the country.

Maxwell was prosecuted in Manhattan, and the federal appeals court there ruled that the prosecution was proper. A jury found her guilty of sex trafficking a teenage girl, among other charges.

Maxwell's trial featured accounts of the sexual exploitation of girls as young as 14 told by four women who described being abused as teens in the 1990s and early 2000s at Epstein's homes.

Neither Maxwell's lawyers nor the federal Bureau of Prisons has explained the reason for her transfer, but one of her lawyers, David Oscar Markus, has said she is "innocent and never should have been tried, much less convicted." Markus also was the lead lawyer on her Supreme Court case.

Maxwell was interviewed by Blanche at a Florida courthouse. She was given limited immunity, allowing her to speak freely without fear of prosecution for anything she said except for in the event of a false statement. She repeatedly denied witnessing any sexually inappropriate interactions involving Trump, according to records released in August meant to distance the president from the disgraced financier.

Epstein was arrested in 2019 on sex trafficking charges and was accused of sexually abusing dozens of teenage girls. A month later, he was found dead in a New York jail cell in what investigators described as a suicide.

The Epstein case had consumed Trump's administration following an announcement from the FBI and the Justice Department in July that Epstein had killed himself despite conspiracy theories to the contrary, that a "client list" that Attorney General Pam Bondi had intimated was on her desk did not actually exist, and that no additional documents from the high-profile investigation were suitable to be released.

The announcement produced outrage from conspiracy theorists and Trump supporters who had been hoping to see proof of a government coverup. That expectation was driven in part by comments from officials, including FBI Director Kash Patel and Deputy Director Dan Bongino, who on podcasts before taking their current positions had repeatedly promoted the idea that damaging details about prominent people were being withheld.

Patel, for instance, said in at least one podcast interview before becoming FBI director that Epstein's "black book" was under the "direct control of the director of the FBI."

But the Justice Department said its review of evidence in the government's possession determined that no "further disclosure would be appropriate or warranted." The department noted that much of the material was placed under seal by a court to protect victims and "only a fraction" of it "would have been aired publicly had Epstein gone to trial."

Faced with fury from his base, Trump sought to quickly turn the page, shutting down questioning of Bondi about Epstein at a White House Cabinet meeting and deriding as "weaklings" supporters he said were falling for the "Jeffrey Epstein Hoax."

DOJ contradicts DeSantis: Some detainees at 'Alligator Alcatraz' likely never in removal proceedings

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — U.S. government lawyers say that detainees at the immigration detention center in the Florida Everglades known as "Alligator Alcatraz" likely include people who have never been in removal proceedings, which is a direct contradiction to what Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has been saying since it opened in July.

Attorneys for the U.S. Department of Justice made that admission Thursday in a court filing arguing that the detainees at the facility in the Everglades wilderness don't have enough in common to be certified as a class in a lawsuit over whether they're getting proper access to attorneys.

A removal proceeding is a legal process initiated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to determine if someone should be deported from the United States.

The DOJ attorneys wrote that the detainees at the Everglades facility have too many different immigration statuses to be considered a class.

"The proposed class includes all detainees at Alligator Alcatraz, a facility that houses detainees in all stages of immigration processing — presumably including those who have never been in removal proceedings, those who will be placed into removal proceedings, those who are already subject to final orders of removal, those subject to expedited removal, and those detained for the purpose of facilitation removal from the United States pursuant to a final order of removal," they wrote.

Since the facility opened, DeSantis has been saying publicly that each detainee has gone through the process of determining that they can't legally be in the United States.

During a July 25 news conference outside the detention center, DeSantis said, "Everybody here is already on a final removal order."

"They have been ordered to be removed from the country," he added.

At a July 29 speech before a conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association, the Republican governor said, "The people that are going to the Alligator Alcatraz are illegally in the country. They've all already been given a final order of removal."

He added, "So, if you have an order to be removed, what is the possible objection to the federal government enforcing that removal order?"

DeSantis' press office didn't respond Monday morning to an email seeking comment.

The court filing by the DOJ attorneys was made in a lawsuit in which civil rights groups allege the facility's detainees have been denied proper access to attorneys in violation of their constitutional rights. The civil rights groups on Thursday asked a federal judge in Fort Myers for a preliminary injunction that would establish stronger protections for detainees to meet with attorneys privately and share documents confidentially.

The court case is one of three lawsuits filed by environmental and civil rights groups over the detention center, which was hastily built this summer by the state of Florida and operated by private contractors and state agencies.

A federal judge in Miami ordered in August that the facility must wind down operations within two months, agreeing with environmental groups that the remote airstrip site wasn't given a proper environmental review before it was converted into an immigration detention center. But operations continued after the judge's preliminary injunction was put on hold in early September by an appellate court panel. At one point, the facility held more than 900 detainees, but most of them were transferred after the initial injunction. It wasn't clear on Monday how many detainees were at the center, which was built to hold 3,000 people.

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. Federal officials on Friday confirmed that Florida has been approved for a \$608 million reimbursement for

the costs of building and running the immigration detention center.

Bad Bunny kicks off 'SNL' 51st season with a group of new faces and jabs at his Super Bowl critics

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bad Bunny kicked off the 51st season of "Saturday Night Live" with a few timely jokes about his next high-profile gig: the Super Bowl.

"I think everybody is happy about it — even Fox News," the music superstar quipped in his monologue, referring to opposition in some quarters to his being named headliner of the Super Bowl halftime show.

He segued into a few sentences in Spanish, expressing Latino pride and joy over the achievement, after which he noted: "If you didn't understand what I just said, you have four months to learn!" Bad Bunny will be making history by performing entirely in Spanish, a landmark moment for Latino culture.

Launching a season that introduces some new faces in the cast, the show's cold open featured a sketch mocking Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's presentation to generals earlier this week.

"Weekend Update" host Colin Hanks played Hegseth, highlighting the defense secretary's remarks in which he said it's "tiring to look out at combat formations or really any formation and see fat troops" and said it was unacceptable to see fat generals and admirals at the Pentagon.

"No fatties, no facial hair, no body hair," Hanks's Hegseth said. "Just hot, shredded hairless men who are definitely not gay. ... "Because this is serious, we are facing the greatest threat to freedom and democracy the world has ever known. And we all know what that threat is."

"Late night TV!" replied James Van Der Beek as President Donald Trump, bursting in.

"SNL' 51 off to a rough start," Hanks's Trump added. "Seventeen new cast members and they got the 'Update' guy doing the open."

After a fanfare-filled 50th season celebrating the past, "Saturday Night Live" is looking to the future with a cast that includes five new featured players. Several cast members have departed the show.

Bad Bunny is having what can only be described as an enormous week: in addition to hosting "SNL," he's coming off a historic residency in Puerto Rico, and on Sunday came the Super Bowl news.

His moment in the spotlight hasn't come without some political discourse. The Puerto Rican artist has said one of the reasons his residency bypassed the continental U.S. was a concern that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials could target immigrants for deportation outside his shows.

Asked Friday by a podcaster whether ICE officials would be conducting enforcement at the Super Bowl, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said they would, because DHS "is responsible for keeping it safe." She didn't specify whether the officials would be conducting immigration enforcement or other law enforcement duties that are typical at the event.

The issue made for a key joke in the "Weekend Update" segment. "A Trump adviser said ICE agents will attend the Super Bowl after Bad Bunny was announced as the halftime performer," noted co-host Michael Che, then quipping: "You know, to catch all those farmworkers who can afford Super Bowl tickets."

In his second "SNL" hosting gig, Bad Bunny was joined by musical guest Doja Cat, making her debut in that role.

He was featured in many of the show's comedy segments, including a spinoff of the popular sketches in which George Washington attempts to educate soldiers about his new country's language and customs. Here, Bad Bunny played a Spanish ruler in 900 A.D. explaining how the language would have both masculine and feminine nouns — with Benicio Del Toro making a surprise appearance.

Bad Bunny will be followed as hosts in subsequent weeks by Amy Poehler and Sabrina Carpenter. All three were highlights of the 50th season celebrations, with Bad Bunny performing at the "SNL50: The Homecoming Concert" and also serving as the final musical guest last season.

SNL alumna Poehler, in her second solo hosting gig, will front the Oct. 11 episode alongside first-time musical guest Role Model. Her episode will air 50 years to the day of the very first episode of "Saturday Night Live," on Oct. 11, 1975.

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Carpenter, who was a major attraction of the anniversary celebrations, is pulling double duty as host and musical guest on Oct. 18.

The revamped cast comes on the heels of several high-profile departures, including Ego Nwodim and Devon Walker. Ben Marshall, already an "SNL" writer, becomes a featured player, along with newcomers Tommy Brennan, Jeremy Culhane, Kam Patterson and Veronika Slowikowska.

Nwodim, Walker, Emil Wakim and Michael Longfellow all confirmed last month on their social media accounts that they are leaving the show.

The show picked up 12 Emmys last month for its 50th season and anniversary programming, including an award for outstanding variety special.

"I won this award for the first time 50 years ago, in 1975," Michaels said, accepting the Emmy, adding that he didn't dream of doing the same show for the next 50 years.

Kremlin welcomes Trump's comments on Putin's offer to extend the New START nuclear arms pact

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin on Monday welcomed U.S. President Donald Trump's comments about Russia's offer to extend the last remaining nuclear arms treaty with the United States, saying it raises hope for keeping the pact alive after it expires in February.

Last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared his readiness to adhere to nuclear arms limits under the 2010 New START arms reduction treaty for one more year, and he urged Washington to follow suit. When asked about the proposal, Trump said Sunday it "sounds like a good idea to me."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov welcomed Trump's statement, noting that "it gives grounds for optimism that the United States will support President Putin's initiative."

While offering to extend the New START agreement, Putin said its expiration would be destabilizing and could fuel proliferation of nuclear weapons. He also argued that maintaining limits on nuclear weapons could also be an important step in "creating an atmosphere conducive to substantive strategic dialogue with the U.S."

The Russian leader reaffirmed the offer Thursday, noting that Russia and the U.S. could use the one-year extension to work on a possible successor pact.

Such an agreement will involve complex talks that could deal with battlefield nuclear weapons and prospective strategic weapons systems that Russia has developed, Putin said.

"We haven't forgotten about anything that we have planned, the work is ongoing and it will produce results," he declared at a forum of international foreign policy experts.

He mentioned the longtime U.S. push for including China in any prospective nuclear arms control pact but emphasized that it's up to Washington to try to persuade Beijing to do so. China has rejected the idea, arguing that its nuclear arsenals are far smaller than those of the U.S. and Russia.

Putin also argued that the nuclear arsenals of NATO members Britain and France should be included in a prospective agreement.

He noted at the forum that some in the U.S. oppose New START's extension, and "if they don't need it, we don't need it either. We feel confident about our nuclear shield."

Putin's offer came at a time of heightened tensions between Russia and the West, with concerns rising that fighting in Ukraine could spread beyond its borders.

The New START, signed by then-U.S. President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev, limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers. The pact also stipulates the need for on-site inspections to verify compliance, although inspections were halted in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and never resumed.

The treaty was originally supposed to expire in 2021 but was extended for five years.

Arms control advocates long have voiced concern about the treaty's looming expiration and the lack of dialogue to secure a successor deal, warning of the possibility of a new nuclear arms race and the

increased risk of a nuclear conflict.

Silly mistakes, costly blunders and head-scratching decisions led to sloppy football

By ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writer

Sunday was filled with sloppy football, silly mistakes and head-scratching decisions.

Another NFL player gave away a touchdown by carelessly dropping the ball before he crossed the goal line. A roughing-the-kicker penalty erased a touchdown return in a different game. The Super Bowl champions ignored their record-setting running back.

The most egregious play of Week 5 occurred when Cardinals running back Emari Demercado turned a 72-yard touchdown run into a touchback by slowing down near the goal line and releasing the ball as Titans cornerback L'Jarius Sneed swiped at his arm. Officials initially ruled it a touchdown but a video review showed Demercado didn't have possession when he entered the end zone.

Instead of increasing Arizona's 21-6 lead, Demercado's gaffe kept Tennessee in the game. Teammate Dadrion Taylor-Demerson then gave the Titans a chance to win after he intercepted Cam Ward's pass but fumbled while falling to the ground in a wild play that resulted in a touchdown for Tennessee. Receiver Tyler Lockett fell on the loose ball in the end zone, cutting the Cardinals' lead to 21-19 with 4:51 left. Joey Slye made a 29-yard field goal as time expired and the Titans beat the Cardinals to snap a 10-game losing streak.

Last week, Colts receiver Adonai Mitchell committed the same costly miscue as Demercado, which makes the latest blunder even more inexcusable because it should have been on the forefront of every player's mind. Mitchell held the ball out as he neared the goal line and lost control of it for a touchback, negating what would have been a spectacular 76-yard touchdown reception against the Los Angeles Rams in a 27-20 loss.

"I just made a mistake. Really no excuse," Demercado told reporters. "Obviously emotional. Big play. I just got to be smarter."

Penalty fest

A penalty flag wasn't thrown on every big play this week, but it seemed that way in several games.

The worst may have been the roughing-the-kicker call on Chargers reserve linebacker Marlowe Wax that wiped out a 57-yard punt return touchdown by Ladd McConkey late in the second quarter. Los Angeles led Washington 10-7 at the time. The penalty allowed the Commanders to retain possession and they ended up with a tying field goal on the drive on the way to a 27-10 win.

The Chargers were one of 10 teams that had at least nine penalties. Those teams went 4-6.

"It's on us to fix that," Chargers quarterback Justin Herbert said of the penalties. "You can't expect to win games like that when you're having penalties like that."

The Patriots gave the Bills 30 yards on consecutive plays after taking a 20-10 lead in the fourth quarter. After a roughing-the-passer penalty, James Cook was stopped for a 4-yard loss on an excellent play by Harold Landry. But Joshua Farmer inexplicably drilled him seconds after the whistle. Josh Allen tossed a touchdown pass a few plays later but the Patriots ended up handing Buffalo its first loss, 23-20.

Questionable decisions

Philadelphia's play-calling again was curious. This time, it wasn't because frustrated wide receivers A.J. Brown and DeVonta Smith weren't involved in the offense in a 21-17 loss to Denver. Instead, the duo combined for 13 catches on 18 targets while Saquon Barkley got just six carries in a game in which the Eagles led 10-3 at halftime and 17-3 going into the fourth quarter.

The offense had two possessions with a 14-point lead. Barkley got a carry on one of the 10 plays and a false start stopped it. Jalen Hurts completed 2 of 6 passes, got sacked once and scrambled for 4 yards on another.

Barkley was the AP Offensive Player of the Year in 2024 and set an NFL record by rushing for 2,504 yards in the regular season and playoffs. He's struggled this season but had 30 yards on his six carries

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and also caught a 47-yard TD pass.

Coach Nick Sirianni and offensive coordinator Kevin Patullo needed to open up the offense, stretch the field and utilize Brown and Smith more. But giving the ball to the running backs on just nine of 55 plays was surprising and uncharacteristic for a team that had won 20 of its previous 21 games.

"I just think we're searching for improvement and so given what type of team we're built to be, we have to be able to establish the run in some regard and that could look different," Hurts said. "It may not be what it's been, but ultimately being able to lean on the run game is important. So we just have to look into how we can improve in that area and go out there and take ownership of the things that we can control and grow from this opportunity."

Federal judge temporarily blocks Trump administration from sending National Guard troops to Oregon

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER and JACK BROOK Associated Press

A federal judge late Sunday temporarily blocked the Trump administration from deploying any National Guard units to Oregon at all, after a legal whirlwind that began hours earlier when the president mobilized California troops for Portland after the same judge blocked him from using Oregon's National Guard the day before.

During a hastily called evening telephone hearing, U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut granted a temporary restraining order sought by California and Oregon.

Immergut, who was appointed by President Donald Trump in his first term, seemed incredulous that the president moved to send National Guard troops to Oregon from neighboring California and then from Texas on Sunday, just hours after she had ruled the first time.

"How could bringing in federalized National Guard from California not be in direct contravention to the temporary restraining order I issued yesterday?" she questioned the federal government's attorney, cutting him off.

"Aren't defendants simply circumventing my order?" she said later. "Why is this appropriate?"

The White House did not immediately comment on the judge's decision.

Trump focuses on Oregon after Portland protests

Oregon is fighting to prevent federalized National Guard troops from coming to Oregon's largest city to address ongoing protests at an immigration processing facility there.

Small protests have been going on outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility since Trump's second term began in January. There have been occasional flare-ups, including in June, but for weeks nightly demonstrations attracted only a few dozen people.

Trump, however, has turned his attention to the city, calling Portland "war ravaged," and a "war zone" that is "burning down" and like "living in hell."

Local officials have pointed out that the protest occupies one city block far from the downtown in a city that covers 145 square miles (376 square kilometers). They also say many of his claims and social media posts appear to rely on images from 2020, when unrest that grew out of the Black Lives Matter protests roiled the city for several months. Trump sent federal law enforcement to the city then, as well.

Under a new mayor and police chief, the city has reduced crime, and the downtown has seen a decrease in homeless encampments and increased foot traffic.

On Sept. 28, when the Trump administration mobilized the Oregon National Guard over Gov. Tina Kotek's wishes, the protests increased in size. On Saturday about 400 people gathered outside the ICE facility before federal agents shot tear-gas canisters into the crowd.

Trump also authorized the deployment of 300 Illinois National Guard troops to protect federal officers and assets in Chicago on Saturday.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker's office said the situation in Chicago "does not require the use of the military and, as a result, the Governor opposes the deployment of the national guard under any status."

Sending in the National Guard from other states

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This weekend, about 200 federalized members of the California National Guard who had been on duty around Los Angeles were reassigned to Portland, a Pentagon spokesperson said.

Approximately 100 California National Guard troops landed in Portland after midnight Sunday and around 100 more arrived by early evening, Alan Gronewold, commander of Oregon's National Guard, said in a court filing before the emergency hearing late Sunday.

The state of Oregon also included in its filing a memo written by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth that ordered up to 400 Texas National Guard personnel activated for deployment to Oregon, Illinois and possibly elsewhere.

A hasty court hearing

At the emergency hearing late Sunday, Immergut grilled the attorney for the federal government and accused them of seeking an end run around her order from the day before that temporarily blocked the deployment of National Guard troops in Oregon.

Scott Kennedy, the attorney representing Oregon, said he learned of the Texas National Guard mobilization just 24 minutes before the emergency hearing on Sunday night.

"It feels a little bit like we're playing a game of rhetorical whack-a-mole here," he told Immergut.

Lawyers for the federal government tried to argue that Oregon and Portland did not have standing and that California could show no harm by having some of its National Guard dispatched to another state.

Immergut issued a temporary order that expires in 14 days unless it is extended at a hearing set for Oct. 17. Arguments for a preliminary injunction — a more permanent block on sending federalized National Guard troops to Oregon — are set for Oct. 29.

In a related court filing, an attorney in the California Military Department said the U.S. Army Northern Command advised the department on Sunday that an order will be issued keeping the 300 guard personnel federalized through the end of January.

Oregon and California react to Sunday's ruling

Kotek, the governor of Oregon, applauded Immergut's ruling and said Trump can "expect Oregon to stand up to him at every turn."

"President Trump's actions are an effort to occupy and incite cities and states that don't share his politics, and I believe that we should expect him to continue to push the limits of his authority," she said in a statement late Sunday.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta said Trump's move to deploy the National Guard of one state to another "is well outside of the norms or practices" of any president.

"But this President is determined to take as much power as the courts will give him. This fight isn't over, but today's rebuke of the President's illegal actions is a step in the right direction," Bonta said in a statement after Sunday night's ruling.

Portland Mayor Keith Wilson said Sunday that he saw federal agents engaged in what he described as unjustified use of force and indiscriminately spraying pepper spray and impact munitions during a protest outside the ICE facility.

"This is an aggressive approach trying to inflame the situation that has otherwise been peaceful," Wilson said, adding that he has alerted the civil rights division of the Department of Justice to the agents' actions.

Today in History: October 7

Surprise attacks spark Israel-Hamas War

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 7, the 280th day of 2025. There are 85 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led militants launched air and ground attacks on Israel, killing nearly 1,200 and taking more than 250 hostages. The attacks, followed hours later by Israeli counterattacks, marked the beginning of the current Israel-Hamas War.

Also on this date:

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In 1765, the Stamp Act Congress convened in New York to draw up colonial grievances against England.
In 1913, the first moving assembly line began operation at the Ford Motor Company factory in Highland Park, Michigan.

In 1916, in the most lopsided victory in college football history, Georgia Tech defeated Cumberland University 222-0 in Atlanta.

In 1985, Palestinian gunmen hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro (ah-KEE'-leh LOW'-roh) in the Mediterranean Sea. The hijackers shot and killed Leon Klinghoffer, a Jewish American tourist in a wheelchair, and pushed him overboard, before surrendering on Oct. 9.

In 1992, trade representatives of the United States, Canada and Mexico initialed the North American Free Trade Agreement during a ceremony in San Antonio, Texas, in the presence of President George H.W. Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

In 1998, Matthew Shepard, a gay college student, was beaten and left tied to a wooden fencepost outside of Laramie, Wyoming; he died five days later. Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney are serving life sentences for Shepard's murder.

In 2001, war in Afghanistan started as the United States and Britain launched air attacks against military targets and Osama bin Laden's training camps in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. The U.S. military completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan to end the 20-year war on Aug. 30, 2021.

In 2003, California voters recalled Gov. Gray Davis and elected Arnold Schwarzenegger their new governor.

Today's Birthdays: Author Thomas Keneally is 90. Singer John Mellencamp is 74. Rock musician Tico Torres (Bon Jovi) is 72. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma is 70. Recording executive and TV personality Simon Cowell is 66. Singer-actor Toni Braxton is 58. Rock singer-musician Thom Yorke (Radiohead) is 57. Actor Nicole Ari Parker is 55. Football Hall of Famer Charles Woodson is 49. Singer Taylor Hicks is 49. Actor Omar Miller is 47. MLB outfielder Mookie Betts is 33.