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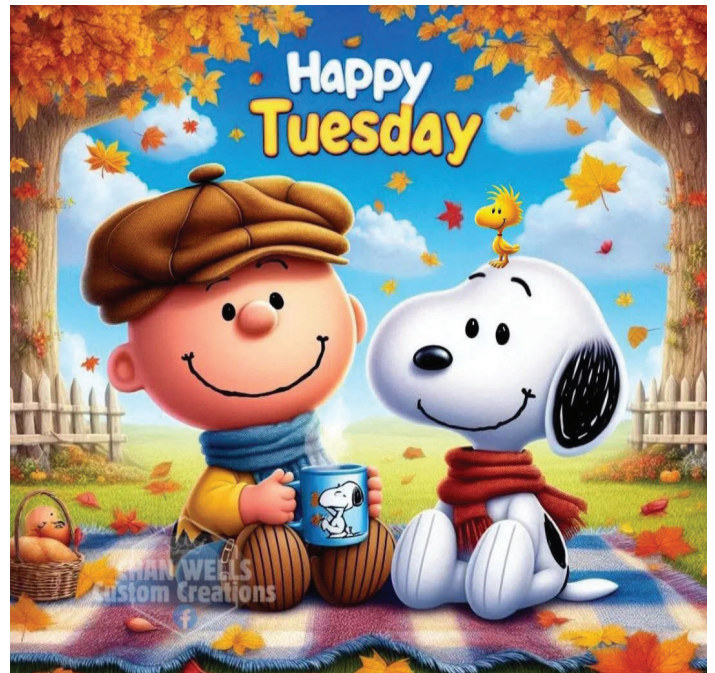
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Tuesday, Oct 14

Senior Menu: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Muffins.
School Lunch: Pasta with meat sauce, corn.
School Board Meeting, 6:30 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.
5th Grade GBB, 4:15 p.m.
2027 Washington DC Informational Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 15

Senior Menu: Chili with beans, tossed salad, peaches, corn bread/muffin.
School Breakfast: Oatmeal.
School Lunch: Soup, ham and cheese sandwich.
Region 1A Cross Country Meet at Webster, 11 a.m.
6th Grade GBB, 6 p.m.



Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.;
League, 6:30 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 16

Senior Menu: Baked meatballs with gravy, mashed potatoes, California blend, mixed fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Maple French toast bake.
School Lunch: Chicken tacos, Fiesta beans.
Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA: 1:30 p.m. Final Day of packing LWR kits. Hostess: Potluck.
Volleyball hosts Deuel: (Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)
4th Grade GBB, 4 p.m.
3rd Grade GBB, 5 p.m.
MS Football hosts Sisseton at Doney Field, 4 p.m.

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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.

Hostages Return Home

Hamas released the last 20 living Israeli hostages yesterday under a ceasefire deal that paused more than two years of war in Gaza, sparked by the militant group's Oct. 7, 2023, attack in southern Israel. Israel then freed nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

The exchange is part of a US-backed 20-point peace plan that also includes returning the bodies of 28 dead hostages. Hamas released four bodies yesterday. The group says it does not know the location of some bodies; an international task force will be set up to help locate them. Israeli troops have partially withdrawn from Gaza as aid flows back into the territory and hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians return to devastated neighborhoods.

In related news, President Donald Trump visited Israel yesterday to address its legislature—the Knesset—and later joined a summit in Egypt with regional leaders to discuss Gaza's future.

(Another) OpenAI Megadeal

OpenAI and tech giant Broadcom announced a multiyear deal yesterday to develop custom-built chips and infrastructure to expand OpenAI's compute capacity. The agreement aims to deploy 10 gigawatts of specialized infrastructure by 2029, a total roughly equal to the power consumption of 8 million households.

It marks the latest megadeal for OpenAI, following hardware and computing agreements with Oracle, Nvidia, AMD, and others. The Broadcom deal will focus on networks of AI accelerators—highly efficient processors that can handle multiple tasks in parallel, performing billions of operations. The company did not disclose how it was financing the deal; Broadcom's shares closed up nearly 10% on the news.

OpenAI's recent deal with Nvidia came after the latter agreed to invest as much as \$100B into OpenAI, while part of its deal with AMD will make OpenAI one of AMD's largest shareholders. See a visualization of the complex web of relationships [here](#).

Coral Reef Tipping Point

Coral reefs are the first ecosystem to have passed a climate tipping point, scientists and conservationists contend in a new report. Barring a reversal in warming trends, researchers warn that a large number of coral reefs will be lost in the coming years.

The designation in this case refers to a level of warming at which irreversible damage occurs. Researchers from the UK-led Global Tipping Points organization say the majority of warm-water coral reefs are on track for widespread dieback, after 80% experienced severe bleaching events. The report's authors—160 scientists spanning 23 countries—point to global temperatures regularly exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, with Earth expected to formally pass that threshold in five years.

Warm-water reefs cover about 0.2% of the ocean floor but support around one-quarter of marine life. The report's publication comes roughly one month before Brazil is scheduled to host COP30, the global climate summit.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Taylor Swift's "Eras Tour" six-part docuseries coming to Disney+ on Dec. 12.
... and "The Life of a Showgirl" album becomes Swift's 15th No. 1 album, with all 12 songs topping the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Purdue tops men's basketball preseason AP Top 25 poll for first time with Houston and reigning champs Florida rounding out the top three.

Comedian Marc Maron's pioneering "WTF" podcast ends after 16 years and more than 1,600 episodes with former President Barack Obama as Maron's final guest.

Science & Technology

California passes first-in-the-nation safety protocols for AI chatbots; follows the death of a teenager who had suicidal conversations with ChatGPT.

New AI-powered model predicts which children are most at risk of developing sepsis—when the immune system overreacts to an infection—within 48 hours of an emergency room visit.

Scientists grow embryo-like structures that produce human blood cells; discovery may eventually produce a source for personalized blood transfusion.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +1.6%, Dow +1.3%, Nasdaq +2.2%) after President Donald Trump softens stance on China.

Silver prices hit first all-time high since 1980.

JPMorgan Chase to invest up to \$10B in companies tied to US national security, including defense and aerospace, energy independence, quantum computing, and AI.

Goldman Sachs to acquire \$7B venture capital firm Industry Ventures.

Amazon to hire 250,000 full-time, part-time, and seasonal holiday workers nationwide, matching hiring levels from 2023 and 2024.

Politics & World Affairs

US Senate returns today, is expected to vote on measures to reopen the federal government as shutdown enters third week; see live updates.

Venezuela closes its embassy in Norway days after the Nobel Committee reveals it will award the peace prize to Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado.

Madagascar's president leaves the country amid protests.

India and Canada agree to reset relations roughly two years after Canada accused India of complicity in the killing of a Sikh activist on its soil.

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The Vikings are 3-2 as they head into the bye week, sitting behind the Green Bay Packers (3-1-1) and Detroit Lions (4-2), but ahead of the Chicago Bears (2-2 as of now, before they play their Monday Night game, but win or lose, they'll still be last in the division). The bye week couldn't have come at a better time, as the Vikings are dealing with a ton of injuries to key players on both sides of the ball. Let's break down the team, looking at their offensive and defensive production at this point in the season and how injuries could affect the Vikings going forward.

The Vikings, who have one of the best offensive-minded head coaches and some of the best weapons in the league, are 25th in the NFL in yards per game (305). They are tied for 19th in passing yards per game (198.2) and 20th in rushing yards per game (106.8). However, thanks to some lucky field positions and an opportunistic defense, the Vikings are 12th in the NFL for scoring, averaging 24.6 points per game. I will point out, however, that the Vikings have faced two of the top 3 defenses in terms of yards allowed per game (Atlanta and Cleveland), which is certainly a factor in those rankings.

Defensively, the Vikings have been stout, ranking 6th in the league in yards allowed per game (289.8). The biggest reason for that is their pass defense, which is third in the league (only allowing 157.6 yards per game), despite a patchwork defensive backfield and missing a Pro Bowl pass rusher because of injury. The team is 24th in rushing yards allowed per game, giving up 132.2. And, at the end of the day, the only stat that really matters on defense is how many points they give up, which the Vikings are 5th, only allowing 19.4 points per game.

Now let's talk about injuries, a subject that has defined the Vikings' 2025 NFL season up to this point. The most impactful injury is the one to second-year QB J.J. McCarthy, who injured his ankle and has missed the team's last three games. With him out, the Vikings have been forced to turn to Carson Wentz, who has played well (but not well enough to stave off McCarthy for the starting role once he's healthy). The Vikings have said they won't rush J.J. back until he's fully healthy, and although he got in some practice time during the bye week, there's no telling if he'll be ready to start this Sunday (a matchup against the Philadelphia Eagles).

The Vikings have also had a slew of injuries along the offensive line. Star left tackle Christian Darrisaw missed some time at the beginning of the season because he was still dealing with an injury suffered in 2024. Newly acquired center Ryan Kelly has been put on injured reserve (concussions), right tackle Brian O'Neill is dealing with a knee injury, rookie left guard Donovan Jackson needed surgery on his wrist, and backup Michael Jurgens is dealing with a hamstring issue. At this point, the only starter along the line who hasn't missed any time is right guard Will Fries, and he shattered his leg last season.

The Vikings' defense has remained relatively unscathed (knock on wood), although the neck injury for Pro Bowl pass rusher Andrew Van Ginkel is worrying. Luckily for the Vikings' defense, linebacker Blake Cashman should be coming off injured reserve this week.

Looking ahead, the Vikings return home after weeks overseas. Unfortunately, the Philadelphia Eagles are coming to town, and they are in a bad mood after losing two in a row (against the Denver Broncos and New York Giants). I expect the Eagles to be on top of their game, which means this game is going to be physical. Hopefully, the Vikings used this week off to their advantage and are ready to extend Philly's losing streak.

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Tigers Sweep Britton-Hecla Behind Balanced Attack



Jaedyn Penning
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Makenna Krause
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

GROTON — The Groton Area Tigers volleyball team put together another strong performance Monday night, sweeping Britton-Hecla 3-0 in front of the home crowd by scores of 25-15, 25-18, and 25-12.

The Tigers came out hot in the opening set, jumping to a quick 6-1 lead and never looking back. Tevan Hanson and Chesney Weber each tallied five kills in that first set to help Groton take control early.

Britton-Hecla battled in the second set, tying the score three times and grabbing a brief 4-1 advantage before Groton rallied to even the set at 8 and then pulled ahead. Consistent serving and steady defense helped the Tigers close it out 25-18.

In the third set, Groton trailed 5-3 before reeling off seven straight points to take a 10-5 lead. From there, the Tigers never looked back, sealing the sweep with a 25-12 win.

Coach Hanson's Take

Head Coach Chelsea Hanson credited Britton-Hecla for their defensive effort and noted her team's consistency in finishing plays.

"They're a solid defensive team," Hanson said. "You could see that in the first set. It's always frustrating for us when we don't put the ball to the floor, but I thought our hitters stayed aggressive. Even when they touched it, it's still a kill — a kill is a kill. I thought we did a good job keeping them out of system."

Hanson added that when Groton's offense is clicking, the results tend to follow.

"When we're scoring in that upper-20s to low-30s range in kills, we're going to win games," she said. "We just needed to come in and get the job done tonight — and that's what we did."

Looking ahead, Hanson said the team wants to maintain focus through a busy week.

"We need to take care of business and not burn too much energy being sloppy," she noted. "We've got Deuel coming up Thursday and our tournament this weekend, so it's about playing clean, efficient volleyball."

She also mentioned that while the varsity continues to execute well, blocking remains a top priority in practice.

"Our blocking has come a long ways," she said, "but our footwork and closing out the net are still areas we're working to improve."

Statistical Leaders — Groton Area

Tevan Hanson: 17-of-20 attacks, 7 kills

Chesney Weber: 19-of-22 attacks, 8 kills; 13-of-13 serving with 1 ace; 26 assists

Jaedyn Penning: 20-of-23 attacks, 8 kills; 13 digs

Rylee Dunker: 19-of-19 attacks, 7 kills; 1 assisted block

Taryn Traphagen: 6-of-8 attacks, 4 kills; 2 assisted, 1 solo block

Makenna Krause: 5 kills

McKenna Tietz: 1 ace serve, 1 kill

Sydney Locke: 14-of-15 serving with 2 aces; 7 digs

Jerica Locke: 9-of-9 serving with 1 ace; 14 digs

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Taryn Traphagen

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Sydney Sydney: 1 ace serve

As a team, Groton went 90-of-105 in attacks with 39 kills and 34 assists, while Britton-Hecla finished 67-of-84 with 15 kills. The Tigers totaled 49 digs to the Braves' 46.

Britton-Hecla Leaders

Chelyan Pruitt, Karlie Zulke, Maddie Michael, and Abby Lee: 3 kills each

Jaylee Group: 9 assists, 9 digs

Ariana Buer: 3 assists

Donika Zulke: 13 digs, 1 ace serve

Sub-Varsity Results

The Tigers also won both undercard matches.

JV: Groton defeated Britton-Hecla 2-1 (23-25, 25-19, 16-14). The Tigers overcame an early deficit and sealed the win in extra points.

Leaders: Kinsley Rowen (4 kills), Tevan Hanson (1), Makenna Krause (1), Abby Fjeldheim (3), Emerlee Jones (2), Elizabeth Cole (7), Liby Althoff (5), and Kella Tracy (8 kills, 1 block).

C-Team: Groton completed the sweep with a 25-15, 25-10 victory.

The varsity match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by 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, Heartland Energy, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge and The MeatHouse in Andover. The junior varsity match was also broadcast live sponsored by Grand Slam Computers.



Rylee Dunker

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Pennington County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: 23528 Bradsky Road, nine miles east of Rapid City, SD

When: 9:02 a.m., Monday, October 13, 2025

Driver 1: 58-year-old male from Rapid City, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2008 Chevrolet Silverado

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

Pennington County, S.D.- One man died in a single vehicle crash Monday morning, nine miles east of Rapid City, SD.

The name of the person involved has not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2008 Chevrolet Silverado was traveling northbound on Bradsky Road when the vehicle left the roadway to the right, entered the ditch, and struck a stack of hay bales. The driver was taken to a Rapid City hospital where he later died.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

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



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Native Americans' Day in South Dakota: 'A foundation upon which to build friendship and trust'

BY: SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF-OCTOBER 13, 2025 2:38 PM

Yesterday was Native Americans' Day in South Dakota, which is described in state law as a legal holiday "dedicated to the remembrance of the great Native American leaders who contributed so much to the history of our state."

Gov. George S. Mickelson and the Legislature created the annual holiday in 1990. They chose the second Monday in October, which is federally designated as Columbus Day. The effort was part of a broader Year of Reconciliation proclaimed by Mickelson at the urging of Native American newspaper publisher Tim Giago.

The following is an excerpt from a speech that Mickelson delivered Oct. 8, 1990, at Crazy Horse Memorial on South Dakota's first Native Americans' Day. He began by speaking in Lakota, and then provided the English translation for the traditional greeting:

"Today, I stand before for you and shake your hand with a happy heart. And today that really takes on extra meaning as we stand here and make history.

"Chief Standing Bear made a statement long ago that became the theme of the Council for Reconciliation. It is hard for us to imagine, but it was the attitude in 1879 that it had to legally be decided in this country, in this nation, whether or not Indians were people under the law, in the context of an issue that was being decided at that time.

"And there was a judge by the name of [Elmer] Dundy who was sitting in judgment on Chief Standing Bear when Chief Standing Bear made a point that is the theme for the year of reconciliation. And what Standing Bear told Judge Dundy was, "My hand is not the color of your hand, but if you pierce it, I shall feel the pain. The blood that will flow from mine will be the same color as yours. I am a man. The Great Spirit made us both."

"The Great Spirit made us both. That concept is what Native American Day is all about. The Great Spirit made us, but years of turmoil, years of misunderstanding, years of mistrust have built walls between us and have made separate nations within the same state.

"Well, ladies and gentlemen, I'm not so naive to believe — and I know that you aren't either — that we can turn back the clock of history by a hundred years and undo those things that have gone on in the past.

"But what this day represents, and what we can do, is both turn to the future together and face it. We can reason together. We can negotiate. We can reach deep into our hearts for compassion. We can reach down and have a better understanding and trust of each other, and we can make a better life for ourselves and our children.

"The most important thing to remember about today is that it is just a beginning. It is a foundation upon which to build friendship and trust."

Sioux Falls service club introduces civil discourse theme in public Q&As

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR-OCTOBER 13, 2025 4:00 PM

SIOUX FALLS — A 340-member club of business and professional leaders in South Dakota's largest city hopes its public Q&A events will counteract what club members call a growing breakdown in communication and trust among Americans.

Downtown Sioux Falls Rotary Club President Eric Erickson told South Dakota Searchlight that the service club's members are concerned about polarization and violence. He hopes to make peacebuilding and

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conflict prevention a theme of some of the club's regularly scheduled public Q&A sessions with local and state leaders.

"We're not expecting everyone to ultimately agree, but we're saying that when you do disagree, here's the civil way to do it," he said.

The first themed discussion on Monday brought together a political science professor, a civil discourse advocate and educator, and a counselor. Moderated by Erickson, the foundational discussion explored topics ranging from empathy and identity politics to the importance of maintaining civic norms.

Erickson said future events in the series may bring together people who stand on opposite sides of issues.

"It takes courage to stand up and say, 'This is what I believe in,' but it also takes an equal amount of courage to say, 'I understand you believe something differently, and I'm willing to sit here and listen,'" Erickson said.

Monday's political science professor panelist, David Wiltse with South Dakota State University, warned that declining participation in civic institutions — like churches and political parties — has weakened the "social fabric" that once connected Americans. He called groups like Rotary essential in helping bridge differences and rebuild trust.

Erickson said the club's role is to lead by example and show that civility and disagreement can coexist.

"We want to create a space where these conversations don't break down into finger-pointing and shouting," Erickson said. "It's about understanding, not winning."

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.

Shutdown forces Medicare patients off popular telehealth and hospital-at-home programs

BY: TIM HENDERSON-OCTOBER 13, 2025 8:00 AM

The federal government shutdown is forcing a reckoning for two remote health care programs because they automatically expired Oct. 1.

The telehealth and in-home hospital care programs were both temporary — but increasingly popular — options for Medicare recipients. They allowed doctors and hospitals to bill Medicare for telehealth appointments and in-home visits from nurses to provide care that is generally only available in hospitals.

The shutdown has prevented Congress from extending them.

More than 4 million Medicare beneficiaries used telehealth services in the first half of the year, according to Brown University's Center for Advancing Health Policy through Research.

As of last fall, 366 hospitals had participated in the hospital-at-home program, serving 31,000 patients, according to a federal report. The program, officially called Acute Hospital Care at Home, allows patients who would otherwise be hospitalized to get inpatient care at home with a combination of nurse visits, monitoring equipment and remote doctor visits.

The programs have their roots in the pandemic, when doctors and hospitals wanted to keep patients safe from the risks of travel and hospital stays. Both are for Medicare recipients, generally people over 65 or who are disabled. But since many private insurers follow federal guidelines, some physicians have stopped booking telemedicine appointments for non-Medicare patients, rather than risk a change in insurance coverage.

Alexis Wynn, who is in her mid-30s and covered by private insurance through her employer, tried to switch an in-person doctor appointment in Pennsylvania to a video visit last week. The office told her that "all telemedicine is uncovered by insurance as of Oct. 1" — so she had to cancel the routine appointment.

"It was just a follow-up appointment to make sure the dosing of my medication was still accurate, noth-

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ing that was pertinent to being face-to-face," Wynn said. Her health insurance company later told her it still covered telehealth visits.

There have been other reports of insurers turning down non-Medicare telehealth appointments, said Alexis Apple, director of federal affairs for the American Telemedicine Association, a trade group.

"It's a misunderstanding," Apple said. "I'm not really sure what's happening, but it's unfortunate and very scary. There's so much uncertainty out there now, and we see insurance payers start to pull back."

Both telehealth and home hospital services can be a lifeline for older people, especially in rural areas, where residents may struggle to travel long distances for health care in person.

"In rural America, it's often telemedicine or no medicine at all," said Dr. David Newman, chief medical officer of virtual care at Sanford Health in South Dakota, in a September statement supporting congressional action to make Medicare telehealth permanent. Bipartisan bills that would have allowed telehealth to continue stalled in committee earlier this year in the Senate and House.

There's an exception for telehealth rural residents — but only if they travel to a brick-and-mortar health care facility to get the remote health care service.

"The patients have to go to a clinic to receive that telehealth visit from a provider in a different location," Apple said. "It kind of defeats the purpose."

According to the Brown University report, California had the highest rate of Medicare telehealth usage in the first six months of this year, with 26% of beneficiaries using at least one telehealth appointment, followed by 23% in Massachusetts and 21% in Hawaii.

There's no reason for non-Medicare insurers to stop covering any telehealth visits during the shutdown, and even most Medicare Advantage programs will continue to cover telehealth, according to Tina Stow, a spokesperson for AHIP, a health industry trade association.

Nevertheless, at least some health care centers are refusing to take new telehealth appointments or are converting existing ones to office visits.

"This is causing a lot of confusion. We are still working with our members who are insurers and providers to get a gauge on what folks are doing — because at this point reports we've seen seem to suggest it is company by company, provider by provider," said Sean Brown, a spokesperson for the Health Leadership Council, representing CEOs of health care firms and insurers.

The hospital-at-home program serves a smaller number of patients but its pause has caused more disruption: The federal government required patients to be discharged from the program or transferred to a brick-and-mortar hospital by Oct. 1.

The Minnesota-based Mayo Clinic had 30 patients in the program in Arizona, Florida and Wisconsin — all of whom either had to be released from the program or sent to brick-and-mortar hospitals. One of Mayo's hospitals in Florida was already over capacity and had no room for transfers, according to reporting by Becker's Hospital Review.

In Massachusetts, which requires commercial insurers to follow Medicare guidelines, all insured patients had to leave the program. Mass General Brigham, which operates many hospitals in the state, has rejiggered its plans to create more home care without relying on the hospital-at-home program, according to the Becker's report.

Congress was unable to avert a shutdown by late September, and some individual providers and patients were caught unawares.

Nurses on social media discussed losing home-care jobs or being reassigned overnight when the hospital-at-home program closed Oct. 1. They worried about patients being taken away from children at home, or placed in hallway beds at overcrowded emergency rooms because of the abrupt change.

"Management scheduled a random call this morning with a super vague title. Then drop the bomb on us," wrote one poster in Texas. "So no job. Perfect!"

In a direct message, the poster, who didn't want their name used for fear of getting in trouble at their hospital, told Stateline, "This obviously wasn't ideal for the patients. One of them had four children and now could no longer be home with them. Some didn't even get to have a bed in the hospital because there were none available and had to stay in the ER in a hallway bed."

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Parkland Health System in Dallas started tapering off its hospital-at-home program in September because of the impending shutdown, and the last patients were discharged from the program by Sept. 30 without returning to the hospital, spokesperson Wendi Hawthorne said.

"We are hopeful that Congress will renew this innovative model of care in the future," Hawthorne said.

Likewise, OSF Healthcare in Peoria, Illinois, had started to wind down its hospital-at-home program "to avoid needing to return multiple patients to a very crowded facility," said Jennifer Junis, president of OSF OnCall, which handles home hospital care.

There were only three patients in the program Sept. 30, all of whom were ready to be discharged without returning to the hospital, Junis said. Since the program's start in 2020, it has helped 980 patients with home care through OSF's Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

"It is unfortunate that we will not be able to benefit by treating qualifying patients at home, where they are most comfortable and recover faster," Junis said. "Our digital hospital program has allowed us to free up beds for our sickest patients who need them most."

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

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

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

Trump, U.S. leaders celebrate end of hostilities in Gaza

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY-OCTOBER 13, 2025 5:12 PM

WASHINGTON — After just over two years in Hamas captivity, the surviving Israeli hostages were released Monday as President Donald Trump visited Israel and Egypt to celebrate a U.S.-brokered peace deal to end the war in Gaza.

In remarks to Israel's Knesset, the country's parliamentary body, Monday afternoon Jerusalem time, Trump hailed "the golden age of Israel and the golden age of the Middle East."

"Israel, with our help, has won all that they can by force of arms. You've won. I mean, you've won. Now it's time to translate these victories against terrorists on the battlefield into the ultimate prize of peace and prosperity for the entire Middle East. It's about time you were able to enjoy the fruits of your labor," Trump said during remarks that lasted just over an hour.

Israeli military forces, with financial and arms support from the United States, have bombarded the Gaza Strip since Hamas militants launched a surprise attack on Israel from the Palestinian territory on Oct. 7, 2023, killing roughly 1,200 and taking 250 people captive.

Gaza health officials said Monday the death toll in the small enclave had risen to 67,869 since the conflict began, including roughly 60 in the past 24 hours, according to Palestinian National Authority state-run media.

Hamas returned the remaining living 20 Israeli hostages Monday and committed to returning bodies of deceased hostages as part of the ceasefire agreement. In exchange, Israel released roughly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners.

As of Monday, Hamas still had to return the remains of two dozen hostages killed while held captive. The militant group that holds political power in Gaza returned the remains of four hostages to the National Institute for Forensic Medicine in Tel Aviv, CNN reported Monday.

Trump calls for Netanyahu pardon

Many who attended Trump's Knesset remarks wore red MAGA-style hats bearing the message "Trump the Peace President," according to journalists who traveled with Trump to Israel.

Trump said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be remembered "far more" for the peace deal than for the fighting.

Trump notably asked Israeli President Isaac Herzog to pardon Netanyahu, who is under investigation for bribery and fraud.

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"Hey, I have an idea. Mr. President, why don't you give him a pardon?" Trump said, adding, "Cigars and some champagne — who the hell cares?"

Egypt meeting

Trump then traveled to Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, Monday evening, where roughly 30 world leaders met for a short summit marking the deal between Israel and Hamas — with many details yet to be hammered out.

Among those present was Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian National Authority. Video published by The New York Times showed Trump and Abbas chatting and shaking hands. Trump held onto Abbas' hand while giving a thumbs-up with his other hand for a photo of the pair.

Trump invited Netanyahu, but the prime minister declined "due to time constraints" ahead of an upcoming holiday, according to an announcement posted by his office.

Trump, along with the leaders of Egypt, Qatar and Turkey, signed what the president described as a "document that's going to spell out a lot of rules and regulations."

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for text of the document.

Speaking to reporters as he signed the "historic document" in front of two rows of presidents and prime ministers, Trump marveled at how long it took to achieve the cessation of hostilities and predicted "it's gonna hold up, too."

The 20-point peace plan required the release of all living and deceased Israeli hostages, a phased withdrawal of Israeli forces and a reform of the Palestinian government, including completely disarming Hamas of weapons and political power.

World leaders heaped praise on Trump at Monday's summit. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the U.S. president is "a man of peace" and that he backed Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize, according to video and reports from journalists at the summit. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi awarded Trump the Nile Collar, his country's highest state honor.

U.S. leaders react

U.S. Republican and Democratic lawmakers alike praised the freeing of the surviving Israeli hostages.

House Speaker Mike Johnson applauded the "leadership, strength, and fortitude of President Trump."

"For the first time in 738 days, there are no living Israelis hostages (sic) in the hands of Hamas. In just eight and half months in office, President Trump and his Administration have ensured the safe release and return of all 20 living Israeli hostages from Hamas captivity, putting lasting peace in the Middle East within reach," the Louisiana Republican said in a statement Monday.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, who delivered a scathing rebuke on the Senate floor to Netanyahu's leadership last year, celebrated the ceasefire deal Monday.

"Today is a wonderful day. Finally, finally, finally, the last living hostages brutally held by Hamas are home, an immense and overwhelming sigh of relief. I commend the enormous advocacy of the tireless hostage families, President Trump, his administration, and all who helped make this moment happen," Schumer, a New York Democrat, said in a statement.

"Today, we celebrate the return of the hostages — the joyous images of their reuniting with their families — and we solemnly reaffirm our commitment to bringing home all the deceased hostages, including my constituents Omer Neutra and Itay Chen."

Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, an outspoken critic of Israel's bombardment of Gaza, urged the immediate activation of humanitarian aid to the territory, including granting "unfettered access" to the United Nations.

The Vermont senator, who caucuses with Democrats, said in a statement that Americans must "grapple with our role in this extremely dark chapter," highlighting that the U.S. government provided billions in taxpayer dollars to support what he described as "Netanyahu's barbaric campaign."

"The vast majority of Americans understand that Israel had a right to defend itself against the horrific Hamas terrorist attack that killed 1,200 innocent people and took 250 hostages," Sanders said. "But most Americans also understand that Israel did not have the right to go to war against the entire Palestinian people, killing or wounding almost 237,000 Palestinians — more than 10 percent of Gaza's population —

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most of them women, children, and the elderly.”

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

Nutrition program for women, infants and children to stay afloat through end of month

BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA-OCTOBER 13, 2025 5:08 PM

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is infusing \$300 million into a key federal nutrition program to keep it running through October, while a government shutdown continues without an apparent end point.

USDA's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children — known as WIC — has relied on short-term funds amid the shutdown. That has worried advocates as states are left to fill the gaps when the money runs out.

USDA is transferring \$300 million into WIC from its child nutrition programs account, which has long been funded in part by tariff revenue from prior years, according to a congressional aide familiar with the plan.

The transfer does not require congressional approval and is expected to keep the program afloat through the end of this month.

A USDA spokesperson said in a statement to States Newsroom that the agency “will utilize tariff revenue to fund WIC for the foreseeable future,” though the spokesperson did not offer any specifics. President Donald Trump's administration had announced the transfer last week but also did not provide much detail.

“Our hope is that that money can just get released really swiftly and provide funds to states by next week to prevent further disruptions to WIC,” Georgia Machell, president and CEO of the National WIC Association, told States Newsroom.

“Full funding for the program is still the priority here, and it's great to have short-term solutions, but we need the long-term commitment from Congress to continue funding WIC on a bipartisan basis, which it's done for decades,” added Machell, whose organization serves as the nonprofit advocacy voice and education arm of WIC.

Dependent on congressional approval

The program serves nearly 7 million people and offers “free healthy foods, breastfeeding support, nutrition education and referrals to other services,” per USDA.

But as a discretionary program, WIC is subject to congressional approval each year — making it particularly vulnerable to the ongoing funding lapse.

With no funds so far congressionally appropriated for the program in fiscal 2026, which began Oct. 1, WIC has relied on several small pots of money in recent days to keep it running, including USDA's \$150 million contingency fund. States received allocations from that fund.

Leftover money for the program from the prior fiscal year was also reallocated to states last week, and was expected to keep WIC operating for several more days.

Members of the U.S. Senate were scheduled to vote Tuesday on a stopgap spending bill passed by the House that would reopen the government. But with no deal at hand, it was expected the legislation would again fail to win the support of the 60 senators needed.

Senate rebuffs Trump budget cut for WIC

USDA's decision to use the tariff revenue came as Trump has sought to slash part of WIC's funding in his fiscal 2026 budget request, including taking away “more than \$1.3 billion in fruit and vegetable benefits from 5.2 million participants,” according to an estimate from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

The full Senate passed its bipartisan bill dealing with Agriculture Department funding, including WIC, back in August. The measure fully funds the program for fiscal 2026 at \$8.2 billion and “continues full funding for additional fruit and vegetable benefits,” according to Senate Appropriations Committee Democrats.

Meanwhile, the House Appropriations Committee's version of the bill, which passed out of the Republican-

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controlled panel in June, provides \$7.5 billion for WIC, and includes a "10 percent cut in the cash value vouchers for fruits and vegetables for women and children," according to the panel's Democrats.

Kate Scully, deputy director of WIC at the Food Research & Action Center, said "we're still urging Congress to pass a full-year budget that provides WIC the funding it needs to serve everyone who's eligible for the program and applies, and that includes keeping benefit levels where they are today."

Scully, whose national nonprofit works to reduce poverty-related hunger through research, advocacy and policy solutions, said "families should still utilize their benefits, go to scheduled appointments, but check with their state agency to see if there are any changes."

Scully said her organization is "hearing reports of some places closing," but that might change with the \$300 million infusion of funding. "So, certainly check with your state, but don't not use your benefits or go to your appointments, because WIC should still be operational."

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

Pentagon to shift research dollars to pay troops during shutdown

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT AND ARIANA FIGUEROA-OCTOBER 13, 2025 1:49 PM

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration plans to send paychecks to active duty troops this week, despite Congress not passing legislation to allow it during the ongoing shutdown.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, who has refused to bring the House back into session to pass a stand-alone bill to provide pay for troops, welcomed the action during a Monday press conference, though he didn't comment on whether the administration holds that legal authority.

"We are so very grateful that President Trump, again showing strong leadership, has stepped up to ensure that our troops are going to be paid on Oct. 15," Johnson said.

Congress approved a bill just before the 2013 government shutdown began, titled the Pay Our Military Act, that appropriated funding to ensure on-time paychecks for active duty and reserve troops during that funding lapse.

A similar bill wasn't necessary during the 2018-2019 shutdown since Congress had already approved the annual Defense Appropriations bill, one of the dozen full-year government spending bills that are supposed to become law by the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1.

Johnson and other Republicans have faced questions for weeks about whether the House would return to pass a similar bill, but he declined. The Louisiana Republican has said repeatedly that if Democrats wanted to ensure troops get paid during the funding lapse, they would pass the stopgap spending bill that remains stalled in the Senate.

President Donald Trump announced this weekend on social media that in the absence of congressional action, his administration would provide paychecks for military members.

"That is why I am using my authority, as Commander in Chief, to direct our Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, to use all available funds to get our Troops PAID on October 15th," Trump wrote. "We have identified funds to do this, and Secretary Hegseth will use them to PAY OUR TROOPS."

A Pentagon spokesperson said Monday the department "has identified approximately \$8 billion of unobligated research development testing and evaluation funds (RDTE) from the prior fiscal year that will be used to issue mid-month paychecks to service members in the event the funding lapse continues past Oct. 15."

"We will provide more information as it becomes available."

The White House did not immediately respond Monday to States Newsroom's request for comment.

Removes pressure point

Typically during a government shutdown, federal workers are categorized as exempt, meaning they keep working, or are furloughed. All are supposed to receive back pay under a 2019 law that Trump signed, though he is now looking for ways to reinterpret it.

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Active duty military members are considered essential to federal operations and keep working during a shutdown, but a missed paycheck for troops has been viewed in the past as a pressure point on lawmakers to negotiate a deal.

Trump's actions have removed that incentive for Republicans and Democrats to broker some sort of agreement sooner rather than later.

Wendell Primus, a visiting fellow of economic studies at Brookings, said the administration's decision to move "this amount of funds between defense accounts is highly illegal. But in many ways, it is not more illegal than all the illegal impoundments that are happening. It also has the effect of lessening the pressure on Congress to end the shutdown."

Primus worked for former Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., as her senior policy advisor on health and budget issues for nearly two decades.

Johnson maintained during his press conference that Republican leaders will not negotiate with Democrats on their health care concerns until after the shutdown ends.

Democratic leaders have said for months that lawmakers must reach an agreement to extend enhanced tax credits for people who buy their health insurance from the Affordable Care Act marketplace. The credits are set to expire at the end of the year.

Democrats have blocked the House-passed stopgap spending bill, which would fund the federal government through Nov. 21, from advancing until there is a bipartisan agreement on the subsidies.

Johnson said Democrats chose to sunset those tax credits at the end of this year because they were tied to helping people afford health insurance coverage during the coronavirus pandemic.

Since then, he said, the enhanced tax credits have become "a boondoggle" that caused the cost of health insurance to rise faster than he believes it would have otherwise.

"It's a subsidy for insurance companies. When you subsidize the health care system and you pay insurance companies more, the prices are increased. That's been the problem," Johnson said. "So if indeed the subsidy is going to be continued, it needs real reform."

Health care overhaul?

Johnson said lawmakers need October and part of November to determine how best to address the expiring tax credits, though he also appeared interested in overhauling other elements of the Affordable Care Act.

"Can we completely repeal and replace Obamacare? Many of us are skeptical about that now because the roots are so deep. It was really sinister, in my view, the way it was created," Johnson said. "I believe Obamacare was created to implode upon itself, to collapse upon itself."

Johnson, who was a freshman lawmaker in 2017 when Republicans tried to repeal and replace the ACA, said he still has post-traumatic stress disorder from the effort falling apart in the Senate amid opposition from the late Arizona Sen. John McCain, a Republican.

"It was a great frustration of mine and it always has been of President Trump's, and we know that American health care needs dramatic reform," he said. "Let's just state it simply: Obamacare failed the American people."

Johnson said any efforts to overhaul the 15-year-old law would take considerable time, but he didn't preview any of that during his press conference.

"You can't just rip it out at the roots and start over," Johnson said. "It's a very, very complicated series of measures and steps you have to take to fix it."

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

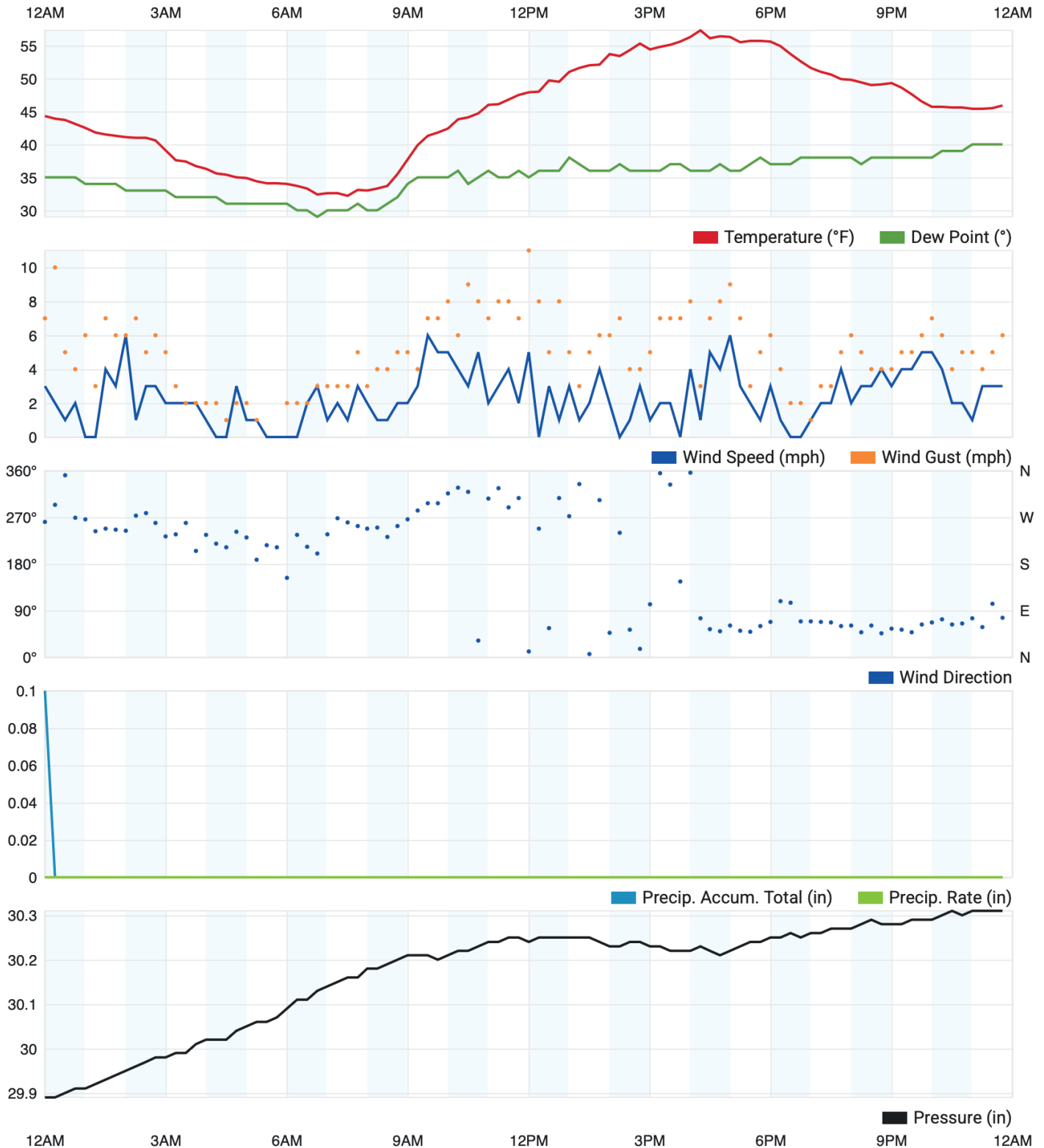
Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her areas of coverage include politics and policy, lobbying, elections and campaign finance.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

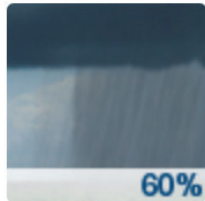
October 13, 2025



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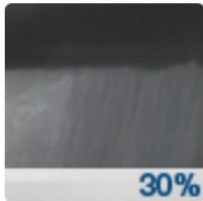
Tuesday



High: 51 °F

Showers
Likely

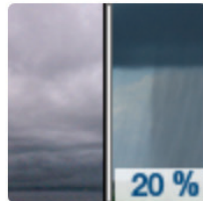
Tuesday Night



Low: 43 °F

Chance
Showers

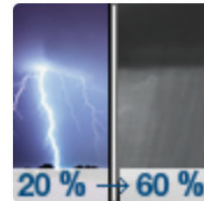
Wednesday



High: 59 °F

Cloudy then
Slight Chance
Showers

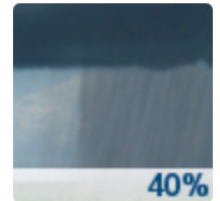
Wednesday
Night



Low: 52 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms then
Showers
Likely

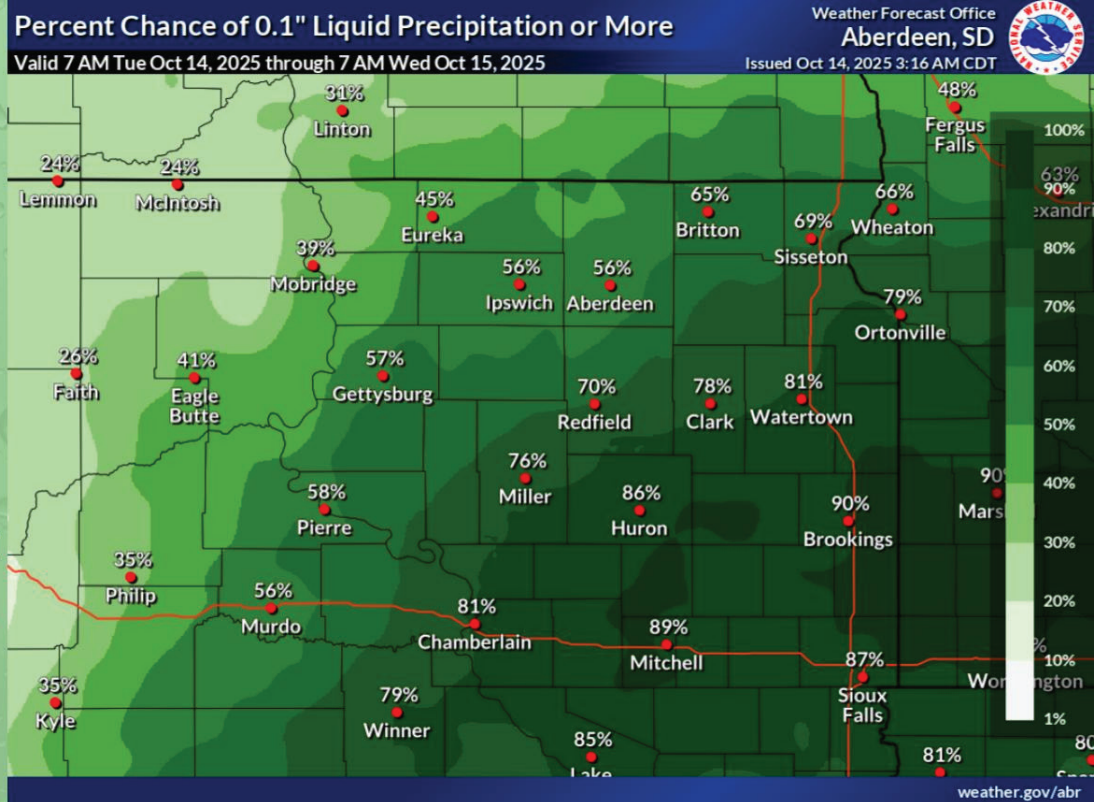
Thursday



High: 72 °F

Chance
Showers

- Showers continue to move into north central and eastern SD this morning.
- An additional few hundredths to a couple tenths of an inch are expected
- Highest amounts of rain will fall south and east of a line from Pierre to Aberdeen to Sisseton



Showers continue to move into north central and eastern SD this morning. An additional few hundredths to a couple tenths of an inch are expected with heaviest rainfall south and east of a line from Sisseton to Aberdeen to Pierre, SD.

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THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated Severe Storms Possible

TIMING

Overnight Wednesday

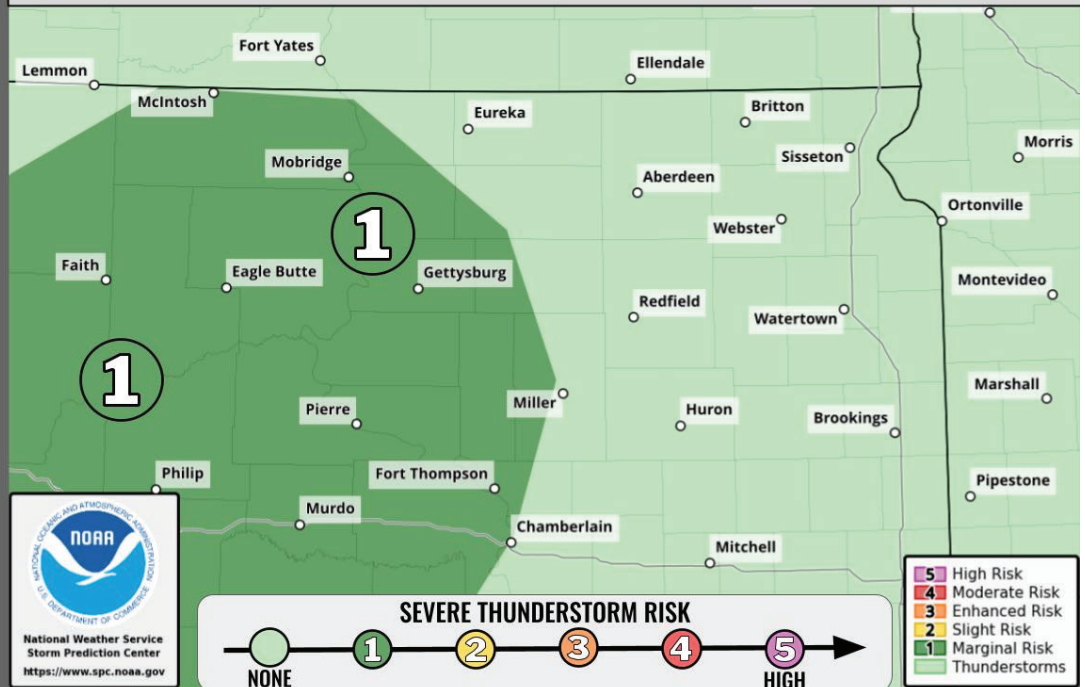
PRIMARY THREATS

DAMAGING
WIND GUSTS IN
EXCESS OF 60+
MPH



LARGE HAIL

Marginal Risk For Severe Storms Wednesday Night



There is a Marginal Risk (level 1 out of 5) for isolated severe storms Wednesday night. The main threats are large hail 1 inch in diameter and wind gusts of 60 mph. Make sure you have multiple ways to receive warnings.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 57 °F at 4:16 PM

Low Temp: 32 °F at 7:27 AM

Wind: 11 mph at 11:49 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 87 in 1962

Record Low: 10 in 1937

Average High: 61

Average Low: 34

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.05

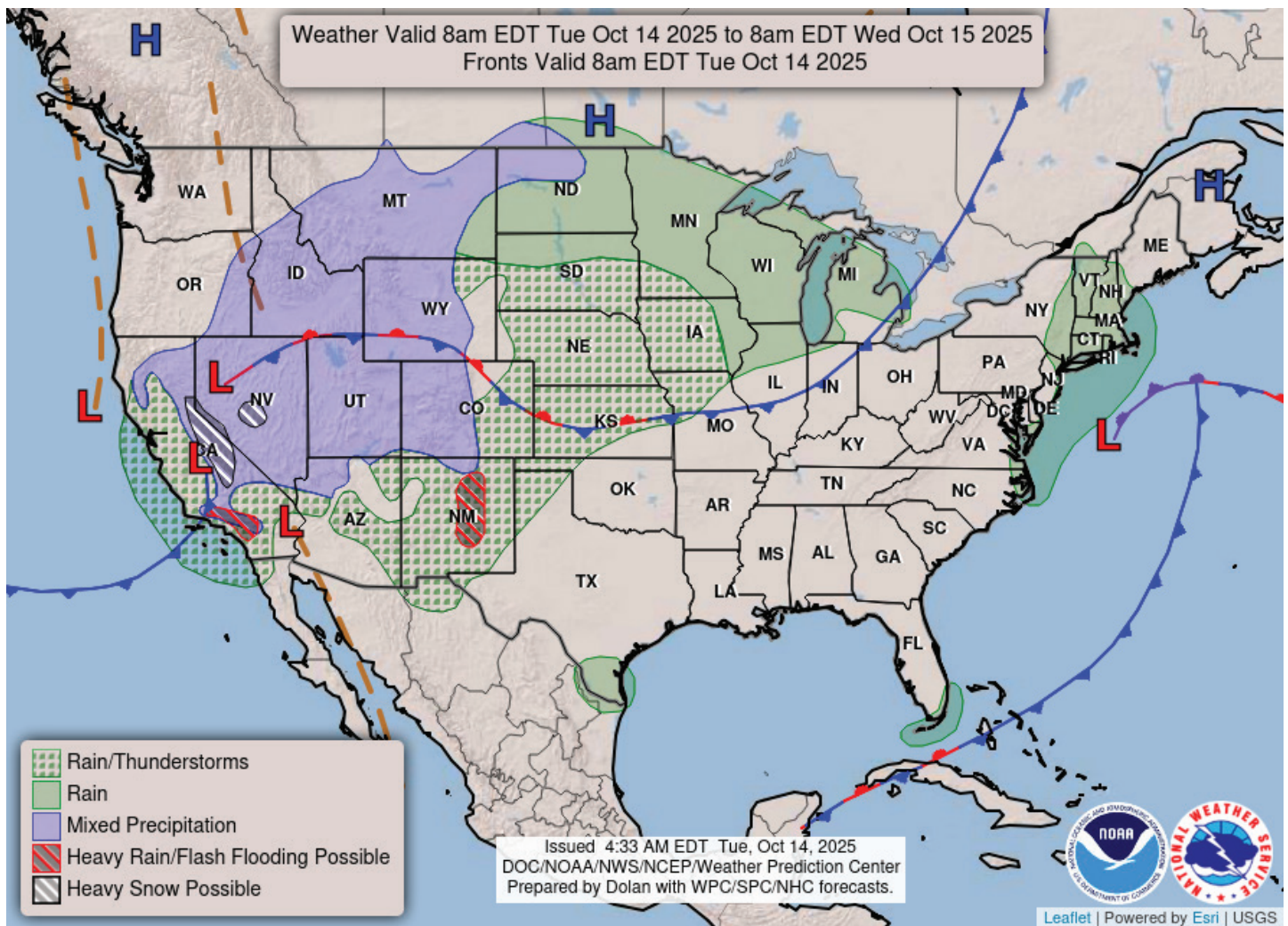
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.17

Average Precip to date: 19.38

Precip Year to Date: 23.09

Sunset Tonight: 6:48 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:48 am



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Today in Weather History

October 14, 1969: Cold air during the overnight produced lows from six degrees in Custer, Gillette, and Devils Tower to fifteen degrees in Dupree, Hot Springs, and the Rapid City Airport.

1909: An F3 tornado struck Pittsburg Landing and Stantonville, TN killing 23 people and injuring 80 others.

1941: America's first television weather forecast was broadcast on New York's WNBT (later WNBC). There weren't many televisions at that time, so viewers were limited to perhaps a few hundred people. The weathercast consisted of a sponsor's message followed by a text screen containing the next day's forecast.

1957 - Floodwaters roared through a migrant labor camp near the town of Picacho AZ flooding fifty cabins and a dozen nearby homes. 250 migrant workers lost their shelters. The month was one of the wettest Octobers in Arizona weather history. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - Heavy rains hit the coastal areas of southeastern Florida. In a 24 hour period rains of twenty inches were reported from Deerfield Beach to Fort Lauderdale, with 25.28 inches on the Fort Lauderdale Bahia-Mar Yacht Basin. Flooding that resulted caused considerable damage to roads and streets. The rains inundated numerous newly planted vegetable fields, and some residences. Ten miles away just 4.51 inches of rain was reported. (14th- 15th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1981: Four days of heavy rain across northern Texas and southern Oklahoma came to an end. The most torrential rains fell in a band from the southwest of Abilene, Texas, to McAlester Oklahoma, with up to 21 inches reported at Breckenridge, north-central Texas. The torrential rains resulted from decaying Hurricane Norma, which also spawned thirteen tornadoes across the region. Seven deaths were attributed to the flooding.

1984: Dense fog contributes to a 118 vehicle accident on I-94, just south of Milwaukee. At the time of the accident, the visibility was reportedly close to zero.

1987 - Sixteen cities, mostly in the Appalachian Region, reported record low temperatures for the date. Record lows included 43 degrees at Lake Charles LA, 35 degrees at Augusta GA, and 27 degrees at Asheville NC. Gale force winds buffeted the Carolina coast. Light snow fell across parts of Wyoming, Colorado, and western South Dakota. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Forty cities in the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Elkins WV was the cold spot in the nation with a record low of 18 degrees above zero. Thunderstorms in Arizona drenched Phoenix with nine inches of rain in nine hours, the fifth highest total for any given day in ninety-two years of records. Carefree AZ was soaked with two inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over Michigan during the morning, and over New York State and Connecticut during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms spawned two tornadoes, and there were ninety reports of large hail or damaging winds, including seventy reports of damaging winds in New York State. A tornado at McDonough NY killed one person and injured three other people. Strong thunderstorm winds gusted to 105 mph at Somerset. Temperatures warmed into the 80s and lower 90s over much of the nation east of the Rockies, with eleven cities reporting record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 81 degrees at Beckley WV and Bluefield WV equalled October records. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)



Understanding Your Call

Believers follow Jesus—even when they don't like where He leads.

Mark 8:34-35: The Way of the Cross

34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

The title of Christian is one that is claimed by many people, but only those who have trusted Jesus as Savior can call themselves "believers." Fewer still can consider themselves to be true "followers" of the Lord.

Are you a believer or a follower? Let's examine the difference. Trusting in Jesus is fundamental, but doing so is the first step, not the culmination, of our faith. Our primary purpose is to take a lifelong journey following Christ, honoring Him with our actions and speech, and increasing in biblical wisdom.

A follower's life is marked by obedience. In fact, Jesus defined true Christians as those who prove their love for Him by keeping His word (John 14:23). That doesn't mean followers never make mistakes, but their goal is to remain faithful to the Lord's plan whether doing so is easy or hard. Not only that, but they try to proclaim Him in times of blessing or calamity and will go—even when they don't like where He leads.

Followers pursue the Lord because they know that the reward is a deeper relationship with Him. They are not just waiting to spend eternity with God in heaven. They realize that His kingdom is already present, something to be enjoyed here and now as they accompany Him on the righteous path He's set before them.

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: 10.10.25

3 18 23 32 56 8

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$600,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 26 Mins 36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.13.25

5 8 10 39 47 9

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$4,810,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 41 Mins 36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.13.25

3 9 19 28 46 5

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 56 Mins 36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.11.25

9 12 14 21 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$44,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 56 Mins 36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.13.25

12 13 46 49 68 7

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 25 Mins 36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.13.25

13 14 32 52 64 12

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$273,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 25 Mins 35 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

Aberdeen Christian def. Florence-Henry, 25-10, 25-23, 25-23
Avon def. Menno, 25-19, 25-19, 25-18
Bennett County def. White River, 25-16, 25-18, 25-14
Groton def. Britton-Hecla, 25-15, 25-18, 25-12
Ipswich def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-9, 26-24, 25-19
Iroquois-Lake Preston def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-20, 22-25, 25-21, 25-20
Lemmon High School def. New England, N.D., 17-25, 25-12, 25-17, 25-18
Lennox def. Garretson, 25-14, 25-12, 25-14
Northwestern def. Webster, 25-13, 25-9, 5-17
Sanborn Central-Woonsocket def. Howard, 25-19, 25-23, 25-7
Tea def. Madison, 25-22, 25-21, 21-25, 25-23
Tri-Valley def. Baltic, 25-19, 25-22, 25-23

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

Some Indigenous Peoples Day events strike conciliatory tone amid Trump's focus on Columbus

By TERRY TANG Associated Press

From Seattle to Baltimore, many Americans were celebrating Monday as Indigenous Peoples Day, determined to see it as a triumph of perseverance over centuries marked by trauma. Tribal nations and communities gathered at powwows, markets and musical performances among other joyful events to honor their culture and their history.

Some states and cities have for decades now made the second Monday in October about honoring Native Americans alongside the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, for whom the federal holiday was declared in 1937. And President Joe Biden signed a declaration recognizing both days.

President Donald Trump, keeping a vow he made in April, reversed that last week, pledging "to reclaim his extraordinary legacy of faith, courage, perseverance, and virtue from the left-wing arsonists who have sought to destroy his name and dishonor his memory."

Trump's tribute to the explorer whose planting of the Spanish flag in the Caribbean in 1492 opened the Americas to "the ultimate triumph of Western civilization" — along with centuries of disease, slavery and conquest that ravaged Indigenous civilizations — is drawing criticism and resignation from Native Americans.

But some advocates say his posture is hardly unique among previous presidents, and they won't be dissuaded from seeking to build consensus for tribal goals.

Indigenous Peoples Day is about inclusion, not exclusion

This is the first year Indigenous Peoples Day has state recognition in Montana, after a decade-long campaign in the state that is home to 12 federally recognized tribes.

What changed? Democratic State Sen. Shane Morigeau, a citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes who sponsored the legislation, framed it not as a holiday that would eliminate Columbus Day, but as a day of "inclusivity, healing and bringing people together."

"It's just not an us-versus-them type of day. It's a day that brings everyone together," Morigeau said. "And if you don't want to go check that out and you want to go do something else and celebrate the other day, you can do that too and our feelings won't be hurt."

What matters is that both Native and non-Native people can go to an event or do some self-reflection or even "go down to the river and go fishing for the day," Morigeau said.

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After the protests over the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2016 and the racial injustice protests in 2020, more people and institutions questioned the narrative of Columbus as only an intrepid sailor and explorer, arguing for a more complete understanding of his historical impact. Trump's proclamation lambastes this as the villainizing of a "true American hero."

"Outrageously, in recent years, Christopher Columbus has been a prime target of a vicious and merciless campaign to erase our history, slander our heroes, and attack our heritage," Trump's proclamation reads. "Left-wing radicals toppled his statues, vandalized his monuments, tarnished his character, and sought to exile him from our public spaces."

Chase Iron Eyes, director of the Lakota People's Law Project, said it's Trump who is making this a culture war, when the day should be about learning all aspects of history around Columbus.

"If Trump wants to celebrate the good things about Christopher Columbus then let him. Let him do that. But also tell the truth about him and let us also celebrate Indigenous peoples' accomplishments," said Iron Eyes, who is of the Lakota Sioux Nation. "We don't teach that in America's schools."

Soldiers at Wounded Knee keeping medals

The National Congress of American Indians found it profoundly troubling when Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced last month that the soldiers who killed more than 250 men, women and children in the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre would retain their military honors after a review launched under the Biden administration.

Hegseth called it part of his effort to root out "woke" thinking.

Iron Eyes, who lives on Pine Ridge, called it hurtful.

"We have kids who pay attention," Iron Eyes said. "When Pete Hegseth is doubling down on wanting to honor people who slaughtered noncombatants and women and children and elderly, the kids are paying attention."

This has only reinvigorated the Lakota People's Law Project's campaign to persuade Congress to rescind the Wounded Knee military medals, he said.

"We've made hard-fought sacrifices to get to a place where we're saying to each other, 'Hey, let's tell the truth about each other,'" Iron Eyes said. "Natives aren't savage. They're not impediments to progress. They're not antithetical to civilization."

Increased funding for Tribal Colleges and Universities

In September, Trump's Education Department redirected nearly \$500 million in federal funding from schools serving large contingents of Hispanic students, promising the money instead for historically Black colleges and tribal colleges. This could double federal funding to roughly \$108 million across the United States for tribal colleges and universities, or TCUs.

"That's what Indian Country wants, to continue to invest in our tribal citizens and Native people and to be contributors to not only our tribal economies, but to the U.S. economy as a whole," said Larry Wright Jr., executive director of the National Congress of American Indians.

There are 35 accredited TCUs with over 90 campuses across 15 states, most of which are in Indian Country, according to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium.

The consortium lauded the funds as "progress toward fulfilling federal trust and treaty obligations" while also noting that it could raise more obstacles for students at non-TCU schools. Many Native Americans are enrolled at the universities that are losing federal funding.

Tribal appropriations were initially included in the Trump administration's efforts to claw back federal spending that it sees as promoting diversity, equity and inclusion. Wright gives credit that the administration heard NCAI officials out and understood "Indian Country is not DEI" — and that there are treaties and trust responsibilities that must be met. He said they've had productive conversations with the administration and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

"To have that kind of alignment with this administration is a good thing in spite of all the other rhetoric. Truly more so than anything else, I think, from a micro aspect, Indian Country really is dependent on bipartisan efforts to make sure our issues aren't overlooked and forgotten," Wright said.

South Dakota city encouraging growth by giving away lots in exchange for promise to build a home

By BART PFANKUCH/South Dakota News Watch South Dakota News Watch

The picturesque city of Chamberlain, South Dakota, on the shore of the Missouri River, is so eager to encourage development of new housing that it bought a tract of land and is giving away lots to anyone who promises to build a home.

The free lots, awarded to individuals or developers through a lottery system, are located in a subdivision where the city has used taxpayer money to build streets and install sewer and water lines to further jump-start construction.

The effort to use municipal funds and resources to spur growth in Chamberlain is seen as the only way to create significant new housing in a city of about 2,500 people known more for walleye fishing and bird hunting than for commerce or industry.

"We said it for a long time in Chamberlain, that as a community, you're either growing or you're dying, and there's no in between," said Greg Powell, who spent 25 years as city engineer and led a previous city housing project before retiring in 2021.

In recent years, Chamberlain has seen development of very few new homes and has been losing some family housing to conversion of existing properties into short-term rentals, said Sheena Larsen, executive director of the Lake Francis Case Development Corp.

The city has several apartment buildings, but all have waiting lists for occupancy, Larsen said.

The overall lack of housing — a common problem in small South Dakota cities and towns — is holding back growth by limiting options for new residents and employers, she said.

"With the school or the hospital, anytime they need employees, the biggest thing is trying to find a place for them to live," Larsen said. "A lot of times, they take the job and can't find a place to live, so they have to turn it down."

Response: City goes all-in on housing

The land giveaway is part of a municipal subdivision development project that began in 2018 when the city spent \$900,000 to buy a 60-acre tract south of downtown and east of Interstate 90, said city administrator Clint Soulek.

The property was divided into 30 housing lots, one multi-family lot for apartments and 11 commercial lots for businesses, he said.

Not long after buying the land, the city gave away 11 buildable housing lots through a computerized lottery system to applicants who met financial parameters and promised to begin building within 18 months, said Soulek, who was on the city council at the time.

The city created a tax-increment financing district, then spent about \$2 million in taxpayer money and another \$2 million in state and federal grants to hire contractors to build roads and curb and gutter and to extend sewer and water systems to the neighborhood, he said.

"With the free lots, it entices people to get things moving quicker," Soulek said. "Without this, I don't think there's any way we can grow."

Since the lottery, seven homes have been built in the subdivision, known as the Smokey Groves Addition, after a historical name for the area. Of those, four houses have gone to families who are new to the area, Soulek said.

Recipients of the lots have contracted with builders to construct the homes, which have ranged in price from \$330,000 to \$630,000, he said.

The subdivision project has had strong support from the city council and from the public, Soulek said. "Anything we've done with housing, we haven't had any opposition, including giving the lots away," he said.

Though the subdivision development has been slowed by the road contractor who is facing penalties for missing deadlines, Smokey Groves will be a win for the city and for the people who live there, Soulek said.

"The homeowners get \$15,000 to \$20,000 in instant equity due to the free land, which can lower their down payment or lead to better terms with a lender," he said. "And it's going to benefit the city in the end

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with new housing and a stronger tax base.”

Insights: Small towns cannot wait around

Smokey Groves will be the second major housing project launched by Chamberlain town leaders.

The city took the bold step of jumpstarting construction of its first new subdivision in 2000 after realizing it was unlikely that private developers would ever build new homes in the city.

“Small-town development is so much different than in big cities, and nobody wants to invest in small-town subdivisions,” said Powell, the retired city engineer who led Chamberlain’s early municipal housing efforts.

Private developers want to move houses faster and obtain larger profit margins than are available in small cities like Chamberlain that are seeing slow or stagnant growth, he said.

“It takes you 20 years to get your lots sold, and most developers want their money back in five years,” Powell said.

In the years before the city developed Cedar Heights, it was seeing as little as one new house built per year.

In its first subdivision development — known as Cedar Heights — the city owned a large tract of land on its south side and paid to install infrastructure. The land had been used as an airport in the mid-20th century and was vacated when a new airport was built, Powell said.

The city hired a contractor to build the streets and install sewer and water connections, and the city began to sell lots to builders or homeowners, though at below-market prices, Powell said.

At the time, the need for new housing was so great that buyers didn’t wait for the infrastructure to be completed before making offers on lots, Powell said. “People bought them on blind faith after we promised to install streets, sewer and water within three years,” he said.

Limitations: Growth comes slow, but that’s OK

Soulek said other cities considering subdivision development or land giveaways should get the roads paved and curb and gutter fully installed before offering lots for development. Smokey Groves has been hampered by road work delays and the inability of potential buyers to fully visualize how it might look when completed, he said.

“I’d tell them to get the roads in first before you allow any building because you’ll have less headaches later,” Soulek said. “A lot of people held off on building because without the infrastructure, it is hard to see what it can look like in the end.”

Though it took nearly two decades to build out, Cedar Heights ultimately resulted in construction of about 70 houses, six multi-family properties and 15 commercial enterprises, he said.

The growth was slow, but the effort provided new development and strengthened the city economy and tax collections, Soulek said.

“One of the big reasons it worked for us is that we expanded housing but we also grew our tax base,” he said.

Local builders and businesses, including a concrete company and contractor’s outlet, benefited from revenue and product sales related to housing construction, Soulek said.

Powell said Chamberlain’s experience with subdivision development in the early 2000s and now again with the Smokey Groves project provide a lesson to other municipal leaders around the state.

“All of these small towns, if they want to grow and survive, they’re going to have to take responsibility for housing themselves,” he said.

This story was originally published by South Dakota News Watch and distributed through a partnership with The Associated Press.

Madagascar president dissolves lower house of parliament in midst of apparent coup attempt

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (AP) — Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina dissolved the country’s lower house of parliament on Tuesday in the midst of a military rebellion that led him to flee the country.

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Rajoelina issued a decree for the National Assembly to be dissolved immediately, according to a statement posted on the Madagascar presidency's Facebook page.

Rajoelina's whereabouts are unknown after an elite military unit joined youth-led anti-government protests over the weekend and called for him to step down in an apparent coup attempt. The president said in a speech broadcast on social media on Monday night that he left the country in fear for his life.

His move to dissolve the National Assembly came while lawmakers were meeting to discuss possible impeachment proceedings to remove Rajoelina as president. By dissolving the National Assembly, Rajoelina effectively blocked any impeachment proceedings.

The decree by the 51-year-old Rajoelina deepens the political crisis in Madagascar, an island country of 31 million people off the east coast of Africa.

Rajoelina has faced pressure to resign from weeks of anti-government protests led by Gen Z groups.

Russian aerial attack hits a Ukrainian hospital, days before Zelenskyy meets Trump

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian forces launched powerful glide bombs and drones against Ukraine's second-largest city in overnight attacks, hitting a hospital and wounding seven people, an official said Tuesday, as European military aid for Kyiv dropped sharply and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy prepared to ask U.S. President Donald Trump for Tomahawk missiles.

The Russian attack on Kharkiv in Ukraine's northeast hit the city's main hospital, forcing the evacuation of 50 patients, regional head Oleh Syniehubov said. The attack's main targets were energy facilities, Zelenskyy said, without providing details of what was hit.

"Every day, every night, Russia strikes power plants, power lines, and our (natural) gas facilities," Zelenskyy said on Telegram.

Russian long-range strikes on its neighbor's power grid are part of a campaign since Moscow launched a full-scale invasion in February 2022 to disable Ukraine's power supply, denying civilians heat and running water during the bitter winter.

The Ukrainian leader urged foreign countries to help blunt Russia's long-range attacks by providing more air defense systems for the country, which is almost the size of Texas and hard to defend from the air in its entirety.

"We are counting on the actions of the U.S. and Europe, the G7, all partners who have these systems and can provide them to protect our people," Zelenskyy said. "The world must force Moscow to sit down at the table for real negotiations."

But the latest data on foreign military aid to Ukraine showed a sharp drop-off in recent help.

Military aid in July and August plunged by 43% compared to the first half of the year, Germany's Kiel Institute, which tracks support to Ukraine, said Tuesday.

That fall occurred after the creation of a fund that pools contributions from NATO members, except the United States, to purchase American weapons, munitions and equipment for Ukraine. The financial arrangement is known as the Prioritized Ukraine Requirements List, or PURL.

In the first half of 2025, military aid had exceeded what was sent between 2022-2024, despite the lack of U.S. contributions, the institute said.

Zelenskyy is due to meet with Trump in Washington on Friday.

The talks are expected to center on the potential U.S. provision to Ukraine of sophisticated long-range weapons that can hit back at Russia.

Trump has warned Moscow that he may send Tomahawk cruise missiles for Ukraine to use. Such a move, previously ruled out by Washington for fear of escalating the war, would deepen tensions between the United States and Russia.

But it could provide leverage to help push Moscow into negotiations after Trump expressed frustration

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over Russian President Vladimir Putin's refusal to budge on key aspects of a possible peace deal.

Tomahawk missiles would be the longest-range missiles in Kyiv's arsenal and could allow it to strike targets deep inside Russia, including Moscow, with precision. Unlike the drones that Ukraine has used for such strikes so far, Tomahawks carry a much heavier warhead and are more difficult to intercept as they fly at low altitude to dodge air defenses.

Ukraine's long-range attacks are already taking a toll on Russian oil production, Ukrainian officials and foreign military analysts say.

Its strikes using newly developed long-range missiles and drones are causing significant gas shortages in Russia, according to Zelenskyy.

Rare October storm brings heavy rain and possible mudslides to Southern California

By JAIMIE DING and HALLIE GOLDEN Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Some homes were ordered evacuated in wildfire-scarred Los Angeles neighborhoods as Southern California was hit by a rare October storm that was expected to pummel the region with heavy rain, high winds and possible mudslides.

"We're very concerned about the weather," Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said during a news conference Monday night, explaining that strike teams, rescue teams and helicopters were all ready to respond.

The evacuations covered about 115 homes mostly in Pacific Palisades and Mandeville Canyon, both struck by a massive inferno in January that killed more than 30 people in all and destroyed over 17,000 homes and buildings in Los Angeles County. Wildfires can leave hillsides without vegetation to hold soil in place, making it easier for the terrain to loosen during storms.

Bass and other officials warned residents across the region to remain alert and stay indoors. The worst was expected to begin early Tuesday and carry through the afternoon, and more than 16,000 had already lost power as of Monday night, according to PowerOutage.us.

The storm could result in up to 4 inches (10.2 centimeters) of rain in some areas, according to the National Weather Service's Los Angeles office, which described it as a "rare and very potent storm system."

Ariel Cohen, meteorologist in charge of the weather service in Los Angeles, said the storm could even bring a couple of tornadoes, and one major challenge is its unpredictability.

"The nature of this system is such that we cannot be certain about exactly when and where these impacts will strike, the exact details until right before they occur at the earliest," he said.

Patrols underway and closings announced due to the storm

Teams from the Los Angeles Fire Department had started patrolling the area Monday night and a section of state Route 27, beginning at the Pacific Coast Highway, was closed in preparation for the storm, the California Department of Transportation, known as Caltrans, said on social media.

The weather service also warned of high winds that could knock down trees and power lines.

To the north, up to 3 feet (1 meter) of mountain snow was predicted for parts of the Sierra Nevadas.

Heavy rain had already started falling Monday evening across much of Northern California, bringing some urban flooding around the San Francisco Bay Area.

Gladstones Restaurant, located along the Pacific Coast Highway, said it was closing on Tuesday in anticipation of the heavy rains. The Pacific Palisades establishment is located at an intersection that has experienced heavy debris flow during past rains.

In February, torrential rains unleashed debris flows and mudslides in several neighborhoods torched by the January fires. In the community of Sierra Madre, near the site of the Eaton Fire, water, debris and boulders rushed down the mountain, trapping cars in the mud and damaging several home garages. A portion of the Pacific Coast Highway by Pacific Palisades was submerged in at least 3 feet of sludge, and a swift debris flow swept a Los Angeles Fire Department vehicle into the ocean.

Concerns about post-fire debris flows have been especially high since 2018, when the town of Montecito, up the coast from Los Angeles, was ravaged by mudslides after a downpour hit mountain slopes burned

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bare by a huge blaze. Hundreds of homes were damaged and 23 people died.

Alaska and Arizona among other parts of US hit by severe weather

Elsewhere in the U.S., Typhoon Halong brought hurricane-force winds and ravaging storm surges and floodwaters that swept some homes away in Alaska over the weekend. One person was dead and two were missing in western Alaska on Monday, while more than 50 people had been rescued — some plucked from rooftops.

Officials warned of a long road to recovery and a need for continued support for the hardest-hit communities with winter just around the corner.

In Tempe, Arizona, a microburst and thunderstorm on Monday dropped about a half-inch (1.3 centimeters) of rain within 10 minutes, the weather service said. The storm caused significant damage, including uprooting trees that toppled onto vehicles and buildings, and dropping them on streets and sidewalks. A business complex had its roof torn off, and thousands of homes lost power.

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Tropical Storm Lorenzo churns over open water in the Atlantic Ocean

MIAMI (AP) — Tropical Storm Lorenzo is continuing to churn in the central tropical Atlantic Ocean but still is not threatening land, forecasters said.

Early Tuesday, the storm was located about 1,330 miles (2,145 kilometers) west of the Cape Verde Islands and had maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph), the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said. It was moving northwest at 15 mph (24 kph).

No coastal watches or warnings were in effect.

The storm, described as “poorly organized,” has tropical storm force winds extending outward up to 175 miles (280 kilometers) from the center. It is expected to turn northward and then toward the northeast over the next couple of days but is not expected to threaten land.

Trump to welcome Argentina’s President Milei as US extends \$20 billion lifeline

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina’s libertarian leader is lavishing praise on Donald Trump ahead of his first White House meeting with the U.S. president on Tuesday. It’s a tactic that has helped transform President Javier Milei’s cash-strapped country into one of the Trump administration’s closest allies.

The effusive declarations are nothing new for Milei — whose dramatic cuts to state spending and attacks on “woke leftists” have won him a following among U.S. conservatives.

“Your commitment to life, freedom and peace has restored hope to the world,” Milei wrote on social media Monday, congratulating the U.S. president on securing a ceasefire deal in Gaza, where a truce is holding after a devastating, two-year Israel-Hamas war.

“It is an honor to consider you not only an ally in the defense of those values, but also a dear friend and an example of leadership that inspires all those who believe in freedom,” he said.

The Trump-Milei bromance has already paid off for Argentina — most recently, to the tune of a \$20 billion bailout.

Experts say Milei comes to the White House with two clear objectives. One is to negotiate U.S. tariff exemptions or reductions for Argentine products.

The other is to see how the United States will implement a \$20 billion currency swap line to prop up Argentina’s peso and replenish its depleted foreign currency reserves ahead of crucial midterm elections later this month.

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In a crisis, turning to Trump

The Trump administration made a highly unusual decision to intervene in Argentina's currency market after Milei's party suffered a landslide loss in a local election last month.

Along with setbacks in the opposition-dominated Congress, the party's crushing defeat created a crisis of confidence as voters in Buenos Aires Province registered their frustration with rising unemployment, contracting economic activity and brewing corruption scandals.

Alarmed that this could herald the end of popular support for Milei's free-market program, investors dumped Argentine bonds and sold off the peso.

Argentina's Treasury began hemorrhaging precious dollar reserves at a feverish pace, trying shore up the currency and keep its exchange rate within the trading band set as part of the country's recent \$20 billion deal with the International Monetary Fund.

But as the peso continued to slide, Milei grew desperate.

He met with Trump on Sept. 23 while in New York City for the United Nations General Assembly. A flurry of back-slapping, hand-shaking and mutual flattery between the two quickly gave way to U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent publicly promising Argentina a lifeline of \$20 billion.

Markets cheered, and investors breathed a sigh of relief.

Timing is everything

In the days that followed, Argentine Economy Minister Luis Caputo spent hours in meetings in Washington trying to seal the deal.

Reassurance came last Thursday, when Bessent announced that the U.S. would allow Argentina to exchange up to \$20 billion worth of pesos for an equal sum in dollars. Saying that the success of Milei's program was "of systemic importance," Bessent added that the U.S. Treasury directly purchased an unspecified amount of pesos.

For the Trump administration, the timing was awkward as it struggles to manage the optics of bailing out a nine-time serial defaulter in the middle of a U.S. government shutdown that has led to mass layoffs.

But for Argentina, it came in the nick of time.

Aware of how a weak currency could threaten his flagship achievement of taming inflation and hurt his popularity, Milei hopes to stave off what many economists see as an inescapable currency devaluation until after the Oct. 26 midterm elections.

A devaluation of the peso would likely fuel a resurgence in inflation.

"Milei is going to the U.S. in a moment of desperation now," said Marcelo J. García, political analyst and Director for the Americas at the Horizon Engage political risk consultancy firm.

"He needs to recreate market expectations and show that his program can be sustainable," García added. "The government is trying to win some time to make it to the midterms without major course corrections, like devaluing or floating the peso."

No strings attached

Milei was vague when pressed for details on his talks with Trump, expected later on Tuesday. Officials say he would have a two-hour meeting with the U.S. president, followed by a working lunch with other top officials.

He was also expected to participate in a ceremony at the White House honoring Charlie Kirk, the prominent right-wing political activist who was fatally shot last month. Milei often crossed paths with Kirk on the speaking circuit of the ascendant global right.

"We don't have a single-issue agenda, but rather a multi-issue agenda," Milei told El Observador radio in Buenos Aires Monday. "Things that are already finalized will be announced, and things that still need to be finalized will remain pending."

It's not clear what strings, if any, the Trump administration has attached to the currency swap deal, which Democratic lawmakers and other critics have slammed as an example of Trump rewarding loyalists at the expense of American taxpayers.

There has been no word on how Argentina, the IMF's largest debtor, will end up paying the U.S. back for

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this \$20 billion, which comes on top of IMF's own loan for the same amount in April. And that one came on top of an earlier IMF loan for \$40 billion.

Despite all the help, Milei's government already missed the IMF's early targets for rebuilding currency reserves.

"The U.S. should be concerned that Argentina has had to return for \$20 billion so quickly after getting \$14 billion upfront from the IMF," said Brad Setser, a former Treasury official now at the Council on Foreign Relations.

"I worry that this may prove to just be a short-term bridge and won't leave Argentina better equipped" to tackle its problems, he added.

But in the radio interview before his flight, Milei was upbeat. He gushed about U.S. support saving Argentina from "the local franchise of 21st-century socialism" and waxed poetic about Argentina's economic potential.

"There will be an avalanche of dollars," Milei said. "We'll have dollars pouring out of our ears."

Snell spectacular and Dodgers barely hold on in 9th to beat Brewers 2-1 in NLCS opener

By STEVE MEGARGEE AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Blake Snell was injured and unavailable to pitch in July when the Los Angeles Dodgers lost all six of their regular-season meetings with the Milwaukee Brewers.

Facing the Brewers for the first time this year in the National League Championship Series, the two-time Cy Young Award winner showed just how much of a difference he can make.

Snell allowed one baserunner in eight shutout innings before Los Angeles' bullpen barely held on as the Dodgers opened the NLCS with a 2-1 victory Monday night. Brewers manager Pat Murphy called it perhaps the most dominant performance he's seen by an opposing pitcher in the 10 years he's been on Milwaukee's staff.

"It was a masterpiece tonight," said Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman, whose sixth-inning solo homer broke a scoreless tie.

The 32-year-old Snell struck out 10 and walked none. He's yielded two runs over 21 innings in his first postseason with the Dodgers after they signed him to a five-year, \$182 million contract.

"Even playing against them, watching, it was just always in the back of my mind, like, I wanted to be a Dodger and play on that team," Snell said. "To be here now, it's a dream come true. I couldn't wish for anything more. I'm just going to do the best I can to help us win a World Series."

Los Angeles' shaky bullpen nearly wasted Snell's brilliant effort.

Trailing 2-0 to start the ninth, the Brewers scored a run off rookie Roki Sasaki and later loaded the bases before Blake Treinen struck out Brice Turang to end the game.

"That's kind of what you envision in the playoffs. You're on the edge of your seat for all nine innings," Freeman said. "That was a massive first win on the road for us in the NLCS."

Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is Tuesday night, with Yoshinobu Yamamoto pitching for Los Angeles against Freddy Peralta in a matchup of All-Stars.

The Dodgers led 2-0 when they handed the ball to Sasaki in the ninth after Snell had thrown 103 pitches. Snell didn't try to talk manager Dave Roberts into letting him pitch the ninth.

"I felt I could have," Snell said. "But I trust Dave. He knows what's best for the team."

Sasaki had worked 5 1/3 scoreless innings in the postseason while adjusting to a bullpen role, but he wasn't nearly as sharp Monday.

Isaac Collins drew a one-out walk and pinch-hitter Jake Bauers smacked a ground-rule double that bounced over the center-field wall. Jackson Chourio hit a sacrifice fly that scored Collins and advanced pinch-runner Brandon Lockridge to third. Christian Yelich walked on a 3-2 pitch low and outside.

That's when Roberts removed Sasaki and brought in Treinen.

Yelich stole second to move the potential winning run into scoring position before William Contreras

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walked on a 3-2 pitch low and outside. After Treinen nearly hit Turang in the leg with a pitch — which would have tied the game — Turang struck out swinging at a neck-high fastball.

"You turn your leg, you wear it," Turang said. "Just like a natural reaction to get out of the way. The last pitch, he's a big sinker guy. He threw a four-seamer up at the top. That's just what it is. You move on. As much as it sucks, you move on."

The save marked a step forward for Treinen, who posted a 9.64 ERA in September and allowed two runs and three hits in one inning during the Division Series against Philadelphia.

"Today was fun," Treinen said. "I think we've been putting in a lot of work to try to get some things in a better place with myself. Today I thought I executed almost every pitch."

This NLCS is a study in contrasts, with the Brewers playing in MLB's smallest market while the defending World Series champion Dodgers have the most expensive roster in the game.

Murphy referenced the difference in star power between the two teams by joking during his pregame news conference that "I'm sure that most Dodger players can't name eight guys on our roster."

On this night, no star shined brighter than Snell. He allowed only one hit — a leadoff single by Caleb Durbin in the third.

Durbin got picked off, and Snell retired his final 17 batters. He became the first pitcher to face the minimum 24 batters through eight innings in a postseason game since Don Larsen tossed his perfect game for the New York Yankees against the Brooklyn Dodgers in the 1956 World Series.

Snell also is the only starter in postseason history to throw eight innings with at least 10 strikeouts, zero walks and no more than one hit allowed.

"When you have a starting rotation like we have that are healthy and feeling good about themselves, it's going to be tough," Freeman said.

Freeman put Los Angeles ahead for good when he connected on a full-count pitch from Chad Patrick and sent a shot so high that it got tantalizingly close to the American Family Field roof before barely clearing the right-field wall.

Patrick was coming off an outstanding NL Division Series in which he struck out six and allowed no baserunners over 4 2/3 innings against the Chicago Cubs.

The Dodgers added what ended up being an essential insurance run in the ninth when Mookie Betts drew a bases-loaded walk from Abner Uribe on a 3-2 pitch outside.

Los Angeles also wasted numerous scoring opportunities, most notably on a bizarre 8-6-2 double play that was inches away from becoming a Max Muncy grand slam.

The bases were loaded when Muncy sent a drive off Quinn Priester that was headed out of the ballpark before Milwaukee's Sal Frelick reached his glove over the center-field wall. The ball popped out of Frelick's glove and hit the top of the fence before he caught it in the air.

Los Angeles' runners headed back to their bases, believing Frelick made the catch cleanly. Frelick fired to shortstop Joey Ortiz, who relayed to catcher William Contreras to force out Teoscar Hernández at home. Contreras then jogged to third to force out Will Smith, too.

"It happened fast," Roberts said. "I didn't know he didn't catch it, to be quite honest."

Los Angeles County officials to vote on emergency declaration over immigration raids

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles County officials will vote Tuesday on whether to declare a state of emergency that would give them power to provide assistance for residents they say have suffered financially from ongoing federal immigration raids.

The move would allow the LA County Board of Supervisors to provide rent relief for tenants who have fallen behind as a result of the crackdown on immigrants. A local state of emergency can also funnel state money for legal aid and other services.

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Funds for rent would be available to people who apply via an online portal that would be launched within two months, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's office said. The motion could also be a first step toward an eviction moratorium, but that would require a separate action by the supervisors.

Landlords worried it could be another financial hit after an extended ban on evictions and rental increases during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since June, the Los Angeles region has been a battleground in the Trump administration's aggressive immigration strategy that spurred protests and the deployment of the National Guards and Marines for more than a month. Federal agents have rounded up immigrants without legal status to be in the U.S. from Home Depots, car washes, bus stops, and farms. Some U.S. citizens have also been detained.

Horvath and Janice Hahn said the raids have spread fear and destabilized households and businesses.

"They are targeting families, disrupting classrooms, silencing workers, and forcing people to choose between staying safe and staying housed," Horvath said in a statement, referencing actions by the Trump administration. She added declaring an emergency "is how we fight back."

Last week the five-member board voted 4-1 to put the declaration up for a vote at its regular Tuesday meeting. The sole "no" vote came from Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who argued that the immigration raids did not meet the criteria of an emergency and that it could be unfair to landlords.

"I'm sure we're going to be challenged legally," Barger said. The county's eviction moratorium during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in multiple lawsuits.

Landlords are "still reeling" from the COVID-era freezes that cost them "billions of dollars in uncollected rent and prohibited annual rent increase," said Daniel Yukelson, CEO of the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles.

He said housing providers are sympathetic to tenants and their family members affected by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activities. But, he said, the association isn't aware of anyone unable to pay rent due to immigration enforcement.

"If local jurisdictions once again allow rent payments to be deferred due to ICE enforcement activities, this will lead to the further deterioration and loss of affordable housing in our community," Yukelson said.

Death toll from torrential rains in Mexico rises to 64 as search expands

By FÉLIX MÁRQUEZ Associated Press

POZA RICA, Mexico (AP) — Fifteen minutes before water from a flooded stream swept into her home, Lilia Ramírez took off running with what little she could carry. When she returned she found not only damage from the water that had flooded her first floor to the ceiling, but the oil it had carried now streaking her walls.

Poza Rica is an oil town, and among the challenges confronting some residents who fled flooding that has killed 64 people across five states and left 65 missing, is residue from the oil that built this city not far from the Gulf of Mexico. Authorities say some 100,000 homes across the region have been damaged by the torrential rains and flooding.

"Never before has it been tarred before like that," Ramírez said Monday standing in her devastated ground floor, where walls that had once been pink were now vertically striped with black.

Mexico has deployed some 10,000 troops in addition to civilian rescue teams. Helicopters have ferried food and water to the 200 some communities that remained cut off by ground and carried out the sick and injured.

"There are sufficient resources, this won't be skimmed on ... because we're still in the emergency period," President Claudia Sheinbaum said during her daily press briefing Monday.

But on some streets in Poza Rica, 170 miles (275 kilometers) northeast of Mexico City, the cleanup of mud and debris was complicated by thick oil deposits on trees, roofs and vehicles tossed by the current that swept through Friday.

Parts of Veracruz state received some 24.7 inches (62.7 centimeters) of rain from Oct. 6 to 9.

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Ramírez said that at other times of heavy rains, the state oil company Pemex had drained nearby areas with oil to avoid it spreading.

Roberto Olvera, one of her neighbors, said that a siren from a nearby Pemex facility alerted them to danger. "It was a really anguishing moment because a lot of people from the neighborhood stayed behind and some perished," he said.

Pemex said in a brief statement to the AP that so far it did not have reports of an oil spill in the area.

Sheinbaum acknowledged it could still be days before access is established to some places. "A lot of flights are required to take sufficient food and water" to those places, she said.

The president denied that government systems had failed to provide sufficient warning. "It would have been difficult to have had much advance knowledge of this situation, (it's) different from with hurricanes," she said.

Mexico's Civil Protection agency said the heavy rains had killed 29 people in Veracruz state on the Gulf Coast as of Monday morning, and 21 people in Hidalgo state, north of Mexico City. At least 13 were killed in Puebla, east of Mexico City. Earlier, in the central state of Querétaro, a child died in a landslide.

Authorities have attributed the deadly downpours to two tropical systems that formed off the western coast of Mexico and have since dissipated, Hurricane Pricilla and Tropical Storm Raymond.

New York Times, AP, Newsmax among news outlets who say they won't sign new Pentagon rules

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

News organizations including The New York Times, The Associated Press and the conservative Newsmax television network said Monday they will not sign a Defense Department document about its new press rules, making it likely the Trump administration will evict their reporters from the Pentagon.

Those outlets say the policy threatens to punish them for routine news gathering protected by the First Amendment. The Washington Post, The Atlantic and Reuters on Monday also publicly joined the group that says it will not be signing. AP confirmed Monday afternoon that it would not sign.

"Reuters is bound by its commitment to accurate, impartial and independent news," the agency said in a statement. "We also steadfastly believe in the press protections afforded by the U.S. Constitution, the unrestricted flow of information and journalism that serves the public interest without fear or favor. The Pentagon's new restrictions erode these fundamental values."

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth reacted by posting the Times' statement on X and adding a hand-waving emoji. His team has said that reporters who don't acknowledge the policy in writing by Tuesday must turn in badges admitting them to the Pentagon and clear out their workspaces the next day.

The new rules bar journalist access to large swaths of the Pentagon without an escort and say Hegseth can revoke press access to reporters who ask anyone in the Defense Department for information — classified or otherwise — that he has not approved for release.

Newsmax, whose on-air journalists are generally supportive of President Donald Trump's administration, said that "we believe the requirements are unnecessary and onerous and hope that the Pentagon will review the matter further."

Chief Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said the rules establish "common sense media procedures."

"The policy does not ask for them to agree, just to acknowledge that they understand what our policy is," Parnell said. "This has caused reporters to have a full blown meltdown, crying victim online. We stand by our policy because it's what's best for our troops and the national security of this country."

Hegseth also reposted a question from a follower who asked, "Is this because they can't roam the Pentagon freely? Do they believe they deserve unrestricted access to a highly classified military installation under the First Amendment?"

Hegseth answered, "yes." Reporters say neither of those assertions is true.

Pentagon reporters say signing the statement amounts to admitting that reporting any information that

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hasn't been government-approved is harming national security. "That's simply not true," said David Schulz, director of Yale University's Media Freedom & Information Access Clinic.

Journalists have said they've long worn badges and don't access classified areas, nor do they report information that risks putting any Americans in harm's way.

"The Pentagon certainly has the right to make its own policies, within the constraints of the law," the Pentagon Press Association said in a statement on Monday. "There is no need or justification, however, for it to require reporters to affirm their understanding of vague, likely unconstitutional policies as a precondition to reporting from Pentagon facilities."

Noting that taxpayers pay nearly \$1 trillion annually to the U.S. military, Times Washington bureau chief Richard Stevenson said "the public has a right to know how the government and military are operating."

Trump has applied pressure on news organizations in several ways, with ABC News and CBS News settling lawsuits related to their coverage. Trump has also filed lawsuits against The New York Times and Wall Street Journal and moved to choke off funding for government-run services like the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

1 dead, 2 missing and dozens rescued after remnants of a typhoon lash western Alaska

By BECKY BOHRER and SARAH BRUMFIELD Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — One person was dead and two were missing in western Alaska on Monday after the remnants of Typhoon Halong over the weekend brought hurricane-force winds and ravaging storm surges and floodwaters that swept some homes away, authorities said. More than 50 people had been rescued — some plucked from rooftops.

Officials warned of a long road to recovery and a need for continued support for the hardest-hit communities with winter just around the corner. A U.S. Coast Guard official, Capt. Christopher Culpepper, described the situation in the villages of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok as "absolute devastation."

Elsewhere in the U.S., severe weather killed a woman in New York City who was struck by a solar panel, and the Columbus Day Parade there also was canceled. Rescuers in the Phoenix area found the body of a man whose truck was swept away by floodwaters, and crews in southern California prepared for potential mudslides in fire-ravaged areas.

Communities tally the toll on Alaska villages

Alaska State Troopers said at least 51 people and two dogs were rescued in Kipnuk and Kwigillingok after the storm system walloped the communities. Both areas saw significant storm surge, according to the National Weather Service.

A woman was found dead and two people remained unaccounted for in Kwigillingok, troopers said. The agency earlier said it was working to confirm secondhand reports of people who were unaccounted for in Kipnuk, but late Monday, said troopers had determined no one there was missing.

According to the nonprofit Coastal Villages Region Fund, most of the residents in both communities had taken shelter in local schools.

In addition to housing concerns, residents impacted by the system across the region reported power outages, a lack of running water, subsistence foods stocked in freezers ruined and damage to home-heating stoves. That damage could make the winter difficult in remote communities where people store food from hunting and fishing to help make it through the season.

'The worst I've ever seen'

Jamie Jenkins, 42, who lives in another hard-hit community, Napakiak, said the storm was "the worst I've ever seen." She described howling winds and fast-rising waters Sunday morning.

Her mother — whose nearby home shifted on its foundation — and a neighbor whose home flooded came over to Jenkins' place. They tried to wait out the storm, she said, but when the waters reached their top stairs, they got in a boat and evacuated to the school.

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Jenkins said “practically the whole community” was there. The men in town gathered their boats and went house to house to pick up anyone else who was still in their homes, she said.

Adaline Pete, who lives in another community, Kotlik, said she had never experienced winds so strong before. An unoccupied house next door flipped over, but she said her family felt safe in their home.

Republican senators support recovery, resilience funds

During a news conference organized by Gov. Mike Dunleavy, Alaska’s two U.S. senators, Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, said they would continue to focus on climate resilience and infrastructure funds for Alaska. Sullivan said it was the congressional delegation’s job to ensure the Trump administration and their colleagues understood the importance of such funds.

Earlier this year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said it would end a program aimed at mitigating disaster risks. The decision is being challenged in court.

Murkowski said erosion mitigation projects take time to complete. “But our reality is, we are seeing these storms coming ... certainly on a more frequent basis, and the intensity that we’re seeing seems to be accumulating as well, and so the time to act on it is now because it’s going to take us some time to get these in place,” she said of such projects.

About 380 people live in Kwigillingok, a predominately Alaska Native community on the western shore of Kuskokwim Bay and near the mouth of the Kuskokwim River. A report prepared for the local tribe in 2022 by the Alaska Institute for Justice said the frequency and severity of flooding in the low-lying region had increased in recent years. The report listed relocation of the community as an urgent need.

Erosion and melting permafrost pose threats to infrastructure and in some cases entire communities in Alaska, which is experiencing the impacts of climate change.

California crews prepare for mudslides

In California, rescue crews with helicopters and bulldozers were being pre-positioned near wildfire burn areas to respond to potential debris flows and mudslides as a major storm takes aim at the state. A flood watch was issued starting late Monday for much of Southern California, where several inches of rain were possible through Tuesday. To the north, up to 3 feet (1 meter) of mountain snow was predicted for parts of the Sierra Nevada.

Intense rain pummels part of Arizona

A microburst and thunderstorm hit the city of Tempe, Arizona, on Monday, dropping about a half-inch of rain within 10 minutes, the National Weather Service said. Weather service meteorologist Katherine Berislavich said a microburst — when a storm collapses on itself and pushes out at high wind speeds — can be mistaken for a tornado because of the damage it can cause.

The storm caused significant damage, including uprooting trees that toppled onto vehicles and buildings, and dropping them on streets and sidewalks. A business complex had its roof torn off, and thousands of homes lost power.

Heavy rain drenched much of the state, inundating parking lots and usually dry washes and leaving residential areas looking like rivers.

SpaceX launches the 11th test flight of its mega Starship rocket with another win

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

SpaceX launched another of its mammoth Starship rockets on a test flight Monday, successfully making it halfway around the world while releasing mock satellites like last time.

Starship — the biggest and most powerful rocket ever built — thundered into the evening sky from the southern tip of Texas. The booster peeled away and made a controlled entry into the Gulf of Mexico as planned, with the spacecraft skimming space before descending into the Indian Ocean. Nothing was recovered.

“Hey, welcome back to Earth, Starship,” SpaceX’s Dan Huot announced as employees cheered. “What a day.”

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It was the 11th test flight for a full-scale Starship, which SpaceX founder and CEO Elon Musk intends to use to send people to Mars. NASA's need is more immediate. The space agency cannot land astronauts on the moon by decade's end without the 403-foot (123-meter) Starship, the reusable vehicle meant to get them from lunar orbit down to the surface and back up.

Instead of remaining inside Launch Control as usual, Musk said that for the first time he was going outside to watch — "much more visceral."

The previous test flight in August — a success after a string of explosive failures — followed a similar path with similar goals. More maneuvering was built in this time, especially for the spacecraft. SpaceX conducted a series of tests during the spacecraft's entry over the Indian Ocean as practice for future landings back at the launch site.

Like before, Starship carried up eight mock satellites mimicking SpaceX's Starlinks. The entire flight lasted just over an hour, originating from Starbase near the Mexican border.

NASA's acting administrator Sean Duffy praised Starship's progress. "Another major step toward landing Americans on the moon's south pole," he said via X.

SpaceX is modifying its Cape Canaveral launch sites to accommodate Starships, in addition to the much smaller Falcon rockets used to transport astronauts and supplies to the International Space Station for NASA.

Egyptian president says Trump's Mideast proposal is 'last chance' for peace in the region

By FAY ABUELGASIM and SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — The Egyptian president told a summit of world leaders Monday that U.S. President Donald Trump's Mideast proposal represents the "last chance" for peace in the region and reiterated his call for a two-state solution, saying Palestinians have the right to an independent state.

The summit in Egypt's Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh was aimed at supporting the ceasefire reached in Gaza, ending the Israel-Hamas war and developing a long-term vision for governing and rebuilding the devastated Palestinian territory.

The gathering appeared designed to rally international support behind the Trump vision for putting an end to the war. Egyptian leader Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, the co-chair of the summit, told Trump "only you" can bring peace to the region.

Trump's plan holds out the possibility of a Palestinian state, but only after a lengthy transition period in Gaza and a reform process by the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opposes Palestinian independence. Trump made no mention of a two-state solution at the summit.

In his own address to the summit, Trump called for a new era of harmony in the Middle East, saying that the region has "a once-in-a-lifetime chance to put the old feuds and bitter hatreds behind us." He urged leaders "to declare that our future will not be ruled by the fights of generations past."

Israel and Hamas came under pressure from the United States, Arab countries and Turkey to agree on the first phase of the ceasefire deal negotiated in Qatar through mediators. It began Friday.

On Monday, Trump, el-Sissi, the Qatari emir and the Turkish president signed a document. Trump said the document spelled out "a lot of rules and regulations and lots of other things, and it's very comprehensive." The document was not shared with journalists in the room or made public.

The summit unfolded soon after Hamas released 20 remaining living Israeli hostages and Israel started to free hundreds of Palestinians from its prisons, crucial steps under the ceasefire. But major questions remain over what happens next, raising the risk of a slide back into war.

More than 20 world leaders attended the summit, including King Abdullah of Jordan, the French president and the British prime minister.

A Turkish government official said Turkey launched "a diplomatic initiative" to prevent Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from attending the meeting, and after other countries backed the effort,

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Netanyahu decided not to come.

The official would not confirm Turkish media reports that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's plane circled over the Red Sea as Erdogan threatened to boycott the meeting and that the plane landed only after it became clear that Netanyahu would not arrive. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government rules.

Earlier, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani had warned Egyptian and U.S. officials that he would withdraw from the summit if Netanyahu attended, according to the state-run Iraqi News Agency.

Netanyahu's office announced that he would not attend, citing a Jewish holiday.

Israel has rejected any role in Gaza for the internationally backed Palestinian Authority, whose leader, Mahmoud Abbas, was in Sharm el-Sheikh.

A new page

El-Sissi's office said the summit aimed to "end the war" in Gaza and "usher in a new page of peace and regional stability" in line with Trump's vision.

Directly tackling the issues in depth was unlikely at the gathering, which lasted only about three hours and was mostly ceremonial. During the summit, world leaders lined up one by one to have their photos taken with Trump, who smiled and gave a thumbs-up to photographers. Then el-Sissi welcomed Trump, invited him to the stage and asked him to join world leaders "who love peace."

Before Trump arrived in Egypt from Israel, Egyptian Air Force jets escorted Air Force One for a spin above the resort.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said the success of Trump's vision for Mideast peace will depend on his continued commitment to the process, including applying pressure to the parties and deploying military forces as part of an international contingent expected to carry out peacekeeping duties in the next phase.

"We need American engagement, even deployment on the ground, to identify the mission, task and mandate of this force," Abdelatty told The Associated Press.

Under the first phase, Israeli troops pulled back from some parts of Gaza, allowing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza to return home from areas they were forced to evacuate. Aid groups are preparing to bring in large quantities of aid kept out of the territory for months.

In separate remarks, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised Trump's efforts to promote peace in several parts of the world. Pakistan, he said, had nominated him for a Nobel Peace Prize for his role in helping ease tensions between India and Pakistan.

Critical challenges ahead

The next phase of the deal will have to tackle disarming Hamas, creating a post-war government for Gaza and handling the extent of Israel's withdrawal from the territory. Trump's plan also stipulates that regional and international partners will work to develop the core of a new Palestinian security force.

Abdelatty said the international force needs a U.N. Security Council resolution to endorse its deployment.

He said Hamas will have no role in the transitional period in Gaza. A 15-member committee of Palestinian technocrats, with no affiliation with any Palestinian factions and vetted by Israel, will govern day to day affairs in Gaza. The committee would receive support and supervision from a "Board of Peace" proposed by Trump to oversee the implementation of the phases of his plan, Abdelatty said.

"We are counting on Trump to keep the implementation of this plan for all its phases," he told AP.

Another major issue is raising funds for rebuilding Gaza. The World Bank, and Egypt's postwar plan, estimate reconstruction and recovery needs in Gaza at \$53 billion. Egypt plans to host an early recovery and reconstruction conference for Gaza in November.

Roles for other countries

Turkey, which hosted Hamas political leaders for years, played a key role in bringing about the ceasefire agreement.

Jordan, alongside Egypt, will train the new Palestinian security force.

Germany, one of Israel's strongest international backers and top suppliers of military equipment, was

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represented by Chancellor Friedrich Merz. He has expressed concern over Israel's conduct of the war and its plan for a military takeover of Gaza.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who also attended, has he said will pledge 20 million British pounds (\$27 million) to help provide water and sanitation for Gaza and that Britain will host a three-day conference on Gaza's reconstruction and recovery.

Iran, a main backer of Hamas, did not attend. The Islamic Republic finds itself at one of its weakest moments since its 1979 revolution. Iranian officials have portrayed the ceasefire deal as a victory for Hamas.

The deal, however, has underlined Iran's waning influence in the region and revived concerns over possible renewed conflict with Israel as Iran struggles to recover from the 12-day war between the two countries in June.

After hostages and prisoners are freed, complex issues remain for Israel-Hamas ceasefire

By MELANIE LIDMAN, SAMY MAGDY and WAFAA SHURFAFA Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel and Hamas moved ahead on a key first step of the tenuous Gaza ceasefire agreement on Monday by freeing hostages and prisoners, raising hopes that the U.S.-brokered deal might lead to a permanent end to the two-year war that ravaged the Palestinian territory.

But thornier issues such as whether Hamas will disarm and who will govern Gaza — and the question of Palestinian statehood — remain unresolved, highlighting the fragility of an agreement that for now only pauses the deadliest conflict in the history of Israel and the Palestinians.

For Israelis, the release of the 20 remaining living hostages brought elation and a sense of closure to a war many felt they were forced into by Hamas, although many pledged to fight on for the return of deceased hostages still in Gaza. But with the living hostages freed, the urgency with which many were driven to call for an end to the war will likely diminish, easing pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to advance the next phases of the agreement.

Four deceased hostages were returned to Israel on Monday, and another 24 are supposed to be turned over as part of the first phase of the ceasefire, which also requires Israel to allow a surge of food and other humanitarian aid into Gaza.

While there was an outburst of joy in Gaza for prisoners returning from Israel and hope that the fighting may wind down for good, the torment drags on for war-weary Palestinians. Gaza has been decimated by Israeli bombardment; there is little left of its prewar economy, basic services are in disarray and many homes have been destroyed. It remains unclear who will pay for reconstruction, a process that could take years.

Israel says the deal achieves its war objectives

U.S. President Donald Trump traveled to the region to celebrate the deal. In an address to Israel's parliament, he urged lawmakers to seize a chance for broader peace in the region. In Egypt, he and other world leaders gathered to set the trickier parts of the deal into motion.

Netanyahu, who according to his office did not join the meeting in Egypt because of a Jewish holiday, told parliament that he was committed to the agreement, saying it "ends the war by achieving all our objectives." Israel had said it would not end the war until all the hostages were freed and Hamas was defeated. Critics accused Netanyahu of allowing the war to drag on for political reasons, which he denied.

The war began with Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack, when militants killed 1,200 people and took 251 captives. Israel's retaliatory campaign killed more than 67,000 people, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not differentiate between combatants and civilians in its count. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government. Its figures are seen as a reliable estimate by the U.N. and many independent experts.

The war has rippled across the Middle East, with conflict erupting between Israel and the Lebanese Hezbollah, Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen and Iran itself.

Israel is elated by the return of the living hostages

Israelis watched with jubilation in public screenings attended by thousands as the 20 living hostages, all male, reunited with their families. Crowds broke into cheers, as tears of joy streamed down relieved faces.

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"You are alive! Two arms and two legs," said Zvika Mor, upon seeing his son Eitan for the first time in two years.

When Bar Kupershtein was reunited with his family, his father, Tal, who uses a wheelchair after a car accident and stroke, fulfilled a promise to himself by standing up for a few minutes to embrace his freed son.

Unlike previous releases, Hamas held no ceremonies for the captives before freeing them. Instead, families received video calls from masked militants who allowed them a first glimpse at their loved ones before they came home.

The plight of the hostages had widespread support in Israel, where thousands would join the families for weekly protests demanding Israel secure their release.

The fate of the hostages was a central driver of a movement in Israel to end the war. Many Israelis viewed Netanyahu's twin goals of freeing the captives and defeating Hamas as incompatible.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said any delay by Hamas in returning the remaining bodies of deceased hostages would be viewed as a violation of the ceasefire deal.

Israel frees some 1,900 Palestinian prisoners

Large crowds greeted freed prisoners in Beitunia in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and in Khan Younis in Gaza. The prisoners flashed V-for-victory signs as they descended from buses that took them either to the West Bank, Gaza or into exile.

"Praise be to God, our Lord, who has honored us with this release and this joy," said Mahmoud Fayez, who was returned to Gaza after being detained early last year in an Israeli raid on the main Shifa Hospital.

The prisoners include 250 people serving life sentences for convictions in attacks on Israelis, in addition to 1,700 seized from Gaza during the war and held without charge.

The fate of the prisoners is a sensitive issue in Palestinian society, where almost everyone knows or is related to someone who has been imprisoned by Israel. They are viewed by Palestinians as freedom fighters.

Trump celebrates the deal in Israel and Egypt

In his Knesset speech, Trump told Israeli lawmakers their country must now work toward peace.

"Israel, with our help, has won all that they can by force of arms," Trump said. "Now it is time to translate these victories against terrorists on the battlefield into the ultimate prize of peace and prosperity for the entire Middle East."

His speech was briefly interrupted when two Knesset members staged a protest and were subsequently removed from the chamber. One held up a small sign reading, "Recognize Palestine."

In Egypt, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Trump attended a summit with leaders from more than 20 countries on the future of Gaza and the broader Middle East. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, who administers parts of the West Bank, also attended.

Despite Trump's optimism, many thorny issues remain

Among the most difficult issues left to resolve is Israel's insistence that a weakened Hamas disarm. Hamas refuses to do that and wants to ensure Israel pulls its troops completely out of Gaza.

So far, the Israeli military has withdrawn from much of Gaza City, the southern city of Khan Younis and other areas. Troops remain in most of the southern city of Rafah, towns of Gaza's far north, and along the length of Gaza's border with Israel.

The future governance of Gaza remains unclear. Under the U.S. plan, an international body will govern the territory, overseeing Palestinian technocrats running day-to-day affairs. Hamas has said Gaza's government should be worked out among Palestinians.

The plan envisions an eventual role for Abbas' Palestinian Authority — something Netanyahu has long opposed — but it requires the authority to undergo reforms.

The plan calls for an Arab-led international security force in Gaza, along with Palestinian police. Israeli forces would leave areas as those forces deploy. About 200 U.S. troops are in Israel to monitor the ceasefire.

The plan also mentions the possibility of a future Palestinian state, another nonstarter for Netanyahu.

4 arrests made in connection with mass shooting that left 6 dead in Mississippi, FBI says

By JEFF MARTIN and HALLIE GOLDEN Associated Press

Three people have been arrested on murder charges and a fourth person on an attempted murder charge in a weekend shooting that left six dead and more than a dozen injured in a small Mississippi town, the FBI announced Monday.

Teviyon L. Powell, 29, William Bryant, 29, and Morgan Lattimore, 25, have been charged with capital murder, while Latoya A. Powell, 44, has been charged with attempted murder in the mass shooting, a spokesperson for the FBI's Jackson Field Office said.

It was not immediately clear whether they have attorneys. The Associated Press left a voicemail with the Washington County Public Defender's Office asking if its attorneys are representing the defendants.

The shooting, which came as people celebrated homecoming weekend in downtown Leland shortly after a high school football game, was the deadliest of several shootings across Mississippi over the weekend. Other shootings were reported at two Mississippi universities on Saturday, as those schools celebrated their homecoming weekends.

Authorities have not disclosed a possible motive for Friday night's shooting in Leland, but the FBI said the gunfire appears to have been "sparked by a disagreement among several individuals." The spokesperson said without elaborating in an email late Monday that "other arrests are pending" as the investigation continues into the shooting in the rural northwest Delta region.

Four of the victims died at the scene, where abandoned shoes were left and blood stained the pavement of a downtown street the following day.

Witness Camish Hopkins described seeing people wounded and bleeding and four people dead on the ground. "It was the most horrific scene I'd ever seen," Hopkins told the AP.

The shooting in Leland was the 14th mass killing in 2025, according to The Associated Press/USA TODAY/Northeastern University Mass Killing Database. The database tracks all homicides in the U.S. since 2006 in which four or more people were killed intentionally within a 24-hour period, not including any offender.

Elsewhere, in the small town of Heidelberg on the east side of the state, the bodies of two people, including a pregnant woman, were found on a high school campus Friday night. That shooting happened the same evening Heidelberg High School played its homecoming football game, according to police and Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves. Police have not said exactly when the gunfire occurred or how close it was to the stadium.

An 18-year-old man was arrested and charged with two counts of murder and illegally having a gun on a school campus in the Heidelberg shooting, Jasper County Jail records show.

Heidelberg, a town of about 640 residents, is about 85 miles (135 kilometers) southeast of the state capital of Jackson.

On Saturday evening, three people also were found with apparent gunshot wounds on the Alcorn State University campus in Claiborne County, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation said. One of the victims died, the agency said. Police found the victims after a call reporting shots fired in the area of the industrial technology building. No arrests were announced.

The shooting happened after a crowd of more than 7,000 watched Alcorn State defeat Lincoln University of Oakland, California, in the Mississippi school's homecoming game Saturday afternoon.

In Jackson, police responded around 7 p.m. Saturday to the tailgating area of Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium, where Jackson State University hosted Alabama State University. A juvenile had been shot in the abdomen and was taken to a hospital, police said. No arrests were announced, and few other details about that shooting were immediately available.

China and the US have long collaborated in 'open research.' Some in Congress say that must change

By DIDI TANG and DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For many years, American and Chinese scholars worked shoulder to shoulder on cutting-edge technologies through open research, where findings are freely shared and accessible to all. But that openness, a long-standing practice celebrated for advancing knowledge, is raising alarms among some U.S. lawmakers.

They are worried that China — now considered the most formidable challenger to American military dominance — is taking advantage of open research to catch up with the U.S. on military technology and even gain an edge. And they are calling for action.

"For far too long, our adversaries have exploited American colleges and universities to advance their interests, while risking our national security and innovation," said Sen. Tom Cotton, an Arkansas Republican and chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee. He has introduced legislation to put new restrictions on federally funded research collaboration with academics at several Chinese institutions that work with the Chinese military, as well as institutions in other countries deemed adversarial to U.S. interests.

The House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party makes it a priority to protect American research, having accused Beijing of weaponizing open research by converting it into a "pipeline of foreign talent and military modernization."

The rising concerns on Capitol Hill threaten to unravel deep, two-generations-old academic ties between the countries even as the world's two largest economies are moving away from each other through tariffs and trade barriers. The relationship has shifted from engagement to competition, if not outright enmity.

"Foreign adversaries are increasingly exploiting the open and collaborative environment of U.S. academic institutions for their own gain," said James Cangialosi, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, which in August issued a bulletin urging universities to do more to protect research from foreign meddling.

The House committee released three reports in September alone. They targeted, respectively, Pentagon-funded research involving military-linked Chinese scholars; joint U.S.-China institutes that train STEM talent for China; and visa policies that have brought military-linked Chinese students to Ph.D. programs at American universities. The reports recommend more legislation to protect U.S. research, tighter visa policies to vet Chinese students and scholars and an end to academic partnerships that could be exploited to boost China's military powers.

Deep ties between Chinese and US research

More than 500 U.S. universities and institutes have collaborated with Chinese military researchers in recent years, helping Beijing develop advanced technologies with military applications, such as anti-jamming communications and hypersonic vehicles, according to a report by the private U.S. intelligence group Strider Technologies.

Despite efforts in recent years by the U.S. government to set up guardrails to prevent such collaboration from boosting China's military capabilities, the practice is still prevalent, according to Strider, based in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The report identified nearly 2,500 publications produced in collaboration between U.S. entities and Chinese military-affiliated research institutes in 2024 on STEM research, which includes physics, engineering, material science, computer science, biology, medicine and geology. While the number peaked at more than 3,500 in 2019, before some new restrictive measures came into effect, the level of collaboration remains high, the report said.

This collaboration not only facilitates "potential illicit knowledge transfer," but supports China's "state-directed efforts to recruit top international talent, often to the detriment of U.S. national interests," the report said.

Foreign countries can exploit American research by stealing secrets for use in military and commercial settings, by poaching talented researchers for foreign companies and universities and by recruiting stu-

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dents and researchers as potential spies, authorities say.

Fostering a climate of robust academic research takes funding and long-term support. Stealing the fruits of that labor, however, can be as easy as hacking into a university network, hiring away researchers or coopting the research itself. That's why, authorities say, it's so tempting for American adversaries looking to take advantage of U.S. institutions and research.

The most recent threat assessment report from the Department of Homeland Security highlights concerns that American adversaries — and China specifically — seek to illicitly acquire U.S. technology. Authorities say China aims to steal military and computing technology that might give the U.S. an advantage, as well as the latest commercial innovations.

Industry seeks a balance

Abigail Coplin, assistant professor of sociology and science, technology and society at Vassar College, said there are already guardrails for federally funded research to protect classified information and anything deemed sensitive.

She also said open research goes both ways, benefiting the U.S. as well, and restrictions could be counterproductive by driving away talents.

"American national security interests and economic competitiveness would be better served by continuing — if not increasing — research funding than they are by implementing costly research restrictions," Coplin said.

Arnie Bellini, a tech entrepreneur and investor, also said efforts to protect U.S. research risk stifling progress if they go too far and prevent U.S. colleges or startups from sharing information about new and emerging technology. Keeping up with China will also require big investments in efforts to protect innovation, said Bellini, who recently donated \$40 million to establish a new cybersecurity and AI research college at the University of South Florida.

Bellini said it's imperative to encourage research and development without giving secrets away to America's enemies. "In the U.S., it is a reality now that our digital borders are under siege — and businesses of every size are right to be concerned," Bellini said.

According to Department of Justice figures, about 80% of all economic espionage cases prosecuted in the U.S. involve alleged acts that would benefit China.

Some members of Congress have pushed to reinstate a Department of Justice program created during the first Trump administration that sought to investigate Chinese intellectual espionage. The so-called "China Initiative" ended in 2022 after critics said it failed to address the problem even as it perpetrated racist stereotypes about Asian American academics.

Despite momentous ceasefire, the path for lasting peace and rebuilding in Gaza is precipitous

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On Monday, the fragile ceasefire in Gaza led to freedom for Israeli hostages and the release of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. It was the culmination of a long and tortuous process — but it may, in the end, have been the easier part.

The coming weeks, months and years will require more than just rebuilding from the devastation that has left much of Gaza in ruins. Key details of the peace plan may remain unsettled. Granular details will need to be negotiated to keep the plan moving forward and prevent the resumption of fighting. The path to long-term peace, stability and eventual rebuilding will be a long and very precipitous route.

"The first steps to peace are always the hardest," President Donald Trump said as he stood with foreign leaders in Egypt on Monday for a summit on Gaza's future. He hailed the ceasefire deal he brokered between Israel and Hamas as the end of the war in Gaza — and start of rebuilding the devastated territory.

And while Trump expressed optimism that the most challenging part was over — "Rebuilding is maybe going to be the easiest part. I think we've done a lot of the hardest part because the rest comes together" — others were more tentative about the intricacies that lie ahead.

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"Peace has to start somewhere," said Mona Yacoubian, director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. She called it an important and "euphoric moment."

But, Yacoubian warned, "Unfortunately, I think there are several potential points of failure going forward."

Lots of things still must be resolved

As publicly presented, the plan brims with unanswered questions.

How and when Hamas is to disarm, and where its arms will go, are unclear, as are plans for Israel's withdrawal from Gaza. A new security force is to be established for Gaza, made up of troops from other nations, but it is not known which countries will send forces, how they will be used and what happens if they encounter resistance. It's also not clear who will staff a temporary governing board for Gaza, where it will be located and how the population will respond.

To settle those details and keep fighting from returning, the United States and other nations that pushed to reach the ceasefire must continue to exert pressure and devote attention, experts say.

All of that is layered atop a legacy of conflict, deep distrust among the sides and a vague, conditional possibility of an eventual Palestinian state — an issue that has been a core sticking point for decades. "When you realize how far things have to go for that current pause to be sustained, that's where I think it does become very daunting," Yacoubian said.

Since the war began with Hamas' attacks on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, two other ceasefires have come and gone without any progress beyond temporary pauses in fighting and limited exchanges of hostages and prisoners. With Hamas demanding a permanent halt to the fighting and Israel demanding the release of all hostages, talks on postwar arrangements never got off the ground. Those positions began to change after Trump's reelection as he leveraged his power and relationships — both with Israel and Arab mediators with sway over Hamas — to push things forward.

Reasons for skepticism are multiple

Despite the enthusiasm for this latest deal, there are reasons for skepticism, not least of which being that U.S. attempts to bring about an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have failed for decades.

Starting with the 1991 Madrid Conference and moving through various iterations — including the landmark Oslo Accords in 1993 and 1995, which created the Palestinian Authority — all the efforts to restart the process through 2014 collapsed.

Lucy Kurtzer-Ellenbogen, a senior fellow with the Middle East Institute, said the current ceasefire is "a welcome and meaningful but fragile pause." Now, she said, it's a question of "whether or not it fully collapses and just serves as a chance for both sides to regroup, rather than a launching pad for progress on these issues. That's going to depend on President Trump and the other actors he's coordinating with staying with it."

In the peace proposal brokered by the Trump administration, it remains unclear to what degree agreements have been reached on two of the biggest sticking points: the extent of Israel's withdrawal and the extent of Hamas' retreat from power. Israel remains in control of roughly half of Gaza.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was careful Monday to say he is "committed" to Trump's peace plan, but he has not declared the war over. Over the past two years he repeatedly vowed to achieve "total victory" over Hamas.

Hamas, while weakened after two years of war, is far from being out of governance and fully disarmed as Netanyahu sought. He relies on hardline coalition partners that oppose an end to the war, and by declaring it over, Netanyahu could see his government crumble and be forced into an early election at a time when his popularity remains low and his war goals unfulfilled. The next election is scheduled next October.

It also remains unclear who will oversee it all on a so-called "Board of Peace," which Trump said he will chair. Despite Trump's plan announcing that former British Prime Minister Tony Blair would help head the board, the president on Sunday made that sound tentative, too. The Palestinians have expressed displeasure over Blair's possible involvement.

"I like Tony. I've always liked Tony, but I want to find out that he's an acceptable choice to everybody," Trump told reporters as he flew to Israel.

What's left to clean up is devastation

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Settling all those details comes against the backdrop of the Gaza Strip needing "massive rehabilitation," Kurtzer-Ellenbogen said, and a population that has undergone unremitting physical and psychological trauma.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed. More than 90% of Gaza's population of more than 2 million people is displaced. The medical system is shattered. Homes and buildings are flattened. Croplands are razed. Hunger is pervasive.

Those urgent needs will need to be addressed while simultaneously standing up the transitional security and government systems. "There's really no luxury of sequencing here," Kurtzer-Ellenbogen said. "Everything has to happen all at once."

The World Bank, the United Nations and the European Union estimated earlier this year that the cost of rebuilding Gaza would be about \$53 billion. Wealthy Arab states are expected to help with that cost, but that buy-in is expected to be met by reassurances that there will be a pathway to Palestinian independence and there will not be a return to fighting. The biggest sticking point is a Palestinian state, which Trump's plan holds out as a possibility only after a lengthy transition period in Gaza and reform process for the Palestinian Authority. It's something Netanyahu and his partners oppose.

Yacoubian said the agreement struck by Trump's administration seemed "purposely very vague" on the issue of Palestinian statehood. It seemed designed, she said, to "thread the needle between the minimum that the Palestinians and their Arab supporters will accept" without mentioning a "two-state solution," which seems to remain a nonstarter for Israel.

On his way back to the U.S. on Monday night, Trump pushed aside questions about an independent Palestinian state and told reporters that was separate from his plan for rebuilding Gaza.

"A lot of people like the one-state solution. Some people like the two-state solution. We'll have to see," Trump said.

He went on and added: "At some point I'll decide what I think is right, but I'd be in coordination with other states and other countries."

Robert Wood, the deputy U.S. ambassador to the United Nations during the Biden administration, cast several vetoes on U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for immediate ceasefires in Gaza. He said the next phase is going to be difficult and "is going to require a tremendous amount of work."

"The administration needs to stay engaged, particularly at the highest levels, if this has a chance of working," Wood said. "It's a good day, but the war isn't over yet."

Trump urges leaders to put 'old feuds' aside as he calls for a new era of harmony in the Middle East

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — President Donald Trump called for a new era of harmony in the Middle East on Monday during a global summit on Gaza's future, trying to advance broader peace in the region after visiting Israel to celebrate a U.S.-brokered ceasefire with Hamas.

"We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to put the old feuds and bitter hatreds behind us," Trump said, and he urged leaders "to declare that our future will not be ruled by the fights of generations past."

The whirlwind trip, which included the summit in Egypt and a speech at the Knesset in Jerusalem earlier in the day, comes at a fragile moment of hope for ending two years of war between Israel and Hamas.

"Everybody said it's not possible to do. And it's going to happen. And it is happening before your very eyes," Trump said alongside Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi.

Nearly three dozen countries, including some from Europe and the Middle East, were represented at the summit. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was invited but declined, with his office saying it was too close to a Jewish holiday.

Trump, el-Sissi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani signed a document outlining a broad vision that Trump said would lay the groundwork for Gaza's future.

Despite unanswered questions about next steps in the Palestinian enclave, which has been devastated

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during the conflict, Trump is determined to seize an opportunity to chase an elusive regional harmony.

He expressed a similar sense of finality about the Israel-Hamas war in his speech at the Knesset, which welcomed him as a hero.

"You've won," he told Israeli lawmakers. "Now it is time to translate these victories against terrorists on the battlefield into the ultimate prize of peace and prosperity for the entire Middle East."

Trump promised to help rebuild Gaza, and he urged Palestinians to "turn forever from the path of terror and violence."

"After tremendous pain and death and hardship," he said, "now is the time to concentrate on building their people up instead of trying to tear Israel down."

Trump even made a gesture to Iran, where he bombed three nuclear sites during the country's brief war with Israel earlier this year, by saying "the hand of friendship and cooperation is always open."

Trump's whirlwind trip

Trump arrived in Egypt hours late because speeches at the Knesset continued longer than expected.

"They might not be there by the time I get there, but we'll give it a shot," Trump joked after needling Israeli leaders for talking so much.

Twenty hostages were released Monday as part of an agreement intended to end the war that began on Oct. 7, 2023, with an attack by Hamas-led militants. Trump talked with some of their families at the Knesset.

"Your name will be remembered to generations," a woman told him.

Israeli lawmakers chanted Trump's name and gave him standing ovation after standing ovation. Some people in the audience wore red hats that resembled his "Make America Great Again" caps, although these versions said "Trump, The Peace President."

Netanyahu hailed Trump as "the greatest friend Israel has ever had in the White House," and he promised to work with him going forward.

"Mr. President, you are committed to this peace. I am committed to this peace," he said. "And together, Mr. President, we will achieve this peace."

Trump, in an unexpected detour during his speech, called on the Israeli president to pardon Netanyahu, whom he described as "one of the greatest" wartime leaders. Netanyahu faces corruption charges, although several hearings have been postponed during the conflict with Hamas.

The Republican president also used the opportunity to settle political scores and thank his supporters, criticizing Democratic predecessors and praising a top donor, Miriam Adelson, in the audience.

Trump pushes to reshape the region

The moment remains fragile, with Israel and Hamas still in the early stages of implementing the first phase of Trump's plan.

The first phase of the ceasefire agreement calls for the release of the final hostages held by Hamas; the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel; a surge of humanitarian aid to Gaza; and a partial pullback by Israeli forces from Gaza's main cities.

Trump has said there's a window to reshape the region and reset long-fraught relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

"The war is over, OK?" Trump told reporters traveling with him aboard Air Force One.

"I think people are tired of it," he said, emphasizing that he believed the ceasefire would hold because of that.

He said the chance of peace was enabled by his Republican administration's support of Israel's decimation of Iranian proxies, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The White House said momentum is also building because Arab and Muslim states are demonstrating a renewed focus on resolving the broader, decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict and, in some cases, deepening relations with the United States.

In February, Trump had predicted that Gaza could be redeveloped into what he called "the Riviera of the Middle East." But on Sunday aboard Air Force One, he was more circumspect.

"I don't know about the Riviera for a while," Trump said. "It's blasted. This is like a demolition site." But he said he hoped to one day visit the territory. "I'd like to put my feet on it, at least," he said.

The sides have not agreed on Gaza's postwar governance, the territory's reconstruction and Israel's demand that Hamas disarm. Negotiations over those issues could break down, and Israel has hinted it may resume military operations if its demands are not met.

Much of Gaza has been reduced to rubble, and the territory's roughly 2 million residents continue to struggle in desperate conditions. Under the deal, Israel agreed to reopen five border crossings, which will help ease the flow of food and other supplies into Gaza, parts of which are experiencing famine.

Roughly 200 U.S. troops will help support and monitor the ceasefire deal as part of a team that includes partner nations, nongovernmental organizations and private-sector players.

What to know about the historic Black community rocked by a mass shooting on Sunday

By SAFIYAH RIDDLE ASSOCIATED PRESS/Report For America

A mass shooting that killed four and left several others injured on Sunday took place on a small island off the coast of South Carolina where a historic Black community has lived for generations.

Here is what to know about the community where the bar was located as investigators search for "persons of interest."

Largest Gullah community in America

The shooting early Sunday morning took place on St. Helena Island, an idyllic 140 square mile (363 kilometer) island off the coast of South Carolina that is home to the largest Gullah community in the country.

The Gullah, called Geechee in some regions, descend from Africans who were enslaved and brought to the coastal region of the southeast, where they were forced to work on mostly rice plantations. After the Civil War and Emancipation, some Gullah were able to scrimp and save enough to buy land. There are Gullah populations from North Carolina to Florida.

Scholars say the Gullah's separation from the mainland allowed them to retain much of their African heritage.

That includes a distinct language that goes back centuries. The language is a blend of various African languages and English, and served as a way for enslaved people to communicate without slaveowners understanding.

The language, spoken by an estimated 10,000 people, according to the Charleston Public Library, is one of the only distinctly African creole languages in the United States.

The Gullah also have a unique style of food, music and crafts, such as cast-net fishing and basket weaving, that all have distinct roots in African cultures.

Gullah food and music in particular are believed to have significant influence on Black culture in general across the region.

Reunion at restaurant with Gullah-style cuisine

Approximately 5,000 Gullah people live on St. Helena island, according to Census data.

The shooting took place at a restaurant called "Willie's Bar and Grill," which serves authentic Gullah-inspired cuisine such as shrimp and grits, traditional bone and wings and southern battered fish.

The restaurant describes itself on its website as "not just a restaurant but a community pillar committed to giving back, especially to our youth."

Many packed into the bar on Saturday night to attend a high school reunion for alumni of the nearby Battery Creek High School, according to bar owner Willie Tural, who was in attendance when the shooting happened.

The shooting comes on the heels of years of challenges — ranging from hurricanes, aging infrastructure and court battles about real estate development — that have threatened efforts to preserve Gullah culture.

Dallas ICE facility shooter feared radiation exposure and practiced shooting, records show

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and JACK BROOK Associated Press/Report for America

The parents of the 29-year-old gunman who opened fire on a Dallas immigration facility in September told police their son was "completely normal" before he moved to Washington state and returned home several years ago believing he had radiation sickness, according to newly released records.

Joshua Jahn had begun wearing cotton gloves to avoid contact with plastic and practiced target shooting with a newly purchased rifle in Oklahoma a month before the deadly rooftop attack on a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building, according to a report written by a Fairview Police Department officer.

Jahn killed two detainees and wounded another before taking his own life in the Sept. 24 shooting.

The records, obtained by The Associated Press through an open records request, reveal no clues about what may have motivated the attack. Federal authorities said previously that Jahn wrote "ANTI-ICE" on a bullet and left handwritten notes indicating he wanted to ambush and terrorize ICE agents.

The new records show that on the day of the shooting, Jahn's parents told the FBI he would "occasionally discuss current events" with his mother but rarely engaged in conversations. His parents said he was a "loner" who was "obsessed" with artificial intelligence technology. The parents, Andrew and Sharon Jahn, did not immediately respond Monday to text and phone messages from the AP.

The documents portray Jahn as an unemployed, friendless young man who had withdrawn into playing computer games in his bedroom at his parents' home in a Dallas suburb. Jahn was not diagnosed with or treated for any mental or physical disorders, his parents said.

Neither the police nor FBI immediately responded to a request for comment. The FBI said only that because of the government shutdown it was focused on national security, violations of federal law, and essential public safety functions.

Parents noticed changes after a move back to Texas

Jahn had been "completely normal" until he moved back from Washington state in the past five years, his parents said. He had previously taken classes at a Texas community college on and off for years, before driving across the country to answer an online advertisement for a seasonal job harvesting marijuana at a legal cannabis farm in Washington. Jahn appeared directionless and slept in his car for months, the farm's owner Ryan Sanderson previously told the AP.

After returning from Washington because he could not retain a job, Jahn's parents told the FBI he believed he was "allergic to plastic" and sought to avoid direct skin contact with the material. The county where he worked in Washington state was one of the sites for the secret Manhattan Project to develop atomic bombs. And they said their son became convinced that while in Washington, he had been "exposed to radiation from a nearby facility and was suffering from radiation sickness."

Photographs from the scene of the shooting show a car affixed with a map depicting radioactive fallout in the U.S.

Records suggest his family life was far from harmonious. Jahn's father had put pressure on his older brother to find a job or join the military after high school, and his mother called the police when the brother failed to show up to a meeting with an Army recruiter to sign enlistment papers in 2014, police records show.

Jahn's mother called police on his sister one morning when she slept in rather than go to high school, moving out of the home for weeks as a teenager and once spray painting an expletive on the driveway of the family's home.

But the Jahns financially supported Joshua, their youngest son, as he stayed in his second-floor bedroom and played computer games.

Practice shooting in Oklahoma

About a month before Jahn attacked the ICE facility, he went with his father to practice shooting at their property in Durant, Oklahoma, where they are building a new home. While Jahn's father owned several guns, he was surprised to see his son pull an "old rifle" out of his car. Jahn told his father he had "recently" purchased the gun online, police records show.

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According to the records, his mother told the FBI she had “no idea” her son owned a gun.

The FBI said previously that Jahn legally obtained the bolt-action rifle used in the shooting. But police records don’t say whether that was the gun Jahn used while target shooting.

Analysts with the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, which focuses on hate and extremism, working as part of a program organized by the Center for Internet Security, said it found that Jahn played games online under the username “Frank Hoenniker.” The username is apparently a misspelled reference to a cold and calculating character in author Kurt Vonnegut’s 1963 satirical novel, “Cat’s Cradle,” about politics, religion and nuclear proliferation.

Steam, a game distribution platform, shows Jahn logged more than 11,000 hours on first-person shooter and survival games.

Government shutdown could be the longest ever, House Speaker Johnson warns

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson predicted Monday the federal government shutdown may become the longest in history, saying he “won’t negotiate” with Democrats until they hit pause on their health care demands and reopen.

Standing alone at the Capitol on the 13th day of the shutdown, the speaker said he was unaware of the details of the thousands of federal workers being fired by the Trump administration. It’s a highly unusual mass layoff widely seen as way to seize on the shutdown to reduce the scope of government. Vice President JD Vance has warned of “painful” cuts ahead, even as employee unions sue.

“We’re barreling toward one of the longest shutdowns in American history,” Johnson of Louisiana said.

With no endgame in sight, the shutdown is expected to roll on for the unforeseeable future. The closure has halted routine government operations, shuttered Smithsonian museums and other landmark cultural institutions and left airports scrambling with flight disruptions, all injecting more uncertainty into an already precarious economy.

The House is out of legislative session, with Johnson refusing to recall lawmakers back to Washington, while the Senate, closed Monday for the federal holiday, will return to work Tuesday. But senators are stuck in a cul-de-sac of failed votes as Democrats refuse to relent on their health care demands.

Johnson thanked President Donald Trump for ensuring military personnel are paid this week, which removed one main pressure point that may have pushed the parties to the negotiating table. The Coast Guard is also receiving pay, a senior administration official confirmed Monday. The official insisted on anonymity to discuss plans that have yet to be formally rolled out.

At its core, the shutdown is a debate over health care policy — particularly the Affordable Care Act subsidies that are expiring for millions of Americans who rely on government aid to purchase their own health insurance policies on the Obamacare exchanges. Democrats demand the subsidies be extended, but Republicans argue the issue can be dealt with later.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said with Republicans having essentially shut down the chamber now for a fourth week, no real negotiations are underway. They’re “nowhere to be found,” he said on MSNBC.

With Congress and the White House stalemated, some are eyeing the end of the month as the next potential deadline to reopen government.

Open enrollment begins Nov. 1 for the health program at issue, and Americans will face the prospect of skyrocketing insurance premiums. The Kaiser Family Foundation has estimated that monthly costs would double if Congress fails to renew the subsidy payments that expire Dec. 31.

At the end of October, government workers on monthly pay schedules, including thousands of House aides, will go without paychecks.

A persistent issue

The health care debate has dogged Congress ever since the Affordable Care Act became law under

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then-President Barack Obama in 2010.

The country went through a 16-day government shutdown during the Obama presidency when Republicans tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act in 2013.

Trump tried to "repeal and replace" the law, commonly known as Obamacare, during his first term, in 2017, with a Republican majority in the House and Senate. That effort failed when then-Sen. John McCain memorably voted thumbs-down on the plan.

With 24 million now enrolled in Obamacare, a record, Johnson said Monday that Republicans are unlikely to go that route again, noting he still has "PTSD" from that botched moment.

"Can we completely repeal and replace Obamacare? Many of us are skeptical about that now because the roots are so deep," Johnson said.

The Republican speaker insists his party has been willing to discuss the health care issue with Democrats this fall, before the subsidies expire at the end of the year. But first, he said, Democrats have to agree to reopen the government.

The longest shutdown, during Trump's first term over his demands for funds to build the U.S.-Mexico border wall, ended in 2019 after 35 days.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration is exercising vast leeway both to fire workers — drawing complaints from fellow Republicans and lawsuits from employee unions — and to determine who is paid.

That means not only military troops but other Trump administration priorities don't necessarily have to go without pay, thanks to the various other funding sources as well as the billions made available in Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which is now law.

The Pentagon said over the weekend it was able to tap \$8 billion in unused research and development funds to pay the military personnel. They had risked missed paychecks on Wednesday. But the Education Department is among those being hard hit, disrupting special education, after-school programs and others.

"The Administration also could decide to use mandatory funding provided in the 2025 reconciliation act or other sources of mandatory funding to continue activities financed by those direct appropriations at various agencies," according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The CBO had cited the departments of Defense, Treasury and Homeland Security and the Office of Management and Budget as among those that received specific funds under the law.

"Some of the funds in DoD's direct appropriation under the 2025 reconciliation act could be used to pay active-duty personnel during a shutdown, thus reducing the number of excepted workers who would receive delayed compensation," CBO wrote in a letter responding to questions raised by Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa.

North Carolina GOP announce plans to vote on new House map amid nationwide redistricting battle

By GARY D. ROBERTSON Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina Republican legislative leaders announced plans Monday to vote next week on redrawing the state's U.S. House district map, taking up President Donald Trump's call to secure more GOP seats nationwide and resist rival moves by Democrats.

The push to retool already right-leaning boundaries for the ninth-largest state comes amid a major party battle spanning several states to revamp district lines to partisan advantage ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

North Carolina Republicans created a map in 2023 that resulted in GOP candidates winning 10 of the state's 14 U.S. House seats in 2024. That compared to a 7-7 seat split between Democrats and the GOP under the map used in 2022.

Now only one of the House districts — the 1st District currently represented by Democratic Rep. Don Davis — is considered a true swing district and could be targeted by the GOP for an 11th seat. Davis won a second term last year by less than 2 percentage points, so shifting slightly portions of the district covering more than 20 northeastern counties could help a Republican candidate in a strong GOP year. But it could weaken districts held by GOP incumbents.

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The state's top Republican legislators said their planned action follows Trump's "call urging legislatures across the country to take action to nullify Democrat redistricting efforts." Davis wasn't mentioned by name in their news release.

Trump "earned a clear mandate from the voters of North Carolina and the rest of the country, and we intend to defend it by drawing an additional Republican Congressional seat," House Speaker Destin Hall said in the release. Trump has won North Carolina's electoral votes all three times that he's been on the presidential ballot.

But state House Democratic leader Robert Reives said Monday his GOP colleagues "are stealing a congressional district in order to shield themselves from accountability at the ballot box."

Redistricting fight started in Texas, then spread

Trump kickstarted the national redistricting battle over the summer by urging Republican-led Texas to reshape its U.S. House districts so the GOP could win more seats next year. After overcoming a Democratic walkout, Texas lawmakers redrew the districts to give Republicans a shot at five more seats.

California Democrats reciprocated by passing their own redistricting plan aimed at helping their party win five additional seats, a plan needing voter approval in November to be implemented.

And lawmakers in Republican-led Missouri have approved revised U.S. House districts intended to help Republicans pick up an additional seat there. Other states also are considering redistricting, including Republican-led Indiana and Kansas.

Some North Carolina GOP lawmakers focused complaints Monday on California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who advanced his state's redistricting effort.

"Picking up where Texas left off, we will hold votes in our October session to redraw North Carolina's congressional map to ensure Gavin Newsom doesn't decide the congressional majority," Senate leader Phil Berger said.

Responding on X, Newsom called Berger "another lap dog Republican" and accused the GOP of "rigging elections and trying to cover it up with lies."

Democratic governor lacks veto power on district lines

North Carolina lawmakers already had planned for a multiday session starting Oct. 20. Republicans hold majorities in both General Assembly chambers and redistricting plans aren't subject to Democratic Gov. Josh Stein's veto stamp. Candidate filing for 2026 is supposed to begin Dec. 1.

Addressing voters, Stein said in a statement that "shameless politicians are abusing their power to take away yours" with a redraw.

An intensely competitive midterm election looms in which Democrats need to gain just three seats to take control of the House. The president's party historically has lost seats in midterm elections, something Trump is trying to avoid. A Democratic takeover could impede Trump's agenda and lead to investigations of his actions, as occurred during his first term in office.

Litigation could alter, derail some map changes

If and how North Carolina legislators create a more favorable redraw may depend on pending litigation filed by the state NAACP, Common Cause and voters challenging several current congressional districts, including the one represented by Davis, one of three Black representatives from North Carolina. The plaintiffs accuse Republican lawmakers of racially discriminating against Black voters by splitting or packing their voting blocs to help GOP candidates win. The trial ended in July without an immediate ruling.

U.S. House districts typically are redrawn once a decade, 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.

Opponents have filed lawsuits alleging Texas' latest redistricting unconstitutionally dilutes the votes of minority residents and that Missouri's mid-decade redistricting isn't allowed under the state constitution. Meanwhile, Utah's Republican-led Legislature recently endorsed an altered congressional map — though in response to a court order, not Trump's demands.

Authorities name the 16 killed in Tennessee plant blast, with a painstaking investigation promised

By JONATHAN MATTISE and OBED LAMY Associated Press

McEWEN, Tenn. (AP) — Authorities on Monday identified the 16 people killed in a devastating blast at a rural Tennessee explosives plant last week, as investigators promised a painstaking process to figure out what happened by tracking down pieces of evidence that may now be miles apart.

At a news conference, Humphreys County Sheriff Chris Davis said people in the tight-knit community probably at least knew relatives of the victims killed in the explosion Friday at the plant owned by Accurate Energetic Systems. The company supplies and researches explosives for the military and is a well-known employer in the area.

"It's just small county, rural America, where everybody knows each other and everybody's gonna take care of each other," Davis said.

Victims mourned

Even as people turned to Sunday worship services to process their grief, one congregation was mourning the loss of their pastor in the explosion.

Trent Stewart was the pastor at The Log Church in Waverly, where Sunday school and worship was canceled this weekend and replaced with a time of prayer in the sanctuary, the church's associate pastor, Charlie Musick, posted on social media.

The church hosted a "packed out house" Sunday, Stewart's fiancée, Katy Stover, said on social media.

"I know this would have absolutely thrilled Trent," she wrote. "We appreciate everyone who came and we hope everyone will join us again next Sunday. It brought a smile to my face and tears to my eyes to see how many people showed up to honor Trent and all the other families."

She wrote in a prior post that Stewart made her "laugh until I couldn't breathe and he was truly my best friend, my soulmate, and my person."

Reyna Gillahan, another victim, had dreamed of paying off her home and keeping it in the family, so her daughter, Rosalina Gillahan, began fundraising after the explosion. It was one of several fundraisers for families who lost loved ones.

"She was a beautiful soul — loving, strong, and always thinking of others before herself," Rosalina Gillahan posted on social media about her mother.

The sheriffs of Humphreys and Hickman counties read off the names of the victims at Monday's news conference. The others were: Jason Adams; Billy Baker; Christopher Clark; James Cook; LaTeisha Mays; Melinda Rainey; Steven Wright; Erick Anderson; Adam Boatman; Mindy Clifton; Jeremy Moore; Melissa Stafford; Rachel Woodall; and Donald Yowell.

The task to investigate the cause

The initial blast was felt for more than 20 miles (32 kilometers), leaving a smoldering wreck of twisted and charred metal and burned-out vehicles at the plant. Authorities said there were no survivors.

Authorities said they are working to clear the area of hazards, including explosives, and to identify remains.

Once the area is clear, authorities can start investigating what caused the explosion, said Matthew Belew, acting special agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Some of the relevant evidence is spread out over miles, Belew said.

"It's almost like putting a puzzle back together," Belew said. "We have worked closely with AES to know to look at pictures, look at blueprints, any of the identifying things that were in the building. And then we slowly methodically start to put some of that stuff together."

Company has big presence in rural area

Accurate Energetic Systems' 1,300-acre (526-hectare) complex in a heavily wooded area of middle Tennessee is made up of eight different specialized production buildings and a lab. It straddles the Hickman and Humphreys county line in unincorporated Bucksport, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) southwest of Nashville. It employs 115 people, according to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

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An entry level job at Accurate Energetic Systems pays between \$19 and \$21 an hour depending on which shift a worker is on, according to a job ad the company posted last month. The jobs require only a high school diploma and some mechanical aptitude, making them better paid than jobs with similar education requirements.

Vincent Coates, who is a deacon at the Maple Valley Baptist Church about three miles from the explosion, said he's always heard good things about working at Accurate.

Most people who live in the area must drive to another town for work, so the company was a good option, he said.

"If you don't want to travel very far, that was one of the better paying jobs that was pretty close and be able to stay within driving distance of the house. And not have to spend 45 minutes on the interstate getting to Franklin or an hour getting to Nashville," Coates said.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss said avoiding a long commute would have made the job more attractive, plus the pay may have been higher because of the nature of the work.

"When you put it all together, those jobs were pretty desirable in the sense that those workers should have been compensated for the danger there," Goss said.

Madagascar's president says he fled the country in fear for his life after military rebellion

By SARAH TETAUD and GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (AP) — Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina said he has fled the country in fear for his life following a military rebellion but did not announce his resignation in a speech broadcast on social media late Monday from an undisclosed location.

Rajoelina has faced weeks of Gen Z-led anti-government protests, which reached a pivotal point on Saturday when an elite military unit joined the protests and called for the president and other government ministers to step down. That prompted Rajoelina to say that an illegal attempt to seize power was underway in the Indian Ocean island and leave the country.

"I was forced to find a safe place to protect my life," Rajoelina said in his late-night speech, which was also meant to be shown on Madagascar television but was delayed for hours after soldiers attempted to take control of the state broadcaster buildings, according to the president's office.

The speech was ultimately broadcast on the presidency's official Facebook page but not on national TV.

They were Rajoelina's first public comments since the CAPSAT military unit turned against his government in an apparent coup and joined thousands of protesters rallying in a main square in the capital, Antananarivo, over the weekend.

Rajoelina called for dialogue "to find a way out of this situation" and said the constitution should be respected. He did not say how he left Madagascar or where he was, but a report claimed he was flown out of the country on a French military plane.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesperson declined to comment on that report.

Madagascar is a former French colony and Rajoelina reportedly has French citizenship, which has been a source of discontent for some Madagascans for years.

The anti-government protests began on Sept. 25 over chronic water and electricity outages but have snowballed into wider discontent with Rajoelina and his government.

It is the most significant unrest in the island nation of 31 million people off the east coast of Africa since Rajoelina himself first came to power as the leader of a transitional government following a 2009 military-backed coup.

The same elite CAPSAT military unit that rebelled against Rajoelina was prominent in him first coming to power in 2009.

Elite unit claims to control the military

Rajoelina hasn't identified who was behind this attempted coup, but the CAPSAT unit has said it now

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controls all the armed forces in Madagascar and has appointed a new officer in charge of the military, which was accepted by the defense minister in Rajoelina's absence.

CAPSAT appears to be in a position of authority and also has the backing of other military units, including the gendarmerie security forces.

A commander of CAPSAT, Col. Michael Randrianirina, said the army had "responded to the people's calls" but denied there was a coup. Speaking at the country's military headquarters on Sunday, he told reporters that it was up to the Madagascan people to decide what happens next, and if Rajoelina leaves power and a new election is held.

Randrianirina said his soldiers had decided to stand with protesters and had exchanged gunfire with security forces who were attempting to quell weekend protests, and one of his soldiers was killed. But there was no major fighting on the streets, and soldiers riding on armored vehicles and waving Madagascar flags were cheered by people in Antananarivo.

The U.S. Embassy in Madagascar still advised American citizens to shelter in place because of a "highly volatile and unpredictable" situation. The African Union urged all parties, "both civilian and military, to exercise calm and restraint."

Weeks of protests

Madagascar has been shaken by three weeks of deadly anti-government protests that were initially led by a group calling itself "Gen Z Madagascar."

The United Nations says the demonstrations left at least 22 people dead and dozens injured and criticized Madagascan authorities for a "violent response" to what were largely peaceful protests in the early days of the movement. The government has disputed the number of deaths.

The demonstrators have brought up a range of issues, including poverty and the cost of living, access to tertiary education, and alleged corruption and embezzlement of public funds by government officials, as well as their families and associates.

Civic groups and trade unions also joined the protests, which resulted in nighttime curfews being enforced in Antananarivo and other major cities. Curfews were still in effect in Antananarivo and the northern port city of Antsiranana.

The Gen Z protesters who started the uprising have mobilized over the internet and say they were inspired by the protests that toppled governments in Nepal and Sri Lanka.

History of political crises

Madagascar has had several leaders removed in coups and has a history of political crises since it gained independence from France in 1960.

The 51-year-old Rajoelina first came to prominence as the leader of a transitional government following the 2009 coup that forced then-President Marc Ravalomanana to flee the country and lose power. Rajoelina was elected president in 2018 and reelected in 2023 in a vote boycotted by opposition parties.

Madagascar's former prime minister under Rajoelina and one of the president's closest advisers have also fled the country and arrived in the nearby island of Mauritius in the predawn hours Sunday, the Mauritian government said. Mauritius said it was "not satisfied" that the private plane had landed on its territory.

This is why the story of Abraham is coming up in the push for Middle East peace

By PETER SMITH Associated Press

President Donald Trump repeatedly touted the "Abraham Accords" in his Middle East trip on Monday, seeking to build on 2020 agreements that expanded the number of Arab states with diplomatic ties with Israel.

The term is filled with religious and cultural meaning, citing a biblical patriarch revered as a founding figure in three major religions whose adherents encompass more than half the world's population — Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Anyone trying to build a bridge between faiths is liable to invoke Abraham — known

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to Muslims as Ibrahim — as someone they hold in common.

But this legacy can also be a source of division because some faith groups portray themselves as his true heirs.

"Everybody has tried to claim Abraham as their own, but in fact Abraham belongs to everybody," said Bruce Feiler, author of "Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths."

"Even in the last two years, we have seen this battle play out in a way that has played out for 4,000 years," he said. "Everyone is trying to say, 'This is my story, my point of view is the only point of view that matters.'"

But, he said, "the story belongs to all of us, the land will need to be shared, and the legacy will need to be a shared legacy for all of us."

The Abraham Accords as a template

The Abraham Accords were a series of diplomatic and commercial agreements forged with U.S. influence between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco in 2020, during Trump's first term. A permanent agreement in Gaza could help pave the path for talks with other majority-Muslim lands.

From the Bible to the headlines

Abraham first appears in the Book of Genesis in the Hebrew Bible, described as a childless elderly man who God promised would be the father of a great nation. God sends Abraham on a journey that leads to the area of present-day Israel and the Palestinian lands.

Abraham first has a son, Ishmael, with an enslaved woman, Hagar. Then Abraham's wife, Sarah, who is beyond childbearing years, miraculously conceives and bears Isaac. Hagar and Ishmael are banished, although Ishmael returns after Abraham's death to help Isaac bury their father.

In a pivotal biblical story — retold each Rosh Hashana, marking the Jewish new year — God orders Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham agrees, binds Isaac to an altar and is stopped before killing his son by an angel who says Abraham has passed a test of faith.

Isaac and his son Jacob become ancestors of the Jews, according to Genesis.

Christianity embraces Abraham as an exemplar of faith — willing to believe and obey God.

Islamic and Jewish traditions depict a young Abraham as smashing his father's idols as he embraced the worship of one, almighty God.

Muslims, however, place Ismail (Arabic for Ishmael) rather than Isaac at the center of the binding story. They honor Ismail as a righteous prophet who, according to tradition, is an ancestor of the prophet Muhammad. Muslims believe the rock upon which Abraham offered his son is within the Dome of the Rock, the gold-domed shrine in Jerusalem.

Abraham is a dividing figure — and a unifying one

Each of the three monotheistic religions — Christianity, Judaism and Islam — have claimed to be the true heirs of Abraham at different points in a history that included crusades, terror attacks and other violence.

At the same time, because all three faiths revere Abraham, he is invoked for efforts such as the diplomatic accords brokered by the majority-Christian United States between the Jewish state of Israel and majority-Muslim Arab states.

"We see in Islam a religion that traces its origins back to God's call on Abraham," then-President George W. Bush said at an iftar (fast-breaking) dinner with Muslims soon after the 9/11 attacks, seeking to differentiate mainstream Muslims from terrorists claiming to act in the name of Islam. "We share your belief in God's justice, and your insistence on man's moral responsibility."

The term "Abrahamic faiths" is also used to promote dialogue between religions.

The United Arab Emirates is home to an Abrahamic Family House, which includes a church, mosque and synagogue.

In the United States, many involved in inter-religious dialogue see the term as more inclusive than "Judeo-Christian," which was often used in the 20th century. While "Abrahamic" doesn't encompass all faiths, it reflects an effort to broaden the tent.

Such efforts come amid sharpening religious divisions on other fronts. A surge in antisemitism has accompanied the current Middle East war. Anti-Muslim sentiment has risen as New York appears poised to

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elect its first Muslim mayor.

With words about Abraham, context is key

During his speech to the Israeli Knesset on Monday, Trump emphasized the specifically Jewish tradition around the patriarch. He offered thanks to the "God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" — a central Jewish formulation. He was applauded when he said he preferred calling the diplomatic agreements the "Avraham Accords," using the Hebrew pronunciation.

At the same time, he has praised Arab and Muslim leaders whose countries engaged in the agreements, some of whom gathered at a summit in Egypt Monday.

It may seem head-spinning that this is the same Trump who was first elected after responding to a 2015 terror attack by calling for a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States." His current administration has launched a crackdown on foreign students and others who have advocated for Palestinians.

But it's less perplexing if one pays attention "to the last 4,000 years, when everyone has lived within the tension of the story" of Abraham, Feiler said.

The story of Abraham, his two sons and their two mothers is one of "tensions, of inviting people in and pushing people out," Feiler said.

It's a timeless story of relations and rivalries between family members, neighbors and others, he said.

"We want it all for ourselves, but we keep being reminded that we can only live alongside the other."

Wall Street veers upward after Trump softens his criticism of China

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — And back up goes Wall Street. U.S. stocks rallied Monday after President Donald Trump said "it will all be fine," just days after he sent the market reeling by threatening much higher tariffs on China.

The S&P 500 jumped 1.6% in its best day since May and recovered just over half its drop from Friday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 587 points, or 1.3%, and the Nasdaq composite leaped 2.2%.

"Don't worry about China," Trump said on his social media platform Sunday. He also said that China's leader, Xi Jinping, "doesn't want Depression for his country, and neither do I. The U.S.A. wants to help China, not hurt it!!!"

It was a sharp turnaround from the anger Trump displayed on Friday, when the S&P 500 tumbled to its worst drop since April after he accused China of "a moral disgrace in dealing with other Nations."

Trump pointed to "an extremely hostile letter" from China describing curbs to exports of rare earths, which are materials used in the manufacturing of everything from personal electronics to jet engines. Trump said at the time that he may place an additional 100% tax on imports from China starting on Nov. 1.

For its part, China urged the United States to resolve differences through negotiations instead of threats. "We do not want a tariff war but we are not afraid of one," the Commerce Ministry said in a statement posted online.

Hours later, Trump posted his less confrontational talk about China on Truth Social. The backtrack in anger, which also came before trading began on Wall Street, raised hopes that the world's two largest economies could find a way to allow global trade to continue smoothly.

The down-and-up moves for the market echoed its manic swings during April. That's when Trump shocked investors with his "Liberation Day" announcement of worldwide tariffs, only to eventually relent on many to give time to negotiate trade deals with other countries.

If this time ends up similarly, potentially even after a sharp drop for stock prices, subsiding trade tensions and uncertainty could allow for a rolling recovery to continue into 2026, according to Morgan Stanley strategists led by Michael Wilson.

To be sure, the U.S. stock market may have been primed for a drop. It was already facing criticism that prices had shot too high following a torrid 35% run for the S&P 500 from a low in April. The index, which dictates the movements for many 401(k) accounts, is still near its all-time high set last week.

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Not only did Trump's backdown from tariffs help stocks soar since April, so did expectations for several cuts to interest rates by the Federal Reserve to help the economy.

Critics say the market looks too expensive now after prices rose much faster than corporate profits. Worries are particularly high about companies in the artificial-intelligence industry, where pessimists hear echoes of the 2000 dot-com bubble that imploded.

Broadcom jumped 9.9% for one of Monday's biggest gains in the S&P 500 after announcing a collaboration with OpenAI. Broadcom will help develop and deploy custom AI accelerators that the maker of ChatGPT will design.

For stocks broadly to look less expensive, either prices need to fall, or companies' profits need to rise.

That's raising the stakes for the upcoming earnings reporting season, with big U.S. companies lined up to say how much profit they made during the summer. JPMorgan Chase, Johnson & Johnson and United Airlines are some of the big names on the calendar this coming week.

Fastenal tumbled 7.5% for the largest loss in the S&P 500 after the maker of fasteners and safety supplies reported a profit for the latest quarter that was slightly weaker than analysts expected.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 102.21 points to 6,654.72. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 587.98 to 46,067.68, and the Nasdaq composite rallied 490.18 to 22,694.61.

At Bank of America, strategist Savita Subramanian is optimistic that S&P 500 companies can deliver a bigger overall profit than analysts expected. Besides reports showing a resilient U.S. economy, she also pointed in a BofA Global Research report to how the U.S. dollar's weakening against other currencies boosts the value of big U.S. companies' sales made overseas.

In stock markets abroad, indexes edged higher in Europe following losses in Asia, which had their first opportunity to react to Trump's threat from Friday of additional tariffs on China.

Stocks fell 1.5% in Hong Kong and 0.2% in Shanghai.

China reported its global exports rose 8.3% in September from a year earlier, the strongest growth in six months and further evidence that its manufacturers are shifting sales from the United States to other markets.

Zelenskyy to visit Washington this week seeking long-range weapons and a Trump meeting

By HANNA ARHIROVA and DEREK GATOPOULOS Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday he will travel to the United States this week for talks on the potential U.S. provision of long-range weapons, a day after U.S. President Donald Trump warned Russia he may send Kyiv long-range Tomahawk missiles.

A meeting between Zelenskyy and Trump could take place as early as Friday, the Ukrainian president said, adding that he also would meet with defense and energy companies and members of Congress.

"The main topics will be air defense and our long-range capabilities, to maintain pressure on Russia," Zelenskyy said.

He spoke at a meeting with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas. He said he also would seek further U.S. assistance to protect Ukraine's electricity and gas networks, which have faced relentless Russian bombardment. The U.S. visit follows what Zelenskyy described as a "very productive" phone call with Trump on Sunday. Trump later warned Russia that he may send Ukraine long-range Tomahawk missiles if Moscow doesn't settle its war there soon. The missiles would allow Ukraine to strike deeper into Russian territory.

Moscow has expressed "extreme concern" over the U.S. potentially providing Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin himself has previously suggested that the U.S. supplying long-range missiles to Ukraine would seriously damage relations between Moscow and Washington.

Zelenskyy will join a Ukrainian delegation already in the U.S. for preliminary talks, led by Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko. Russia has stepped up attacks in recent weeks targeting electricity and gas infrastructure ahead of winter, in an effort to cripple Ukraine's power grid ahead of freezing temperatures to erode

public morale. Ukraine's State Emergency Service said the worst attacks early Monday using drones and missiles occurred around the Black Sea port of Odesa and in the northern Chernihiv region, where one person was killed.

Kallas, the EU's top diplomat, pledged continued pressure on Moscow. She also expressed confidence that objections led by Hungary to a new Russia sanctions package would be overcome, even if the process drags on past a meeting of EU leaders next week. "On funding, the needs are enormous. We must help Ukraine defend itself so we don't later spend even more repairing destroyed infrastructure," Kallas said. "We are 27 member states, and 27 democracies, so debates take time ... I'm positive that, as before, we'll achieve a decision."

Supreme Court takes up Republican attack on Voting Rights Act in case over Black representation

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican attack on a core provision of the Voting Rights Act that is designed to protect racial minorities comes to the Supreme Court this week, more than a decade after the justices knocked out another pillar of the 60-year-old law.

In arguments Wednesday, lawyers for Louisiana and the Trump administration will try to persuade the justices to wipe away the state's second majority Black congressional district and make it much harder, if not impossible, to take account of race in redistricting.

"Race-based redistricting is fundamentally contrary to our Constitution," Louisiana Attorney General Elizabeth Murrill wrote in the state's Supreme Court filing.

A mid-decade battle over congressional redistricting already is playing out across the nation, after President Donald Trump began urging Texas and other Republican-controlled states to redraw their lines to make it easier for the GOP to hold its narrow majority in the House of Representatives. A ruling for Louisiana could intensify that effort and spill over to state legislative and local districts.

The conservative-dominated court, which just two years ago ended affirmative action in college admissions, could be receptive. At the center of the legal fight is Chief Justice John Roberts, who has long had the landmark civil rights law in his sights, from his time as a young lawyer in the Reagan-era Justice Department to his current job.

"It is a sordid business, this divvying us up by race," Roberts wrote in a dissenting opinion in 2006 in his first major voting rights case as chief justice.

In 2013, Roberts wrote for the majority in gutting the landmark law's requirement that states and local governments with a history of discrimination, mostly in the South, get approval before making any election-related changes.

"Our country has changed, and while any racial discrimination in voting is too much, Congress must ensure that the legislation it passes to remedy that problem speaks to current conditions," Roberts wrote.

The challenged provision relies on current conditions

Challenges under the provision known as Section 2 of the voting rights law must be able to show current racially polarized voting and an inability of minority populations to elect candidates of their choosing, among other factors.

"Race is still very much a factor in current voting patterns in the state of Louisiana. It's true in many places in the country," said Sarah Brannon, deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Voting Rights Project.

The Louisiana case got to this point only after Black voters and civil rights groups sued and won lower court rulings striking down the first congressional map drawn by the state's GOP-controlled Legislature after the 2020 census. That map created just one Black majority district among six House seats in a state that is one-third Black.

Louisiana appealed to the Supreme Court but eventually added a second majority Black district after the justices' 5-4 ruling in 2023 that found a likely violation of the Voting Rights Act in a similar case over

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Alabama's congressional map.

Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh joined their three more liberal colleagues in the Alabama outcome. Roberts rejected what he described as "Alabama's attempt to remake our section 2 jurisprudence anew."

That might have settled things, but a group of white voters complained that race, not politics, was the predominant factor driving the new Louisiana map. A three-judge court agreed, leading to the current high court case.

Instead of deciding the case in June, the justices asked the parties to answer a potentially big question: "Whether the state's intentional creation of a second majority-minority congressional district violates the Fourteenth or Fifteenth Amendments to the U. S. Constitution."

Those amendments, adopted in the aftermath of the Civil War, were intended to bring about political equality for Black Americans and gave Congress the authority to take all necessary steps. Nearly a century later, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, called the crown jewel of the civil rights era, to finally put an end to persistent efforts to prevent Black people from voting in the former states of the Confederacy.

A second round of arguments is rare at the Supreme Court

The call for new arguments sometimes presages a major change by the high court. The Citizens United decision in 2010 that led to dramatic increases in independent spending in U.S. elections came after it was argued a second time.

"It does feel to me a little bit like Citizens United in that, if you recall the way Citizens United unfolded, it was initially a narrow First Amendment challenge," said Donald Verrilli, who served as the Obama administration's top Supreme Court lawyer and defended the voting rights law in the 2013 case.

Among the possible outcomes in the Louisiana case, Verrilli said, is one in which a majority holds that the need for courts to step into redistricting cases, absent intentional discrimination, has essentially expired. Kavanaugh raised the issue briefly two years ago.

The Supreme Court has separately washed its hands of partisan gerrymandering claims, in a 2019 opinion that also was written by Roberts. Restricting or eliminating most claims of racial discrimination in federal courts would give state legislatures wide latitude to draw districts, subject only to state constitutional limits.

A shift of just one vote from the Alabama case would flip the outcome.

With the call for new arguments, Louisiana changed its position and is no longer defending its map.

The Trump administration joined on Louisiana's side. The Justice Department had previously defended the voting rights law under administrations of both major political parties.

Rep. Cleo Fields has been here before

For four years in the 1990s, Louisiana had a second Black majority district until courts struck it down because it relied too heavily on race. Fields, then a rising star in the state's Democratic politics, twice won election. He didn't run again when a new map was put in place and reverted to just one majority Black district in the state.

Fields is one of the two Black Democrats who won election to Congress last year in newly drawn districts in Alabama and Louisiana.

He again represents the challenged district, described in March by Roberts as "a snake that runs from one end of the state to the other," picking up Black residents along the way.

If that's so, civil rights lawyer Stuart Naifeh told Roberts, it's because of slavery, Jim Crow laws and the persistent lack of economic opportunity for Black Louisianans.

Fields said the court's earlier ruling that eliminated federal review of potentially discriminatory voting laws has left few options to protect racial minorities, making the preservation of Section 2 all the more important.

They would never win election to Congress, he said, "but for the Voting Rights Act and but for creating majority minority districts."

FACT FOCUS: With a truce in Israel, Trump now says he's ended eight wars. His numbers are off

Associated Press undefined

As Israel and Hamas traded hostages and prisoners on Monday, taking a first step toward peace, U.S. President Donald Trump addressed the Knesset, Israel's parliament, telling them he had ended his eighth war.

"After so many years of unceasing war and endless danger, today the skies are calm. The guns are silent. The sirens are still. And the sun rises on a holy land that is finally at peace," Trump said.

He then upped the number of wars he claims to have ended in his first eight months in office, saying, "Yesterday I was saying seven, but now I can say eight."

But Trump's claim is exaggerated. Much work remains before an end to the war between Israel and Hamas can be declared. That's also true in other countries where Trump claims to have ended wars.

Here's a closer look:

Israel and Hamas

While the ceasefire and hostage deal is a major achievement, it is still an early and delicate moment in the path to a permanent end to the war, let alone a two state solution.

The first steps of the agreement Trump brokered included the release of hostages in Gaza, the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israel, a surge of humanitarian aid and a partial pullback by Israeli forces from Gaza's main cities.

But major elements remain to be worked out.

After his stop in Israel, Trump gathered with other world leaders in Egypt for a "Summit of Peace" to discuss the ceasefire plan. Trump acknowledged that leaders had taken the "first steps to peace" and urged leaders to build on the breakthrough. Trump and other leaders signed a document that he said would "spell out a lot of rules and regulations and lots of other things, and it's very comprehensive," though details were not immediately available.

The next phase of talks is expected to address disarming Hamas, creating a post-war government for Gaza, reconstruction, and the extent of Israel's withdrawal from the territory. Trump's plan also stipulates that regional and international partners will work to develop a new Palestinian security force.

At least some, if not all, of those elements need to be worked out, and negotiations over those issues could break down. Trump envoy Steve Witkoff said on Monday that he and Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, were "already working" on implementation issues.

Israel and Iran

Trump is credited with ending the 12-day war.

In June, Israel launched attacks on the heart of Iran's nuclear program and military leadership, saying it wanted to stop Tehran from building a nuclear weapon. Iran has denied it was trying to do that.

Trump negotiated a ceasefire after directing American warplanes to strike Iran's Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz nuclear sites.

Evelyn Farkas, executive director of Arizona State University's McCain Institute, said that Trump should get credit for ending the war.

"There's always a chance it could flare up again if Iran restarts its nuclear weapons program, but nonetheless, they were engaged in a hot war with one another," she said. "And it didn't have any real end in sight before President Trump got involved and gave them an ultimatum."

Lawrence Haas, a senior fellow for U.S. foreign policy at the American Foreign Policy Council who is an expert on Israel-Iran tensions, agreed the U.S. was instrumental in securing the ceasefire. But he characterized it as a "temporary respite" from the ongoing "day-to-day cold war" between the two countries that often involves flare-ups.

Egypt and Ethiopia

This could be described as tensions at best, and peace efforts, which do not directly involve the United States, have stalled.

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The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile River has caused friction between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan since the power-generating project was announced more than a decade ago. In July, Ethiopia declared the project complete. It was inaugurated in September.

Egypt and Sudan oppose the dam. Although the vast majority of the water that flows down the Nile originates in Ethiopia, Egyptian agriculture relies on the river almost entirely. Sudan fears flooding and wants to protect its own power-generating dams.

During his first term, Trump tried to broker a deal between Ethiopia and Egypt. He could not get the countries to agree and suspended aid to Ethiopia over the dispute. In July, he posted on social media that he helped the "fight over the massive dam (and) there is peace at least for now." But the disagreement persists, and negotiations between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan have stalled.

"It would be a gross overstatement to say that these countries are at war," Haas said. "I mean, they're just not."

India and Pakistan

The April killing of tourists in Indian-controlled Kashmir pushed India and Pakistan closer to war than they had been in years, but a ceasefire was reached.

Trump has claimed that the U.S. brokered the ceasefire, which he said came about in part because he offered trade concessions. Pakistan thanked Trump, recommending him for the Nobel Peace Prize. India has denied Trump's claims, saying there was no conversation between the U.S. and India on trade in regards to the ceasefire.

Although India played down the Trump administration's role in the ceasefire, Haas and Farkas believe the U.S. deserves some credit for helping stop the fighting.

"I think that President Trump played a constructive role from all accounts, but it may not have been decisive. And again, I'm not sure whether you would define that as a full-blown war," Farkas said.

Serbia and Kosovo

The White House lists the conflict between Serbia and Kosovo as one Trump resolved. But there has been no threat of a war between the two neighbors during Trump's second term or any significant contribution from the Republican president this year to improve relations.

Kosovo is a former Serbian province that declared independence in 2008. Tensions have persisted since, but never to the point of war, mostly because NATO-led peacekeepers have been deployed in Kosovo, which has been recognized by more than 100 countries.

During his first term, Trump negotiated a wide-ranging deal between the countries, but much of what was agreed on was never carried out.

Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Trump has played a key role in peace efforts between the African neighbors, but he is hardly alone and the conflict is far from over.

Eastern Congo, rich in minerals, has been battered by fighting with more than 100 armed groups. The most potent is the M23 rebel group. It is backed by neighboring Rwanda, which claims that it is protecting its territorial interests and that some of those who participated in the 1994 Rwandan genocide fled to Congo and are working with the Congolese army.

The Trump administration's efforts paid off in June, when the Congolese and Rwandan foreign ministers signed a peace deal at the White House. The M23, however, was not directly involved in the U.S.-facilitated negotiations and said it would not abide by the terms of an agreement that did not involve it.

The final step to peace was meant to be a Qatar-facilitated deal between Congo and M23 that would bring about a permanent ceasefire as well as a final agreement to be signed separately between Congo and Rwanda as facilitated by the administration. However, talks have stalled between the different parties amid setbacks, and deadly fighting continues in eastern Congo.

Armenia and Azerbaijan

In August, Trump hosted the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan at the White House, where they signed a deal aimed at ending a decades-long conflict. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called the signed document a "significant milestone." Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev hailed Trump for performing "a

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miracle.”

The agreements were intended to reopen key transportation routes and reaffirm Armenia’s and Azerbaijan’s commitment to signing a peace treaty. The treaty’s text was initialed by the countries’ foreign ministers at that meeting, which indicated preliminary approval. But the two countries have yet to sign and ratify the deal.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been in a bitter conflict over territory since the early 1990s, when ethnic Armenian forces took control of the Karabakh province, known internationally as Nagorno-Karabakh, and nearby territories. In 2020, Azerbaijan’s military recaptured broad swaths of territory. Russia brokered a truce and deployed about 2,000 peacekeepers to the region.

In September 2023, Azerbaijani forces launched a lightning blitz to retake remaining portions. The two countries have worked toward normalizing ties and signing a peace treaty ever since.

Cambodia and Thailand

Officials from Thailand and Cambodia credit Trump with pushing the Asian neighbors to agree to a ceasefire in this summer’s brief border conflict.

Cambodia and Thailand clashed in the past over their shared border. The latest fighting began in July after a land mine explosion along the border wounded five Thai soldiers. Tensions had been growing since May, when a Cambodian soldier was killed in a confrontation that created a diplomatic rift and roiled Thai politics.

Both countries agreed in late July to an unconditional ceasefire during a meeting in Malaysia.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim pressed for the pact, but there was little headway until Trump intervened. Trump said on social media that he warned the Thai and Cambodian leaders that the U.S. would not move forward with trade agreements if the hostilities continued. Both countries faced economic difficulties and neither had reached tariff deals with the U.S., though most of their Southeast Asian neighbors had.

According to Ken Lohatepanont, a political analyst and University of Michigan doctoral candidate, “President Trump’s decision to condition a successful conclusion to these talks on a ceasefire likely played a significant role in ensuring that both sides came to the negotiating table when they did.”

The latest idea to save the NBA All-Star Game: US vs. the World. And there’s no shortage of intrigue

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

Imagine this lineup: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Giannis Antetokounmpo, Luka Doncic, Nikola Jokic and Victor Wembanyama, all on the floor at the same time as teammates.

MVPs. Scoring champions. NBA champions. Triple-double machines. Defensive wizards. International players, all together in one highly decorated, incredibly accomplished, flat-out-scary lineup the likes of which probably has not been seen too many times in basketball history.

The NBA seems on the brink of making it possible.

Changes to the All-Star format are most certainly coming, once again, and the plan that the NBA has settled on is one that has U.S. players going up against players from the rest of the world in a tournament setting. Think Ryder Cup golf or 4 Nations Face-Off hockey, and it just so happens that this season’s All-Star weekend at Inglewood, California, is smack in the middle of another national-pride sporting event — the 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympics.

“I talk to a lot of fans, and All-Star Games for whatever reason take on particular interest around basketball,” NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. “I think we should be able to create something that’s fun, exciting, engaging. Not expecting guys to play the way they would in the finals necessarily or even in a playoff game, but yet to go out, play hard, put on a good show for the fans.”

The plan, which isn’t yet finalized, calls for a three-team tournament: two American teams and one international team, all with eight-man rosters. The reason: Roughly two-thirds of NBA players are American and one-third are not, which is why the NBA thinks it’d be fair to give Americans two-thirds of the roster spots.

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"Hopefully, it's going to be better," said Jokic, the Denver star.

It has become almost an annual exercise for the NBA: fixing the All-Star Game. Silver and other league officials — and to be fair, some players as well — desperately want the product to be better and more competitive. They tried having captains like LeBron James, Kevin Durant and Antetokounmpo pick the teams for a few years, and not much changed. They tried go back to the standard Eastern Conference vs. Western Conference format, and it wasn't great either. Having a final score of 211-186 in Indianapolis in 2024 was the last straw in many respects, so the NBA last year tried a mini-tournament on for size and few people cared for that.

Golden State's Stephen Curry was MVP of that All-Star event, a four-teams-of-eight competition that had a 41-25 final score in the title matchup and saw the final game stopped for about 20 minutes for a tribute to TNT and its run as a league broadcaster.

"I honestly thought last year went great until it dragged on for a long time," Curry said. "We all know that All-Star has changed over the years, but there has to be some type of solution for keeping the players fresh and loose and keeping the action going. Last year it came to a screeching halt. But whatever the format is, I know we're going to keep taking swings at the plate to figure it out, and that's what the league is supposed to do."

International players have said they love the idea of a U.S. vs. The World concept. Antetokounmpo, the Milwaukee star, has talked about it previously and playfully said that the league should give him credit for the idea.

"The NBA's going to take all the credit. But I love it, man," Antetokounmpo said.

"I think it's going to be exciting for people to watch. I'm going to play hard. I've always been playing hard, but I think it's going to put a little bit more juice to the game. ... All players have ego. Nobody wants to be embarrassed. Guys will play harder because they don't want to become — I don't know how you say this — they don't want to become viral. I'm excited for this format."

The league has been working on the plan for a few months, and Silver has said he hopes that it can be formally announced by the start of the season. The season begins Oct. 21.

"The World vs. U.S.? We'll see how it goes. I think it's interesting," said Detroit's Cade Cunningham, who was a first-time All-Star last season. "I wanted to play in the East vs. West game, me personally, but I think I will have my opportunity to do that one day. ... Playing for the U.S., I know we're going to be playing hard. I think it will be good."

Gilgeous-Alexander, the reigning MVP and scoring champion from the champion Oklahoma City Thunder, knows the league wants a more competitive All-Star event. He isn't sure if the format is a reason why someone would play hard or not.

Like everyone else, he's interested to see how it plays out.

"Guys that make it are grown men and they're going to compete if they want or not compete if they don't want to. And I think that's what it's going to come down to," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "So, the change in the format, it's good, it's fun. It keeps the fans engaged. It could be interesting. It's what the league is supposed to do. They do a great job of that. But I think it's just going to come down to if the players want to play or not."

Boiler up! Purdue tops preseason AP Top 25 for first time, ahead of Houston, reigning champ Florida

By AARON BEARD AP Basketball Writer

Purdue is No. 1 in the preseason Associated Press Top 25 college basketball poll for the first time.

The Boilermakers earned 35 of 61 first-place votes to top Monday's poll to begin the 2025-26 season. That put Matt Painter's squad ahead of the two teams that played in last year's NCAA title game, with runner-up Houston at No. 2 and reigning champion Florida at No. 3.

"We are obviously excited to get the season going and being ranked No. 1 in the preseason is a great indicator of what we feel this team can accomplish," Painter said. "But the goal is to be No. 1 at the end

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of the year. We're thrilled that people think this highly of our team, but there is a long ways to go and a lot of work to do to reach that goal in April."

Purdue started a year ranked as high as No. 2 once before, in 1987-88 under Gene Keady.

It's another milestone for Painter, the former Keady player who has built his own successful program that is still looking for its NCAA title breakthrough as he enters his 21st season. Purdue had never been ranked No. 1 in any AP poll before the 2021-22 season, which marked the first of three straight seasons in which the Boilermakers have reached the top. The last was during the 2023-24 season behind two-time AP national player of the year Zach Edey in a run all the way to the national title game.

The Boilermakers reached last year's Sweet 16 before falling to Houston on a last-second basket, but return a first-team AP All-American in point guard Braden Smith, scoring leader Trey Kaufman-Renn (20.1) and veteran guard Fletcher Loyer.

The top tier

Kelvin Sampson's Cougars earned 16 first-place votes to match the program's best-ever preseason AP ranking after last year's finals run. The other No. 2 appearance was by the 1967-68 team led by Elvin Hayes.

Todd Golden's Gators earned eight first-place votes to start this year with their highest preseason ranking since the last time they entered a year as reigning champions in 2006-07, the start of a run to a second straight title.

UConn was next at No. 4 and earned the remaining two first-place votes. St. John's was fifth, with Rick Pitino's Red Storm surpassing the program's previous best ranking in a preseason AP poll (No. 7 in 1984-85).

Duke was next at No. 6, followed by Michigan, BYU — which landed the nation's No. 1 recruit in A.J. Dybantsa — Kentucky and Texas Tech to round out the top 10.

Quick transitions

It hasn't taken long for Pat Kelsey to get Louisville back among the national elite, with the Cardinals checking in at No. 11 after a 27-win season to start his tenure. The Cardinals were 12-52 in the two seasons before his arrival.

Louisville is one of five programs with a second-year coach in the preseason poll, joining Michigan, BYU, Kentucky and No. 14 Arkansas with John Calipari.

Jayhawks lower

Kansas checked in at No. 19, the lowest preseason rank for Bill Self's Jayhawks since starting at No. 24 in the 2008-09 season as the reigning national champion. Kansas had been ranked outside the top 10 only once since that year (No. 13 in 2011-12) while starting at No. 1 in 2019-20 as well as each of the last two seasons in that stretch.

Pearl's debut

Auburn opens at No. 20 as it enters its first season since the unexpected retirement of coach Bruce Pearl following last year's Final Four run.

Pearl stepped aside last month after 11 seasons, triggering a transition to his 38-year-old son Steven, who climbed his father's staff through the elder Pearl's Auburn tenure but has never been a head coach nor coached elsewhere in college.

Conference watch

The Southeastern Conference, Big Ten and Big 12 each had six ranked teams to make up 72% of the field. The Atlantic Coast Conference and Big East were next with three each, while the West Coast Conference had one with No. 21 Gonzaga. The Big 12 was the only league of that group to have three top-10 teams.

Watch list

Will Wade's arrival at N.C. State and subsequent roster shakeup has the Wolfpack as the first team outside the poll, sitting just three points behind 25th-ranked rival North Carolina from the ACC. Oregon is lurking close behind entering its 16th year under Dana Altman.

Uncertainty over the economy and tariffs forces many retailers to be cautious on holiday hiring

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Uncertainty over the economy and tariffs is forcing retailers to pull back or delay plans to hire seasonal workers who pack orders at distribution centers, serve shoppers at stores and build holiday displays during the most important selling season of the year.

American Christmas LLC, which creates elaborate holiday installations for commercial properties such as New York's Rockefeller Center and Radio City Music Hall, plans to hire 220 temporary workers and is ramping up recruitment nearly two months later than usual, CEO Dan Casterella said. Last year, it took on 300 people during its busy period.

The main reason? The company wants to offset its tariff bill, which Casterella expects to be as big as \$1.5 million this year, more than double last year's \$600,000.

"The issue is if you overstaff and then you underperform, it's too late," Casterella said. "I think everyone's more mindful now than ever."

Holiday hiring could fall to 2009 levels

Online behemoth Amazon Inc. said Monday it intends to hire 250,000 full-, part-time and seasonal workers for the crucial shopping period, the same level as a year ago.

But job placement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas forecasts overall holiday hiring for the last three months of the year will likely fall under 500,000 positions. That's fewer than last year's 543,000 level and also marks the smallest seasonal gain in 16 years when retailers hired 495,800 temporary workers, the firm said.

Among other companies cutting holiday payrolls: Radial, an e-commerce company that powers deliveries for roughly 120 companies like Lands' End and Cole Haan and operates 20 fulfillment sites. It plans to hire 6,500 workers, fewer than last year's 7,000, and is waiting to the last minute to ramp up hiring for some of its clients, chief human resources officer Sabrina Wnorowski, said.

Bath & Body Works, based in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, said it plans to hire 32,000 workers, below the 32,700 a year ago.

"We saw real strong signals that there's been a cooling in the labor market, even beyond what our expectations were in the first nine months of the year," Challenger's senior vice president Andy Challenger said.

Challenger also noted companies are using artificial intelligence bots to replace some workers, particularly those working in call centers. And he's also seeing companies hiring workers closer to when they need them.

Meanwhile, the list of companies staying mum about their specific holiday hiring goals keeps growing. Target Corp., UPS and Macy's are declining to offer figures, a departure from years past.

Holiday hiring: the first clues to what's in store for spending

Retailers' hiring plans mark the first clues to what's in store for the U.S. holiday shopping season and come as the U.S. job market has lost momentum this year, partly because Trump's trade wars have created uncertainty that's paralyzing managers trying to make hiring decisions.

The Labor Department reported in early September that U.S. employers — companies, government agencies and nonprofits — added just 22,000 jobs in August, down from 79,000 in July and well below the 80,000 that economists had expected.

The government shutdown, which started Oct. 1 and has delayed the release of economic reports, could worsen the job picture.

In an attempt to exert more pressure on Democratic lawmakers as the government shutdown continues, the White House budget office said Friday mass firings of federal workers have started.

Analysts will be closely monitoring the shutdown's impact on spending. For now, many retailers say that consumers, while resilient, are selective. Analysts will also be watching how shoppers will react to price increases as a result of high tariff costs in the next few months, experts said.

Given an economic slowdown, holiday spending growth is expected to be smaller than a year ago, according to several forecasts.

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Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks spending across all payment methods including cash, predicts that holiday sales will be up 3.6% from Nov. 1 through Dec. 24. That compares with a 4.1% increase last year.

Deloitte Services LP forecasts holiday retail sales to be up between 2.9% to 3.4% from Nov. 1 through Jan. 31. That's compares with 4.2% last year.

And Adobe expects U.S. online sales to hit \$253.4 billion from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, representing a 5.3% growth. That's smaller than last year's 8.7% growth.

A more flexible approach

Companies are increasingly wanting to hire workers closer to when they need them, experts said.

"In today's environment, brands are really looking for us to be agile," Radial's Wnorowski said.

So for some of its clients, Radial will now be hiring two weeks before Thanksgiving weekend, the traditional start for the season, instead of four weeks before the kickoff. Radial is also training holiday hires faster with new technology that's simplifying their tasks. It used to take a couple of days to train a worker, but now it only takes a couple of hours, she said.

Meanwhile, Target will offer current workers additional hours and then will tap into a separate pool of workers— 43,000— who pick up shifts. The Minneapolis-based company also hires seasonal workers across its nearly 2,000 stores and more than 60 distribution facilities to meet demand, it said.

For the past few years, Walmart, the largest private employer, has been offering its workers extra hours available during the holidays, a Walmart spokesperson said, noting it's worked well and the feedback from customers and workers has been "overwhelmingly positive."

The Bentonville, Arkansas-based retailer said there may be some seasonal hiring on a store-by-store basis, but most locations will dole out those hours to current workers.

Economic data blackout could create challenges

Waiting until the last minute to hire could mean a mad scramble to find talent, but companies say that with the slowing economy, they don't anticipate having a hard time.

Meanwhile, the temporary halt of the release of economic reports leaves retailers in the dark about sales forecasts and the workers they may need.

"Certainly, for our customers not having access to data will put more of a challenge on their ability to forecast," Wnorowski of Radial said. "But we'll stay very close to them as we go into peak and we'll adjust as soon we see things changing."

Lebanon's president says negotiations with Israel needed as war led to no positive results

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's president said Monday that his country and Israel should negotiate to solve pending problems between them since war didn't lead to any positive results.

The comments by President Joseph Aoun came after U.S. counterpart Donald Trump brokered a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas in the more than two-year war, which started when the Palestinian militant group led an attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and taking 251 hostage.

A day after the Israel-Hamas war began, Lebanon's Hezbollah started attacking Israeli military posts along the border in what it called a "backup front" for Gaza. The Israel-Hezbollah conflict intensified into full-blown fighting nearly a year later, during which the Lebanese group suffered heavy losses and many of its political and military commanders were killed.

Since the 14-month Israel-Hezbollah war ended with a U.S.-brokered ceasefire in November, Israel has carried out almost daily airstrikes on Lebanon that left scores of people dead, many of them civilians.

"Lebanon negotiated in the past with Israel with mediation by the United States and the United Nations," Aoun said, adding that these talks led to the 2022 agreement between the two countries over their maritime border.

"What prevents repeating the same thing to find solutions to pending matters especially that war did not

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lead to results?" Aoun asked. He said that the atmosphere in the Middle East is that of deals and agreements, and that how the negotiations will take place can be decided at the time.

"Conditions are moving toward negotiations to achieve peace and stability," Aoun said. "Therefore we say that through dialogue and negotiations solutions can be reached."

"We cannot be outside the ongoing track in the region," Aoun said in comments while meeting a group of Lebanese business journalists.

Speaking at Israel's parliament on Monday, Trump told Israeli lawmakers that their country had no more to achieve on the battlefield and must work toward peace in the Middle East after more than two years of war against Hamas and skirmishes with Hezbollah and Iran.

In August, the Lebanese government made a decision to disarm Hezbollah by the end of the year, but officials later said that resources were too limited to meet the deadline. The current aim is to fully clear a stretch along the Lebanon-Israel border, defined as south of the Litani River, by the end of November before moving into further phases.

Hezbollah has rejected the plan, saying it won't discuss disarmament as long as Israel continues to occupy several hills along the border and carries out almost daily strikes.

Trump praised Aoun in his speech in Jerusalem, saying his administration is helping the Lebanese leader "to permanently disarm Hezbollah's terror brigades. He's doing very well."

"The dagger of Hezbollah, long aimed at Israel's throat, has been totally shattered," Trump said.

What to know as Israel and Hamas exchange hostages and prisoners and Trump visits the Middle East

By The Associated Press undefined

In a critical day for the Middle East, Hamas released the 20 living Israeli hostages it still held and Israel released nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners under a breakthrough Gaza ceasefire deal.

U.S. President Donald Trump, whose administration brokered the deal, made a whirlwind visit to the region, first to Israel where he addressed the parliament to repeated applause. He landed Monday afternoon in Egypt for the "Summit of Peace" where world leaders are to discuss the ceasefire plan.

More ramped-up aid was being readied for Gaza, much of which is in ruins after two years of war that began when Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 as hostages. In Israel's ensuing offensive, more than 67,600 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

What we know and what remains unknown:

All living hostages have been released

Monday was day 738 since the hostages were taken, a number many Israelis have updated daily on strips of adhesive tape worn in a national commemoration.

Twenty living hostages were returned Monday to Israel to be reunited with their families and then transferred to hospitals, the Israeli military said.

Hamas first released seven and then 13 hostages. Israel meanwhile said it had freed over 1,900 Palestinian prisoners under the truce agreement. The ceasefire in the two-year Israel-Hamas war is the first phase of a plan brokered by the Trump administration.

Hamas said it will deliver on Monday four of the 28 remains of Israelis it holds in Gaza. It appeared unlikely that the other remains will be returned by the end of the day. Medical experts and advocates say that would be crucial to begin the healing process for many families, and for the Israeli society at large.

One ceasefire document contains stipulations for remains that aren't returned within 72 hours of the end of the fighting — a deadline that expired around noon Monday. On Sunday, Israel said "an international body" will help locate the remains if they are not released on Monday.

Palestinian prisoners released

Buses carrying dozens of freed Palestinian prisoners arrived Monday in the occupied West Bank and the

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Gaza Strip, the Hamas-run Prisoners Office said.

They were the first to be released of about 1,700 people that troops seized from Gaza during the war and have held without charge, as well as about 250 Palestinians serving prison sentences. At least 154 of the Palestinians had been deported to Egypt from the West Bank as per stipulations in the deal.

Many are members of Hamas and the Fatah faction who were imprisoned over shootings, bombings or other attacks that killed or attempted to kill Israelis, as well as others convicted on lesser charges. They'll return to the West Bank or Gaza, or be deported elsewhere.

Aid expected to surge in Gaza

Humanitarian organizations have said they're preparing to surge aid into the Gaza Strip, especially food that's been in short supply in many areas.

That included some 400 trucks from Egypt on Sunday that will have to undergo Israeli inspection before being distributed in the strip. The Israeli defense body in charge of humanitarian aid in Gaza said around 600 trucks of aid per day will be entering soon, under the ceasefire agreement.

The world's leading authority on food crises said in August that the Gaza Strip's largest city was gripped by a famine that was likely to spread across the territory without a ceasefire and an end to restrictions on humanitarian aid.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification said famine was devastating Gaza City — home to hundreds of thousands of people. That famine was expected to spread south to the cities of Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis by around now if the situation did not change.

The larger task of rebuilding Gaza is daunting, as much of it is in rubble and most of its two million residents displaced.

After a red-carpet welcome in Israel, Trump heading to Egypt

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog greeted Trump, first lady Melania Trump, his daughter Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner, as well as adviser Steve Witkoff, a key envoy.

Trump met with families of hostages and spoke at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, which welcomed him as a hero with standing ovations and chants of his name.

"Generations from now, this will be remembered as the moment that everything began to change," Trump told lawmakers in his the speech. "Now it is time to translate these victories against terrorists on the battlefield into the ultimate prize of peace and prosperity for the entire Middle East."

Afterwards, Trump flew to Egypt, where he was briefly escorted by Egyptian warplanes before touching down Monday afternoon in Sharm el-Sheikh. At the resort town on the Red Sea, he was set to co-host with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi a summit with leaders from more than 20 countries on the future of Gaza and the broader Middle East.

Daunting issues remain unsolved

The ceasefire and release of hostages is the first step in the plan proposed by Trump. Competing demands remain on the next steps, casting uncertainty on whether the conflict is indeed over.

Israel wants Hamas to disarm, and Hamas wants Israel to pull its troops out of all of Gaza. The future of Gaza's government, which has been in Hamas' hands for two decades, also remains to be worked out.

Gaza's Health Ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants but says around half of the 67,600 in Gaza 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

Marc Maron ends his podcast with final guest Barack Obama after 16 years and nearly 1,700 episodes

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Barack Obama helped Marc Maron lock the gates on his podcast Monday, returning to the show for the final episode after 16 years and more than 1,600 episodes.

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The former president gave new status to "WTF With Marc Maron" and to podcasts in general when he visited Maron's Los Angeles garage studio while still in office a decade ago. Obama brought the 62-year-old host, stand-up comic and actor to his Washington office for the last interview.

Obama asked the initial questions.

"How are you feeling about this whole thing?" he said, "transition, moving on from this thing that has been one of the defining parts of your career and your life?"

"I feel OK," Maron answered. "I feel like I'm sort of ready for the break, but there is sort of a fear there, of what do I do now? I'm busy. But, not unlike your job ... I've got a lot of people who over the last 16 years have grown to rely on me."

Maron laughed as he acknowledged he was comparing his podcasting gig to the presidency.

"I think it's pretty similar," Obama said.

The identity of the guest was not revealed until the episode dropped, and fans had been speculating. Obama was a popular guess, both because of his relationship with "WTF" and because Maron in an interview with *Variety* in July said Obama would be his ideal final conversation.

The host explained the decision in an unusually brief and straightforward introduction to the episode.

"It became clear that the guest we needed to have was singular," Maron said, "in that he could address the importance of this being our final episode, but also address how we move through the world we're living in, as frightening as it is."

Maron asked Obama for advice on moving on from your life's biggest job.

"You've still got a couple of chapters left," Obama said. "Don't rush into what the next thing is. Take a beat. Take some satisfaction looking backwards."

After a much talk on the state of the world, Obama brought it back around to Maron's farewell.

"I think we're going to be OK," Obama said. "I think part of the reason you had such a big fan base during this 16-year run is there was a core decency to you and the conversations that you had."

Maron avoided sentimental farewell talk during the episode — he got that out of the way on Thursday in his penultimate episode, where talked directly and emotionally to his listeners.

"I'm grateful to have been part of your lives," he said. "We've been through a lot of stuff together. A lot of breakups. Death. Cats. The world."

The new Obama episode was No. 1,686 of the pioneering and influential long-form interview podcast that had humble beginnings in 2009 as a place where he worked out his issues with other stand-up comedians in the garage of his home that he dubbed "The Cat Ranch."

Maron's cats were always an essential part of the show. His final words on Monday's episode were tributes to the ones who had died.

"Cat angels everywhere," he said.

For most of its years the show has opened with a fan-composed rock 'n' roll theme song that opens with an audio sample of Maron in his small role in the film "Almost Famous" shouting, "Lock the gates!" The song is named for one of Maron's common phrases, "Are We Doing This?" Another such phrase, "Are we good?" was often his last question to guests and is the title of a new documentary on him.

Eventually, with help from guests like Obama, Robin Williams and Paul McCartney, "WTF" became a media institution where authors, artists, musicians, Hollywood stars and political leaders would give him their backstory.

Maron announced in June that he and longtime producing partner Brendan McDonald had decided to end the show. He said there was no particular reason, other than that he was tired and utterly satisfied with the work they had done.

On Monday, Maron seemed moved as he read from a pseudolegal document that he had drawn up for Obama to sign, releasing McDonald "from the professional responsibility to listening to me talk."

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A list of this year's Nobel Prize winners

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The announcement Monday that three laureates will share the Nobel memorial prize in economics for explaining innovation-driven growth brings this year's Nobel awards to a close.

All but the Nobel Peace Prize, which was announced on Friday in the Norwegian capital, Oslo, are announced in Stockholm. The award ceremonies will be held on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, who founded the prizes.

Here are this year's winners:

Medicine

On Oct. 6, the Nobel Prize in medicine was awarded to three scientists for their work on the immune system.

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

In separate projects, the trio identified the importance of what are now called regulatory T cells. Scientists are 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.

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.

Physics

On Oct. 7, the Nobel Prize in physics was awarded to another trio of scientists for their research on the "weirdness" of subatomic particles called quantum tunneling. That has enabled the ultrasensitive measurements achieved by MRI machines and laid the groundwork for better cellphones and faster computers.

The work by John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis took the seeming contradictions of the subatomic world — where light can be both a wave and a particle, and parts of atoms can tunnel through seemingly impenetrable barriers — and applied them in the more traditional physics of digital devices. The results of their findings are just starting to appear in advanced technology and could pave the way for the development of supercharged computing.

Clarke, 83, conducted his research at the University of California, Berkeley; Martinis, 67, at the University of California, Santa Barbara; and Devoret, 72, is at Yale and also at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Clarke spearheaded the project.

Chemistry

On Oct. 8, another scientific trio won the Nobel Prize in chemistry for their development of new molecular structures that can trap vast quantities of gas inside. Experts say the work lays the groundwork to potentially suck greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere or harvest moisture from desert environments.

Experts say the work of Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar M. Yaghi "may contribute to solving some of humankind's greatest challenges."

Kitagawa, 74, is with Japan's Kyoto University, while Robson, 88, is affiliated with the University of Melbourne in Australia. Yaghi, 60, is with the University of California, Berkeley.

Literature

On Oct. 9, Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai won the Nobel Prize in literature for work the judges said upholds the power of art in the midst of "apocalyptic terror." His surreal and anarchic novels combine a bleak world view with mordant humor.

Krasznahorkai, 71, has written more than 20 books, including "The Melancholy of Resistance," a surreal, disturbing tale involving a traveling circus and a stuffed whale, and "Baron Wenckheim's Homecoming," the sprawling saga of a gambling-addicted aristocrat.

Krasznahorkai has been a vocal critic of autocratic Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, especially his government's lack of support for Ukraine after Russia launched an all-out war.

Peace

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On Oct. 10, María Corina Machado of Venezuela won the Nobel Peace Prize, and was lauded for being a “key, unifying figure in a political opposition that was once deeply divided.”

Machado, who turned 58 this week, was set to run against President Nicolás Maduro in last year’s presidential election, but the government disqualified her. The lead-up to the election saw widespread repression, including disqualifications, arrests and human rights violations. Maduro’s government has routinely targeted its real or perceived opponents.

Machado went into hiding and hasn’t been seen in public since January, and as a result it’s unclear whether she will attend the awards ceremony in Stockholm in December.

Machado becomes the 20th woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize, of the 112 individuals who have been honored.

Economics

On Oct. 13, Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt won the Nobel memorial prize in economics. They were honored for their research into the impact of innovation on economic growth and how new technologies replace older ones, a key economic concept known as “creative destruction.”

The winners represent contrasting but complementary approaches to economics. Mokyr is an economic historian who delved into long-term trends using historical sources, while Howitt and Aghion relied on mathematics to explain how creative destruction works.

Dutch-born Mokyr, 79, is from Northwestern University; Aghion, 69, from the Collège de France and the London School of Economics; and Canadian-born Howitt, 79, from Brown University.

Most key municipalities in Kosovo are headed to runoffs, local election results show

By FLORENT BAJRAMI and LLAZAR SEMINI Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) — Preliminary results from Kosovo’s weekend municipal elections showed most key municipalities heading to runoffs, highlighting the country’s ongoing political fragmentation — and underscoring continued tensions in Kosovo-Serbia relations.

Most major Albanian-majority municipalities, including the capital Pristina, appeared headed for a runoff, according to the preliminary results released Monday. In contrast, all but one of the majority ethnic Serb municipalities were won by the Srpska Lista, the dominant Serb party seen as closely aligned with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic.

About 2.1 million voters in the small Balkan nation voted Sunday for mayors for 38 municipalities and about 1,000 seats on town councils. Election officials said preliminary turnout was 40%, less than four years ago and the parliamentary polls earlier this year.

According to the Central Election Commission, 21 municipalities will proceed to a runoff to be held on Nov. 9 after no candidate secured more than 50% of the vote, the threshold required to win outright.

Preliminary results for mayoral races indicate that Prime Minister Albin Kurti’s governing left-wing Self-Determination Party, or Vetevendosje!, won in just three municipalities, while most other victories went to center-right opposition parties.

The weekend vote was held as Kurti’s party also faces the challenge of forming a new Cabinet, and the lack of decisive victories suggests a challenging path for him ahead on that front as well.

Not having a Cabinet is detrimental to the country as it seeks greater involvement from the European Union in developing its economy and helping it on its path toward the EU membership it seeks.

The local vote came just two days after Kosovo’s Parliament ended an eight-month political stalemate by completing the election of its full leadership, including a representative from the ethnic Serb minority.

On Saturday, the acting prime minister was officially tasked with forming a new Cabinet within 15 days — a process further complicated by Sunday’s local election results, as major opposition parties have so far declined to enter coalition talks.

Kosovo’s independence remains a flashpoint in the Balkans. About 11,400 people were killed, mostly ethnic

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Albanians, in the 1998–1999 war that ended after a NATO air campaign drove Serbian forces out. While most Western countries recognize Kosovo's statehood, Serbia, supported by Russia and China, does not.

Today in History: October 14 **Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 14, the 287th day of 2025. There are 78 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 14, 1947, U.S. Air Force Capt. Chuck Yeager became the first person to break the sound barrier as he flew a Bell X-1 rocket plane over Muroc Dry Lake in California. In 2012, Yeager, at the age of 89, marked the 65th anniversary of that flight by smashing through the sound barrier again, this time in the backseat of an F-15.

Also on this date:

In 1066, Normans under William the Conqueror defeated the English at the Battle of Hastings.

In 1586, Mary, Queen of Scots, went on trial in England, accused of committing treason against Queen Elizabeth I. (Mary was beheaded in February 1587.)

In 1910, aviator Claude Grahame-White flew his biplane over Washington, D.C., and landed it on West Executive Avenue, next to the White House.

In 1944, German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel took his own life rather than face trial and certain execution for allegedly conspiring against Adolf Hitler.

In 1964, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1964, in one of the greatest upsets in Olympic history, American Billy Mills, an Oglala Lakota, won the 10,000-meter race at the Tokyo Summer Games, setting a new Olympic record.

In 1981, the new president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak (HOHS'-nee moo-BAH'-rahk), was sworn in to succeed the assassinated Anwar Sadat.

In 1986, Holocaust survivor and human rights advocate Elie Wiesel (EL'-ee vee-ZEHL') was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2008, a grand jury in Orlando, Florida, returned charges of first-degree murder, aggravated child abuse and aggravated manslaughter against Casey Anthony in the death of her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee. (She was acquitted in July 2011.)

In 2024, a Space X rocket launched the NASA spacecraft Europa Clipper on a mission to Jupiter's moon Europa to determine whether conditions there could support life; the spacecraft will arrive in 2030.

Today's Birthdays: Former White House counsel John W. Dean III is 87. Fashion designer Ralph Lauren is 86. Football Hall of Famer Charlie Joiner is 78. Golf Hall of Famer Beth Daniel is 69. Musician Thomas Dolby is 67. Fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi is 64. Actor Steve Coogan is 60. TV host Stephen A. Smith is 58. Country singer Natalie Maines (The Chicks) is 51. Actor Chang Chen is 49. Singer Usher is 47. Actor-comedian Jay Pharoah is 38.