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Saturday, Oct. 25

State Cross Country Meet at Huron.

Sunday, Oct. 26

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

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

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.

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

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

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

4th-6th GBB hosts Britton-Hecla, 2 p.m.

1st Grade GBB Practice, 3:30 p.m.



5th Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

2nd Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

Dance Team Practice, 5 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 27

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

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, potluck at noon.

4th Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

Volleyball hosts Faulkton: (JV-6, V-7:15)

Tuesday, Oct. 28

5th Grade GBB practice, 4:15 p.m.

Volleyball host s Milbank: (Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:30)

FFA National Convention, Indianapolis, Ind.

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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.

Forgery Plot Foiled

German police announced yesterday that they had busted a transnational schemeto sell 20 forgeries of paintings by artists including Rembrandt and Pablo Picasso. Several suspected fakes were seized during coordinated raids across Germany, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein last week.

Authorities allege that a 77-year-old German man led 10 accomplices in the scheme that priced the counterfeits between \$465K and \$150M. Investigators became suspicious after the man tried to sell two supposedly original Picasso paintings on the art market, then claimed to possess Rembrandt's "De Sta-almeesters" despite the original hanging in Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum. An art expert confirmed that the Rembrandt was a copy, rather than a lost masterpiece. The rest of the confiscated works will be examined in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, French investigators have collected over 150 forensic samples from the scene of Sunday's Louvre heist as they pursue the suspects and attempt to recover the roughly \$102M in stolen jewels.

US strikes another alleged drug smuggling boat in the Caribbean.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Tren de Aragua was operating the boat. The strike, which killed six, was the 10th since September and the second linked by the Trump administration to the Venezuelan gang. The attack occurred overnight between the Pentagon flying bombers over Venezuela's coast Thursday and sending an aircraft carrier to the waters off South America yesterday. The moves add to what has already been the largest US military buildup in the Caribbean since the 1980s.

Inflation rate increased less than expected last month.

The consumer price index, which measures changes in the cost of a basket of goods and services, rose 0.3% month-over-month in September and 3% year-over-year. Economists expected respective readings of 0.4% and 3.1%. The index is the only official economic data released during the government shutdown. US stock markets closed higher Friday (S&P 500 +0.8%, Dow +1.0%, Nasdaq +1.2%). Separately, the Social Security Administration announced a 2.8% cost-of-living adjustment for 2026.

Trump ending trade negotiations with Canada over TV ad.

Ontario's provincial government planned to spend \$54M distributing a video of former President Ronald Reagan criticizing tariffs on US TV stations. However, following President Donald Trump's reaction Thursday night, Ontario's premier said he'd pause the ad campaign so trade talks could resume. Trump claimed the video aimed to influence a November Supreme Court hearing on tariffs.

NY attorney general pleads not guilty to federal fraud charges.

The Justice Department indicted Letitia James earlier this month for allegedly lying to secure a lower mortgage, saving \$18.9K. James denies the allegations, and her lawyers are seeking to dismiss the case on several grounds, including vindictive and selective prosecution. James, who oversaw a successful 2024 civil fraud case against Trump, was released on her own recognizance. A trial is set for Jan. 26.

New DNA evidence reveals what killed Napoleon's army.

Fewer than 50,000 of the roughly 600,000 soldiers on Napoleon Bonaparte's 1812 invasion of Russia survived. Historians have attributed their deaths to a mix of freezing temperatures, starvation, typhus, and trench fever. However, new DNA analysis of fallen soldiers' teeth reveals paratyphoid fever and relapsing fever—two previously unsuspected bacterial infections—likely hastened the army's demise.

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Tropical Storm Melissa could strengthen to Category 5 hurricane.

Three people died in Haiti as Tropical Storm Melissa brought intense rain and wind. The system is anticipated to intensify into a major hurricane as it moves through the Caribbean this weekend. Forecasters warn of potentially catastrophic flash flooding and landslides in Haiti, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic. As of this writing, Melissa is not expected to hit the mainland US.

Humankind(ness)

Today, we're sharing a story from reader Kyla J. in Crete, Nebraska.

"My husband and I recently bought mums from a local vendor for my daughter's upcoming outdoor wedding. As we were loading mums into our vehicle, a younger man was loading mums into his truck. I asked if he also had a wedding, since his truck was full of the gorgeous flowers. He kind of laughed and said that actually in the early morning hours before anyone rises, he places them on porches of the elderly folks in his small town. So far he hadn't been caught. When I talked to the vendor after he left regarding his kindness, the vendor said he's been doing that for several years."

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Tigers Sweep Redfield to Close Out Road Schedule

REDFIELD — The Groton Area Tigers wrapped up their final road match of the regular season Thursday night with a convincing 3–0 sweep over the Redfield Pheasants, winning 25–14, 25–18, and 25–21.

Head Coach Chelsea Hanson said she was pleased with how the Tigers opened the night, but also noted that consistency across all three sets remains a key area of focus heading into postseason play.

"We started out really good in that first set," Hanson said. "We earned 72% of our points, but then it dropped to 56% and 52%. For us, we need to learn to be satisfied playing good not just in the first set — you have to start back from zero and rebuild back up."

Fast Start for the Tigers

Groton jumped out to a 6–0 lead in the opening set and never looked back, rolling to a 25–14 win. The Tigers scored 18 of their 25 points — 72% — on earned plays, powered by 15 kills and three ace serves.

Tevan Hanson led the early charge with four kills, while Jaedyn Penning added two kills and two aces. Hanson said Redfield's blocking game tested her hitters early.

"Redfield did a really good job blocking," she said. "They definitely had our outsides frustrated. When you can put a big block in front of the hitters, it changes their shots and makes them adjust. It took us a little while to get going again, but overall it was a solid night."

Redfield earned half of their points in the set, with Hayden Gall and Kinley Smith each contributing two kills.

Grinding Through the Second Set

The second set featured three ties and two lead changes as Redfield briefly led 7–5 before Groton rallied with a five-point run to go up 10–7 and kept control, winning 25–18.

The Tigers cooled slightly, earning 14 of their 25 points (56%) with 14 kills — five of them from Chesney Weber.

Hanson said the dip in efficiency was partly the result of a long stretch of matches.

"This was our seventh match of the week," Hanson noted. "Coming off a Saturday tournament and then playing a Friday night road match, that's a lot. I think some of those little miscommunications and timing errors were just fatigue. But to still win in straight sets says a lot about this group."

Redfield remained steady in the second set with eight kills and one block. Smith led the Pheasants with three kills and an assisted block, while Gall added two kills and a block assist.

Battling Through the Third

The third set was the most competitive of the night, with Redfield briefly taking an 8–7 lead before Groton responded with four straight points to move ahead 12–9. The Tigers maintained that edge and closed it out, 25–21.

Groton earned 52% of its points in the final set, tallying 12 kills and a block. Taryn Traphagen led with four kills, Hanson added three kills and a block, and Riley Dunker contributed three kills.

Hanson said she continues to push the team — even when they're winning — to ensure they're ready for tougher matches.

"I'm going to coach them as hard as I can, even in games that we're winning," she said. "We have to be good at the right time. I want to make sure they've already heard that coaching feedback before we're in a game we're losing."

She also praised her team's offensive balance.

"Tevan had 10 kills and was really consistent all three sets," Hanson said. "She's handling a lot of pressure and learning fast. McKenna Krause only had five kills, but she hit really efficiently from the right side, and that's big for us. When our right sides — McKenna and Chesney — are attacking well, it opens everything up for Jaedyn and Tevan on the outside and Riley and Taryn in the middle."

Match Totals and Perspective

For the night, Groton earned 60% of its points with 41 kills, three ace serves, and one block. Redfield earned 58% with 26 kills, two aces, and two blocks.

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Hanson said she wants her team to keep leaning into their offensive identity as the postseason nears. "Scoring points is our bread and butter," she said. "That's who we are. I looked back on that Northwestern match, and we were right there with them in kills. Offensively, that's our identity — and defensively, I'll take our line of littles every day. We just have to keep our focus on our side of the net and not take for granted that we're playing well right now. It can change quick."

Individual Leaders – Varsity

Tevan Hanson: 10 kills, 1 block (19-of-26 attacks)

Taryn Traphagen: 7 kills, 1 solo block

Chesney Weber: 8 kills (16-of-16 attacks)

Riley Dunker: 8 kills

Makenna Krause: 5 kills, 1 block

Jaedyn Penning: 2 kills, 2 aces

McKenna Tietz: 1 ace, 11 digs

Jerica Locke: 1 ace (8-for-8 serving), 14 digs

Talli Wright: 1 kill

Redfield Leaders

Hayden Gall: 9 kills, 1 assist block

Kinley Smith: 7 kills, 2 assist blocks

Brynn Giblin: 4 kills, 1 ace

Cecilia Sucher: 4 kills

Charli Jungwirth: 3 kills

Layla Hardy: 1 ace, 1 assist block

Junior Varsity Sweep

Groton's JV team also swept Redfield, winning 25–12 and 25–21.

The Tigers went on a nine-point run midway through the first set and rallied from an early 8–1 deficit in the second to seal the win.

Abby Fjeldheim led with seven kills and a block. Emily Jones added six aces and five kills, Elizabeth Cole had five kills, Liby Althoff three aces, and Kella Tracy three kills. Ryelle Gilbert, Sydney Locke, and McKenna Krause each served an ace.

Redfield's Gracie Boothe led the Pheasants with three kills and a block.

Groton won the C match, 25-15, 25-19.

What's Next

The Tigers return home for the final two regular-season matches — Faulkton on Monday and Milbank on Tuesday, which will also be Parents Night in Groton.

"We're ready for the home stretch," Hanson said. "It's been a long week, but this weekend will be good recovery time. We'll come back ready to play on Monday and finish strong."

The varsity match was streamed live on GDILive.com, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara, Barry 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 of Andover.

The junior varsity match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by a grandparent.

Todd County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: US Highway 83, mile marker 29, seven miles north of Mission, SD

When: 3:30 a.m., Friday, October 24, 2025

Driver 1: 65-year-old male from Torrington, WY, life threatening injuries

Vehicle 1: Ford F250

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

Passenger 1a: 20-year-old male from Torrington, WY, no injuries

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

Driver 2: 73-year-old female from Laurel, DE, fatal injuries

Vehicle 2: 2023 Kenworth T680 with trailer

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

Passenger 2a: 70-year-old male from Laurel, DE, fatal injuries

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

Todd County, S.D.- Two people died in a two-vehicle crash early Friday morning, seven miles north of Mission, SD.

The names of the persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2023 Kenworth T680 was traveling northbound on US Highway 83 near mile marker 29. At the same time, the driver of a Ford F250 was traveling southbound and sideswiped the semi. The Ford came to rest in the southbound ditch. After the collision, the semi caught fire and the cab separated from the chassis and rolled into the northbound ditch.

Both occupants of the semi died at the scene. The driver of the Ford sustained life-threatening injuries and a passenger was not injured.

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.

Edmunds County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: US Highway 12, mile marker 241, eight miles west of Roscoe, SD

When: 8:12 p.m., Thursday, October 23, 2025

Driver 1: 63-year-old female from Belle Fourche, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2003 Toyota Highlander

Seat belt Used: No

Driver 2: 19-year-old male from Webster, SD, minor injuries

Vehicle 2: 2018 GMC Sierra

Seat belt Used: Yes

Passenger 2a: 19-year-old male from Federalsburg, MD, minor injuries

Seat belt Used: Yes

Edmunds County, S.D.- A Belle Fourche woman died and two others were injured in a two-vehicle crash Thursday evening eight miles west of Roscoe, SD.

The names of the persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2003 Toyota Highlander was traveling eastbound on US Highway 12 near mile marker 241 when a deer ran into the roadway. The driver swerved to avoid the deer but struck it and entered the westbound lane, colliding with an oncoming 2018 GMC Sierra.

The driver of the Toyota sustained fatal injuries. The driver and a passenger in the GMC sustained minor injuries.

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.

Names Released in Brookings County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: SD Highway 30 and 471st Avenue, one mile south of Bruce, SD

When: 6:05 a.m., Sunday, October 19, 2025

Driver 1: Jody Alan Weiss, 53-year-old male from Arlington, SD, minor injuries

Vehicle 1: 2023 GMC Sierra

Seat belt Used: Yes

Driver 2: Sixta Erika Huerta Garcia, 48-year-old female from Brookings, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 2: 2007 Ford Edge

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

Brookings County, S.D.- A Brookings woman died early Sunday morning in a two-vehicle crash one mile south of Bruce, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Sixta Erika Huerta Garcia, the driver of a 2007 Ford Edge, was traveling north on 471st Avenue. At the same time, Jody Alan Weiss, the driver of a 2023 GMC Sierra, was traveling east on 204th Street. As the GMC approached the intersection with 471st Street, the driver failed to stop at the stop sign, entering the intersection and colliding with the Ford. Both vehicles traveled off the roadway into the northeast ditch.

Weiss received minor injuries. Huerta Garcia was pronounced deceased at the scene.

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.

The Life of Milton Sippel



Memorial services for Milton "Mick" Sippel, 82, of Groton will be 1:00 p.m., Thursday, October 30th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Tom Summers will officiate. Inurnment will take place at a later date in Union Cemetery, Groton. Family requests casual dress for services.

Mick passed away October 20, 2025 at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen.

Milton L. Sippel was born on January 23, 1943 to Wesley and Lorraine (Wehrauch) Sippel in Aberdeen. He attended school in Groton and graduated in 1961. Mick farmed with his dad and brothers following school. In June of 1962, he was united in marriage with Kathy Tastad and together they were blessed with three children: John, Cheri and Doug. Mick continued farming until 1979, when he moved to Groton and started a welding shop. He was a member of the Groton Fire Department for many years. In later years, he worked for several farmers with livestock and crops. He also drove truck locally and across the country from Texas to Michigan hauling grain, livestock, and produce.

Mick was a member of the James Valley Threshing Club in Andover and enjoyed sharing and displaying his International Tractor Collection, along with his two brothers and his nephew, Terry Sippel, in the Threshing Bee Parade. He also loved hunting and fishing with friends and family over the years. In his youth he was a member of the Lazy Farmers 4-H Club, then took over as leader for his father after Wes passed away in 1974. He also took pride in farming and growing large gardens. Always social, he could be found hanging out with friends, telling stories, and dancing to music.

Celebrating his life are his sons, John (Lisa) Sippel of Groton, Doug Sippel of Groton, son-in-law, Tom Strom of Groton; 10 grandchildren: Amanda Sippel, Allison (Tanner Lemon) Sippel, Kaylee Sippel, Garrett (Emily) Belden, Greg Belden, Alicia (Colin) Burrer, Wyatt (Megan) Kurtz, Clayton (Aimee) Kurtz, Holden Sippel, Gage Sippel; 8 great-grandchildren: Waylon Lemon, Violet Belden, Brantley Belden, Addison Gauer, Finley and Olivia Burrer, Wrenley and Jorie Kurtz; two brothers, Bob Sippel of Aberdeen and Rex (Cindy) Sippel of Groton. Additionally, his many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his daughter, Cheri Strom.

Honorary Urnbearers will be: Bob, Renee, and Travis Swisher, Craig Weber, Lee Thompson, Paul Walter, Bill, Eileen, and Austin Schuelke, Rich Fliehs, Todd and Wade Anderson, and many more friends and neighbors.

STAKEHOLDER FAQ: POTENTIAL SNAP BENEFIT DISRUPTION

**Supporting SNAP Recipients During the Federal Government Shutdown
November SNAP Benefits May Be Disrupted**

Due to the ongoing federal government shutdown, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for November 2025 may be delayed or disrupted.

While October benefits have been fully issued, future funding is not guaranteed. DSS is closely monitoring developments and is in regular contact with federal partners.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are SNAP recipients losing eligibility?

No. There are no changes to SNAP eligibility or program rules at this time.

2. Are DSS offices still open?

Yes. DSS offices are fully operational. Staff are available to:

- Accept new applications
- Process renewals
- Answer questions from customers and partners

3. Can SNAP recipients still use their EBT cards?

Yes. Current balances remaining on EBT cards – from October benefits or previous months – remain available for recipients to use.

4. Will SNAP retailers be able to take SNAP benefits?

Currently, SNAP authorized retailers have not been de-authorized. USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has indicated states can expect further guidance around the authorizations given to retailers should the shutdown continue.

5. How many SNAP recipients are in my community?

SNAP data and statistics can be found here: <https://dss.sd.gov/keyresources/statistics.aspx#snap>

6. How will DSS share updates?

- Via the official DSS website
- Through local DSS offices
- Via the media and public announcements

7. What if a tribe uses its own funds to contribute to USDA's commodity program, would that affect individuals' eligibility for SNAP?

Federal rules do not allow a household to receive both SNAP and Commodities in the same month. This is also true if a tribe contributes its own funds to purchase or supplement commodities. Therefore, a household's SNAP eligibility could be impacted should a tribe pursue this provision for its members.

8. What Stakeholders Can Do Now:

- Prepare to support households who may face a benefits gap in November.
- Promote careful use of existing SNAP benefits and connect customers with food banks or pantries.
- Help dispel misinformation by sharing DSS updates.
- For help with applications or to check the status of benefits, refer individuals to DSS. They can also dial 211 or text their Zip code to 898211 to find local resources available in their community.

Stay Connected

- DSS Website: <https://dss.sd.gov>
- DSS Contact: <https://dss.sd.gov/findyourlocaloffice/>



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Legislators and governor make competing proposals to take money from housing fund

Rhoden wants millions for airport expansions, while legislative task force eyes property tax relief

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR AND SETH TUPPER-OCTOBER 24, 2025

SIOUX FALLS — South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden and a group of legislators — including one seeking his job — made rival proposals this week to shift millions in state housing infrastructure funds to other purposes.

On Wednesday, a legislative task force working on property tax reduction advanced 19 ideas that could become legislation this winter. The ideas include taking the roughly \$65 million remaining in the state's housing infrastructure fund and pairing it with money from the state's budget reserves to provide \$500 individual property tax credits to homeowners.

On Friday, Rhoden said he wants to use \$30 million of housing infrastructure money to offer interest-free loans of up to \$15 million each for expansion projects at the Sioux Falls and Rapid City airports.

"We've seen huge increases in travelers coming through these airports," Rhoden said while making the announcement at the airport in Sioux Falls. "With more gates, more flights, and more destinations, we'll be able to draw more visitors."

The plans require approval from legislators, who will gather in January at the Capitol in Pierre for their annual lawmaking session.

Both plans target the Housing Infrastructure Financing Program, which legislators and Rhoden's predecessor, Kristi Noem, created in 2023. They used a mix of state and federal money to create a \$200 million fund.

Awards from the program cover up to a third of a developer's cost for things like roads, water-and-sewer lines, and sidewalks. The fund has supported 83 projects statewide, helping to create 7,360 single-family housing lots and 5,754 apartment or other multi-family units.

Half of the fund went out as grants. About \$65 million remains from the other half, devoted to loans.

Rhoden wants to move the \$65 million from the housing infrastructure fund to the state's Revolving Economic Development and Initiative Fund, known as the REDI Fund. The \$30 million could then be loaned to the airports.

Rhoden did not specify a use for the rest of the money, but in the REDI Fund it would be available for low-interest loans to start-up firms, businesses that are expanding or relocating in South Dakota, and local economic development corporations. REDI Fund loans are awarded by the state Board of Economic Development, whose members are appointed by the governor.

When asked about the shift in purpose for the money, Rhoden's spokeswoman, Josie Harms, responded with a statement.

"It wouldn't have been right to use these dollars sooner, before they had the opportunity to be used for housing development — but by now they have," the statement said. "Most of the original \$200 million was invested into housing, and what remains is currently sitting unused; therefore, adding no value to South Dakotans. It's only right to invest these dollars so that they are actively adding value to our great state."

Rhoden has not yet formally declared himself a candidate to keep his job next year, but he has published a campaign website and is seeking campaign contributions.

The idea to use remaining housing infrastructure money for property tax credits is from state House

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Speaker Jon Hansen, R-Dell Rapids, one of several declared candidates for governor in next year's elections and a co-chairman of the property tax task force.

Rhoden criticized Hansen's plan Friday.

"That proposal, quite frankly, has no merit," Rhoden said, arguing that one-time credits would be a bandage approach to the ongoing problem of rising property taxes.

Hansen responded in a statement to South Dakota Searchlight.

"Families are getting hammered by high property taxes, and they remain my top priority," Hansen said. "They need relief now — no more delays, no more excuses, and definitely no more of these budget swaps to fund pet projects."

Rhoden has his own proposal to lower property taxes by giving counties — which currently can't impose sales taxes — the option to levy a half-percent sales tax while using the revenue to lower or replace homeowner property taxes.

Meanwhile, an economic development official thinks the remaining housing dollars should stay where they are.

"We're disappointed that the administration has turned away from the business of investing in housing infrastructure," said Julie Johnson, an Aberdeen-area lobbyist for various economic development and housing groups. "These are very important funds in the world of housing development across the state."

Last week, the president and CEO of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, Neel Kashkari, told a Rapid City audience that the best thing local governments can do for housing affordability is encourage more home construction.

"Localities need to look at what can you do locally to try to remove some of the barriers that are preventing more supply from coming in," Kashkari said.

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.

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

USDA won't shuffle funds to extend SNAP during shutdown, in about-face from earlier plan

BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA AND ARIANA FIGUEROA-

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture said in a memo Friday the agency's contingency fund cannot legally be used to provide food assistance benefits for more than 42 million people in November, as the government shutdown drags on.

The position is a reversal from the department's earlier stance, according to a since-deleted copy of the USDA's Sept. 30 shutdown plan that said the department would use its multi-year contingency fund to continue paying Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits during the ongoing shutdown.

SNAP has about \$6 billion in the contingency fund — short of the roughly \$9 billion needed to cover a full month of the program, putting November benefits in jeopardy.

Because of a stalemate in Congress over a stopgap spending bill, the government shut down on Oct. 1 without new SNAP funding enacted.

The memo, which was first reported by Axios on Friday, said states would not be reimbursed if they use their own funds to cover the cost of the benefits.

"There is no provision or allowance under current law for States to cover the cost of benefits and be reimbursed," the memo says, while also noting that "the best way for SNAP to continue is for the shutdown to end."

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Discrepancy with shutdown plan

The memo also says the contingency fund is meant for natural disasters and similar emergencies, not for a lack of appropriations.

But USDA's Sept. 30 contingency plan contradicts that and appears to greenlight the use of SNAP's contingency fund during a lapse in funding.

"Congressional intent is evident that SNAP's operations should continue since the program has been provided with multi-year contingency funds that can be used for State Administrative Expenses to ensure that the State can also continue operations during a Federal Government shutdown," according to the plan. "These multi-year contingency funds are also available to fund participant benefits in the event that a lapse occurs in the middle of the fiscal year."

USDA's contingency plan is no longer online, but is accessible through an internet archive.

After providing States Newsroom with the memo Friday afternoon, USDA did not immediately respond to a follow-up inquiry about the discrepancy between Friday's memo and its contingency plan.

In the memo, USDA said transferring money toward SNAP from other sources "would pull away funding for school meals and infant formula."

The agency said it has shuffled funds to cover several nutrition programs during the shutdown, including the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC, as well as the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Dems call on Rollins to tap into fund

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said last week the government would run out of funds to deliver November SNAP benefits as a result of the ongoing shutdown.

Friday morning, U.S. House Democrats, like nearly all of their Senate counterparts and the Republican chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, urged Rollins to not only use the contingency fund, but to reprogram other money to cover a \$3 billion shortfall.

"A potential lapse in benefits would be felt by Americans of all ages and affect every corner and congressional district in the country," according to the letter from more than 200 House Democrats.

In a separate letter, 46 Senate Democrats sent to Rollins on Wednesday, voicing concerns that USDA told states to hold off on sending in SNAP benefits to be processed for November.

"We were deeply disturbed to hear that the USDA has instructed states to stop processing SNAP benefits for November and were surprised by your recent comments that the program will 'run out of money in two weeks,'" according to the letter. "In fact, the USDA has several tools available which would enable SNAP benefits to be paid through or close to the end of November."

The chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Republican Susan Collins of Maine, also urged Rollins in a Thursday letter to "consider all available options in accordance with federal law to ensure that this vital nutrition assistance continues, including the use of contingency funds and looking at the viability of partial payments or any transfer authority you may have."

Benefits could be slow even if a deal reached

States have been told by the agency to hold off on submitting SNAP benefit requests to processing centers. Food banks and pantries are already bracing for the increased need, including in Iowa, where more than 270,000 Iowans rely on SNAP each month.

However, even if Congress immediately reached a deal to end the shutdown, the time needed to process the payments and make them available for recipients means SNAP benefits would likely be delayed. State officials have warned SNAP recipients of the possibility of delays.

In West Virginia, officials said delays are expected and told residents to seek assistance at local food pantries. Roughly 1 in 6 West Virginia residents rely on SNAP each month.

Legal requirement cited

Sharon Parrott, a White House Office of Management and Budget official during the Obama administration who now leads a left-leaning think tank, said in a Thursday statement that USDA is legally required to use its SNAP contingency funds.

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Parrott, the president of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, said the multi-year contingency fund is "billions of dollars that Congress provided for use when SNAP funding is inadequate that remain available during the shutdown — to fund November benefits for the 1 in 8 Americans who need SNAP to afford their grocery bill."

Parrott said the Trump administration could use its legal transfer authority, just as it did with WIC funding, to "supplement the contingency reserves, which by themselves are not enough to fund families' full benefits."

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.

Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include immigration, congressional policy and legal challenges with a focus on how those policies impact the lives of immigrants and migrants coming to the U.S.

Minimum wage in South Dakota will increase to \$11.85

BY: SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF-OCTOBER 24, 2025

The minimum wage for non-tipped employees in South Dakota will increase from \$11.50 per hour to \$11.85 per hour on Jan. 1, according to the state Department of Labor and Regulation.

The minimum wage in the state is adjusted annually based on increases in the cost of living, as measured by the consumer price index published by the U.S. Department of Labor. South Dakota implements the annual increase due to a citizen-initiated ballot measure passed by voters in 2014.

The minimum wage for tipped employees will be \$5.925 per hour effective Jan. 1, which is half the minimum wage for non-tipped employees. Wages and tips combined must equal at least the minimum wage.

These increases will apply to all South Dakota employers, with some limited exceptions. For more information, visit dlr.sd.gov/employment_laws/minimum_wage.aspx.

South Dakota is one of 30 states, plus the District of Columbia, that has adopted a minimum wage higher than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, according to The Economic Policy Institute.

Pay for Trump and Congress continues in shutdown, unless they ask it be held

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT-OCTOBER 24, 2025 4:47 PM

WASHINGTON — Some members of Congress are asking for their salaries to be withheld during the government shutdown, while federal workers on Friday missed their first full paycheck since many operations closed on Oct. 1.

With no movement toward a deal to end the shutdown, the House remained on a prolonged break from Capitol Hill, the Senate left for its usual long weekend and President Donald Trump prepared to depart for a trip to China, where he will likely focus much more on foreign policy and tariffs than the funding lapse.

The president, lawmakers and federal judges all receive their regular paychecks during government shutdowns, unlike the 2 million civilian federal employees and thousands of staffers who work in the legislative branch. Members of Congress are paid \$174,000 a year and leaders are paid more.

Active duty military members would also normally miss their paychecks, but the Defense Department reprogrammed \$8 billion earlier this month to avoid a missed payday for U.S. troops. It's unclear if the Pentagon can do that again ahead of the Oct. 31 pay date or if there was enough money left to cover those salaries.

Pay for Congress

Unlike most federal workers, members of Congress have the option to receive their pay as normal, donate their salaries to charity, give the money back to the Treasury, or have their checks withheld during this shutdown.

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Rhode Island Democratic Rep. Gabe Amo posted a letter Thursday evening from House Chief Administrative Officer Catherine L. Szpindor confirming that House members' salaries can be held back until after the funding lapse ends.

Szpindor wrote that legal requirements, including the 27th Amendment, entitle members of Congress to their pay and that any lawmaker who has their check withheld during a shutdown can request it be distributed at any time. Szpindor did not respond to a request for comment.

A spokesperson for Ohio Republican Sen. Jon Husted said the Senate Financial Clerk told their office that while senators are required to be paid, officials can withhold his check until after the shutdown ends, at his request.

The Senate disbursing office will continue to cut the check, but Husted will not pick it up until after Congress funds the government, the spokesperson said.

Husted doesn't believe members of Congress should receive their salaries on time when other federal workers cannot, the spokesperson said.

A different Senate staffer, speaking on background about the issue, told States Newsroom the salary for another senator was transitioned from direct deposit to a physical paycheck so it could be held by the disbursing office for the duration of the shutdown, at that senator's request.

Members of Congress who have asked for their salaries to be withheld include Colorado Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet, Florida Republican Rep. Kat Cammack, New Jersey Democratic Sen. Andy Kim, Oklahoma Republican Rep. Stephanie Bice and Oregon Democratic Rep. Janelle Bynum, among others.

Spokespeople for Trump and Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., did not respond to a request for comment about whether they are having their salaries withheld during the shutdown. A spokesperson for Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said he is having his paycheck held back.

Can lawmakers' salaries legally be withheld?

Congress has voted several times over the years to officially withhold members' salaries during a shutdown, but none of the bills have ever become law. There have been questions during past funding lapses about whether members' paychecks could legally be withheld.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office wrote in a letter to Iowa Republican Sen. Joni Ernst just before the shutdown began that member pay "is required by the Constitution and is considered mandatory spending."

"Thus, Members of Congress would continue to be paid during a lapse in discretionary appropriations," CBO Director Phillip L. Swagel wrote.

That assessment lines up with a report from the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, updated in August, that says "Members of Congress continue to receive their pay during a lapse in appropriations for a number of reasons."

Lawmaker salaries "have been provided by a permanent, mandatory, appropriation since" 1981, the report says.

The U.S. Constitution, in Article I, Section 6, Clause 1, says: "Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States."

And the 27th Amendment to the Constitution says: "No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened."

The CRS report quotes the Government Accountability Office's principles of federal appropriations law as saying, "The salary of a Member of Congress is fixed by statute and therefore cannot be waived without specific statutory authority."

But the report also points out nothing prevents a member of Congress from accepting the salary and then donating all or part of it back to the Treasury.

No options and no paychecks for feds

That same choice isn't available for the people who work for members of Congress or those at depart-

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ments and agencies throughout the executive branch.

They must go without their paychecks until after Congress and the president broker a deal to fund the government and end the shutdown.

Any worker who manages national security issues, or the protection of life or property, is considered exempt and continues working until the shutdown ends. Any federal employee not in that category is placed on furlough.

The Senate was unable to advance multiple bills Thursday that would have provided salaries to some federal employees and contractors during the shutdown.

Absent new congressional action, both exempt and non-exempt federal workers are supposed to receive back pay under a 2019 law once government reopens, though Trump and administration officials have cast doubt on whether they will do that for employees in the executive branch.

Guidance from the House Committee on Administration says that all employees who work within the legislative branch will receive back pay once a funding bill becomes law.

"Neither essential nor furloughed employees are authorized to receive compensation during a lapse in government funding," the report says. "Federal law statutorily requires retroactive pay for furloughed and essential employees following the end of a lapse in government funding."

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.

Social Security payments to rise 2.8%, a tick below inflation rate

BY: JACOB FISCHLER-OCTOBER 24, 2025 10:48 AM

The 75 million Americans who receive Social Security benefits will see a 2.8% increase in payments next year, the Social Security Administration said Friday.

The cost-of-living adjustment is just below the inflation rate of 3% announced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, also on Friday.

The adjustment is lower than the average over the past decade, but higher than last year's. The average adjustment for the past 10 years is 3.1%, including a 2.5% increase last year. On average, beneficiaries' monthly payments will rise by about \$56, the SSA said.

Beneficiaries include people who receive Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance, as well as Supplemental Security Income.

"Social Security is a promise kept, and the annual cost-of-living adjustment is one way we are working to make sure benefits reflect today's economic realities and continue to provide a foundation of security," Social Security Administration Commissioner Frank J. Bisignano said in a statement. "The cost-of-living adjustment is a vital part of how Social Security delivers on its mission."

The tax rate for Social Security and Medicare will remain steady at 7.65% for employees and 15.3% for self-employed workers.

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

New report urges more individualized justice system responses for women

Women made up 27% of all adult arrests in 2024, nearly double their share in 1980

BY: AMANDA WATFORD-OCTOBER 24, 2025 9:22 AM

A new report from the nonpartisan think tank Council on Criminal Justice warns that policies and practices across the nation's criminal justice systems are failing to address the distinct factors that drive women into the system — and in doing so, are harming families and undermining public safety.

The report, which was released early this month, calls on states and local communities to reconsider how they respond to women at the earliest stages of criminal justice involvement — from arrest and pretrial

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detention to charging and sentencing — and to focus more on prevention, treatment and family stability.

“Women are no less responsible for their actions than men, and should be held accountable,” said Stephanie Akhter, the director of the council’s Women’s Justice Commission.

“If we really want to stop crime and put people on a path to success, then we need to take an individualized approach and craft responses that are fair and in service of those goals,” Akhter told Stateline.

The report outlined four major policy recommendations: prioritizing alternatives to arrest, basing pretrial detention decisions on public safety and flight risk, considering women’s unique circumstances during charging and sentencing, and prohibiting sexual contact between law enforcement officers and people in custody.

The authors also urged state and local leaders to invest in research and data collection to better understand women’s experiences in the justice system and the factors that may contribute to criminal behavior, including domestic violence, economic instability, substance use and mental illness.

“We need to know more about what’s bringing them into the system,” Akhter said.

The report comes as new federal data shows the female prison population is growing faster than the male population. The female state prison population increased about 5% nationwide between 2022 and 2023, according to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics. Most states saw gains of fewer than 100 women, with Texas being the only state where the number of incarcerated women rose by more than 500.

Roughly 58% of women incarcerated in state prisons were parents of minor children in 2016, compared with 46% of men, according to a 2021 Bureau of Justice Statistics research brief.

The latest national FBI data shows a similar trend in arrests: Women accounted for 27% of all adult arrests in 2024, nearly double their 14% share in 1980, according to the council’s report. The share of violent offense arrests among women also has steadily risen, from 11% in 1986 to 21% in 2024.

A separate report from the council’s Women’s Justice Commission examined how communities respond to women in crisis. The authors found that some crisis intervention systems are not designed to meet women’s specific needs, and that more research is needed to understand women’s experiences and long-term outcomes.

Stateline reporter Amanda Watford can be reached at ahernandez@stateline.org.

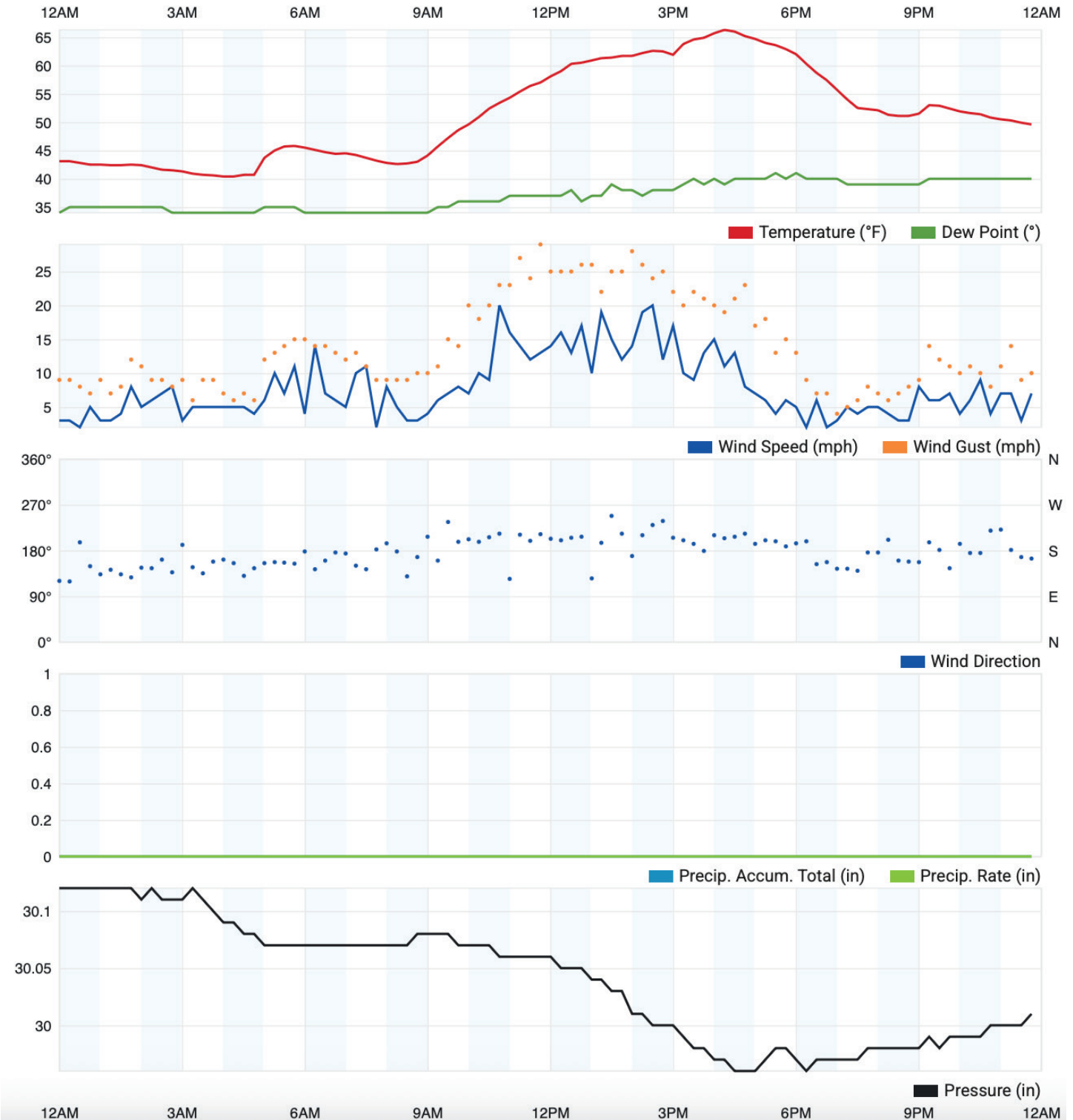
This story was originally produced by Stateline, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes South Dakota Searchlight, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.

Amanda Watford (formerly Hernández) covers criminal justice for Stateline. She has reported for both national and local outlets, including ABC News, USA Today and NBC4 Washington.

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October 24, 2025



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Today



High: 64 °F

Patchy Fog
then Partly
Sunny

Tonight



Low: 49 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Sunday



High: 65 °F

Partly Sunny
and Breezy

Sunday Night



Low: 49 °F

Mostly Cloudy
and Breezy
then Slight
Chance Rain

Monday



High: 55 °F

Rain

BREEZY WINDS AHEAD

Key Messages

- Gusty southerly winds expected Saturday afternoon through Sunday
- Sunday's winds will be the strongest, with gusts of 35-45 mph
 - Saturday's gusts will be around 30-35mph



Stronger winds will lead to elevated fire danger Saturday and Sunday

- Winds could lead to erratic fire behavior if a fire was to ignite

October 25, 2025 4:15 AM



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
weather.gov/aberndeen

Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)

	10/25 Sat					10/26 Sun										
	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am		
Aberdeen	25↑	26↑	28↑	25↑	26↑	28↑	31↑	36↑	39↑	39↑	40↑	35↑	30↑	28↑		
Britton	25↑	26↑	28↑	25↑	28↑	28↑	32↑	38↑	40↑	41↑	43↑	37↑	33↑	30↑		
Chamberlain	22↑	28↑	29↑	28↑	28↑	28↑	28↑	31↑	35↑	37↑	37↑	33↑	31↑	26↑		
Clark	25↑	28↑	28↑	25↑	28↑	28↑	31↑	35↑	38↑	40↑	41↑	37↑	33↑	31↑		
Eagle Butte	22↑	29↑	31↑	32↑	33↑	33↑	36↑	37↑	36↑	33↑	32↑	26↑	24↑	23↑		
Eureka	24↑	29↑	31↑	29↑	32↑	33↑	36↑	40↑	41↑	44↑	43↑	33↑	26↑	24↑		
Gettysburg	25↑	29↑	31↑	30↑	31↑	31↑	33↑	38↑	38↑	40↑	39↑	33↑	29↑	25↑		
McIntosh	24↑	31↑	36↑	35↑	36↑	36↑	37↑	38↑	38↑	36↑	32↑	26↑	21↑	20↑		
Milbank	20↑	22↑	22↑	22↑	21↑	21↑	21↑	24↑	29↑	32↑	32↑	30↑	26↑	25↑		
Miller	25↑	29↑	29↑	28↑	28↑	29↑	32↑	37↑	40↑	41↑	43↑	36↑	31↑	29↑		
Mobridge	22↑	29↑	30↑	30↑	33↑	36↑	38↑	40↑	40↑	39↑	37↑	31↑	25↑	22↑		
Murdo	22↑	29↑	31↑	31↑	32↑	32↑	33↑	36↑	37↑	38↑	38↑	33↑	29↑	25↑		
Pierre	21↑	26↑	30↑	30↑	31↑	31↑	32↑	36↑	36↑	37↑	37↑	35↑	28↑	23↑		
Redfield	26↑	29↑	30↑	29↑	28↑	28↑	31↑	36↑	39↑	43↑	44↑	37↑	30↑	28↑		
Sisseton	21↑	23↑	24↑	23↑	23↑	22↑	24↑	29↑	33↑	35↑	35↑	32↑	29↑	25↑		
Watertown	23↑	24↑	25↑	23↑	24↑	24↑	26↑	30↑	35↑	37↑	38↑	35↑	31↑	29↑		
Webster	25↑	26↑	28↑	25↑	26↑	26↑	28↑	32↑	37↑	40↑	40↑	35↑	31↑	29↑		
Wheaton	22↑	23↑	23↑	24↑	23↑	23↑	24↑	29↑	30↑	31↑	30↑	30↑	28↑	25↑		

Winds will start to increase in speed Saturday afternoon into Sunday, with Sunday's winds gusting up to 35 to 45 mph. These stronger winds will lead to elevated fire danger Saturday and Sunday. Take caution because if a fire does start, the winds could spread the it quickly.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 66 °F at 4:09 PM

Low Temp: 40 °F at 4:04 AM

Wind: 29 mph at 11:41 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 81 in 1989

Record Low: 10 in 1942

Average High: 54

Average Low: 29

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.83

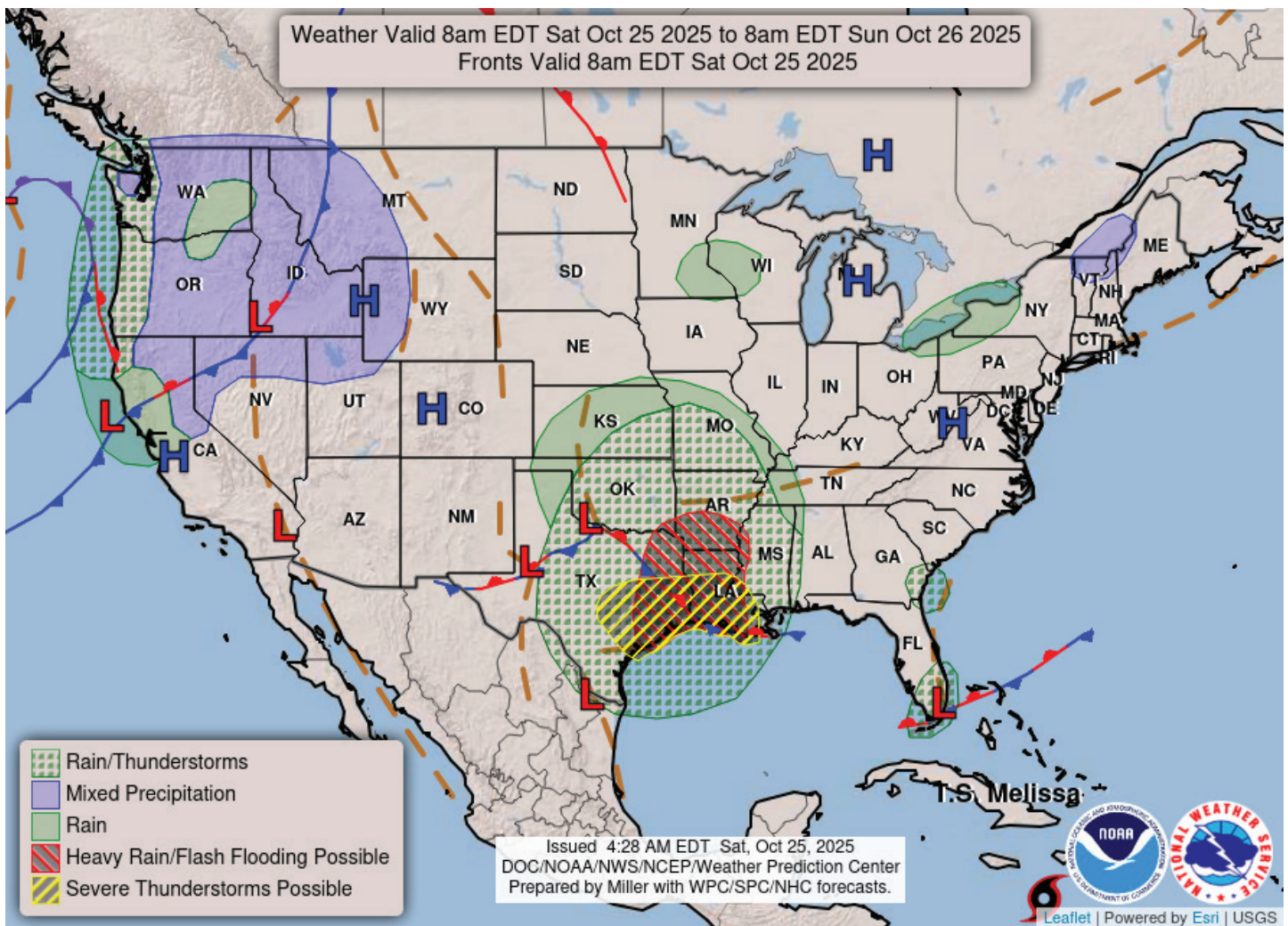
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.48

Average Precip to date: 20.16

Precip Year to Date: 23.40

Sunset Tonight: 6:30 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:03 am



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Today in Weather History

October 25, 1954: A storm dumped snow over the region with the highest snowfall amounts at Devils Tower with sixteen inches. Other snowfall totals from the area included four inches in Colony and Faith, eight inches in Custer and Lead, and eleven inches in Spearfish.

1918: The Canadian steamship Princess Sophia carrying miners from the Yukon and Alaska becomes stranded on Vanderbilt Reef. A strong northerly gale hampers rescue attempts the day before. The ship sinks on this day, killing the 268 passengers and 75 crewmen on board.

1921: A devastating category 3 hurricane struck near Tarpon Springs, Florida. The storm caused 8 fatalities and is the latest in the calendar year a category 3 hurricane or stronger made landfall in the US.

1975: GOES-1, which was launched on October 16th, produced its first image of the earth on this day.

1977: Dutch Harbor in Alaska reported a barometric pressure reading of 27.31 inches (925 millibars) to establish an all-time record for the state.

1981 - A northbound tornado caused two million dollars damage to Bountstown, FL, in less than five minutes. Fortunately no deaths occurred along its six mile path, which was 30 to 100 yards in width. Radar at Apalachicola had no indication of a tornado or severe weather. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm system moving across the Saint Lawrence Valley produced 40 to 50 mph winds east of Lake Ontario. High winds downed some trees around Watertown NY, and produced waves seven feet high between Henderson Harbor and Alexandria Bay. Mason City IA and Waterloo IA tied for honors as cold spot in the nation with record lows for the date of 19 degrees. Severe thunderstorms in Oklahoma and northern Texas produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 65 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms erupted over northeastern Texas during the late evening producing softball size hail at Newcastle and Jonesboro. Low pressure over James Bay in Canada continued to produced showers and gale force winds in the Great Lakes Region. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure over Nevada produced high winds in the southwestern U.S., and spread heavy snow into Utah. Winds gusted to 63 mph at the Mojave Airport in southern California. Snowfall totals in Utah ranged up to 12 inches at Snowbird, with 11 inches at Alta. "Indian Summer" type weather continued in the central and eastern U.S. Twenty cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 77 degrees at Alpena MI and 81 degrees at Saint Cloud MN were the warmest of record for so late in the season. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2003: A fire began in the Cuyamaca Mountains spread quickly due to Santa Ana Winds. As of 2017, this fire, called Cedar Fire, remains the largest recorded wildfire in California history, burning 273,246 acres.

2008: A storm packing winds of more than 60 mph hits central Alberta. In Edmonton, the strongest October wind ever recorded reaches 64 mph, cutting power to 4,000. The winds blow free sheet metal, parts of billboards, garbage cans, and pieces of trees around the city.

2017: The high temperatures in Denver, Colorado was 84 degrees. By the morning hours on the 27th, the temperature fell to 13 degrees, a 71-degree change.



The Burden of Sin

Jesus loves you so much that He gave His life to have a relationship with you.

Romans 5:12-21

The burdens we carry come in all shapes and sizes. Many are weighty, but there's one load that proves even heavier—and it can be traced back to the garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:6), and all people have suffered the consequences. The Bible says that every one of us has gone astray, like a sheep wandering from his shepherd (Isaiah 53:6). So on our own, we are unable to fellowship with God.

But our Creator loved us so much that He sent His own Son to live a perfect life on earth. Jesus deserved all glory, honor, and praise, yet He healed us from sin by dying on the cross in our place. And then He conquered death itself by rising to life again.

The Savior longs for us to accept that He willingly gave Himself to redeem us and relieve the burden of sin in our heart. Only then will we experience true life and freedom.

Have you received God's free gift of salvation? Jesus loves you so much that He gave His life in order to have a relationship with you. When you believe in Him and accept His death as your undeserved atonement for sin, He forgives you for all unrighteousness and welcomes you onto the path of true life.

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:
10.24.25

11 18 31 51 56 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$714,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.22.25

4 15 28 33 35 6

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$5,380,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 10 Mins 11
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.24.25

8 9 28 31 46 6

TOP PRIZE:
\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 25 Mins 11
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.22.25

3 4 7 18 23

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$59,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 25 Mins 11
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.22.25

23 37 43 60 64 5

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 54 Mins 11
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.22.25

18 37 52 54 60 12

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$344,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 54 Mins 11
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

Centerville def. Colome, 25-9, 25-6, 25-12
Groton def. Redfield, 25-14, 25-18, 25-21
Miller def. Ethan, 25-20, 25-22, 25-21
East-West Invitational=
Brandon Valley def. Douglas, 25-12, 25-11
Brandon Valley def. Rapid City Central, 25-16, 25-7
Brandon Valley def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-11, 25-14
Harrisburg def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-10, 25-16
Harrisburg def. Spearfish, 25-8, 25-12
Rapid City Stevens def. Yankton, 25-6, 25-21
Spearfish def. Yankton, 25-20, 25-17
Hill City Triangular=
Alliance, Neb. def. Lakota Tech, 23-25, 25-21, 25-20, 25-22
Hill City def. Alliance, Neb., 25-9, 25-11, 25-21

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

Company recalls 2 million pounds of barbecue pork jerky that may contain metal wire

By JONEL ALECCIA AP Health Writer

A South Dakota company is recalling more than 2.2 million pounds (998,000 kilograms) of Korean barbecue pork jerky sold at Costco and Sam's Club stores because the product may be contaminated with pieces of metal, federal health officials said Friday.

LSI, Inc., of Alpena, voluntarily pulled the product after customers complained about finding pieces of wiry metal in the jerky, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department. Company officials said the metal came from a conveyor belt used in production. No confirmed injuries have been reported,

The recall includes 14.5-ounce (410-gram) and 16-ounce (450-gram) plastic pouches of meat jerky labeled "Golden Island fire-grilled pork jerky Korean barbecue recipe." Roughly four dozen lots of jerky are affected. The products have a one-year shelf life with best-by dates ranging from Oct. 23, 2025, to Sept. 23, 2026. The packages contain the establishment number M279A inside the USDA mark of inspection.

People shouldn't eat the recalled jerky and should throw it away or return it to stores for refund.

Contamination with rocks, sticks, insects and other foreign objects occasionally occurs in food produced in the U.S. Consumers who find foreign materials in food should notify manufacturers, food safety experts said.

Western South Dakota limestone mine approved without public input because no laws required it

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

Residents and government leaders in the small western South Dakota city of Piedmont are in shock that the state approved a limestone mining operation without notifying them in advance about the project.

Locals learned about the sprawling limestone mine set to nearly encircle the city only after brief notices announcing project approval ran in a pair of newspapers published elsewhere in Meade County.

What they discovered is that Simon Contractors, a French-owned, Wyoming-based mining and materials

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company, has acquired state approval and private landowner agreements to allow limestone mining on 10 parcels of land that are either within the Piedmont city limits or that directly border its western boundary.

The 300-acre mine is expected to start running in August and operate through 2043, according to Simon.

Piedmont is a city of 1,000 people located in the foothills of the Black Hills along Interstate 90 about midway between Rapid City and Sturgis. The bulk of development is located between the interstate and the pine-laden hills on the west, where the mine is planned.

Piedmont consists mostly of homes and small ranches, several churches and a few commercial properties that include a gas station/convenience store, a couple bar/restaurants, a butcher shop and a campground. A few municipal buildings and an elementary school round out the community.

With almost no details released about the mine project so far, dozens of residents attended a standing-room-only city meeting on Oct. 21 to share their concerns about potential air, water, traffic and property value impacts.

"This is going to destroy Piedmont," said Paul Betts, pastor of Redemption Church in Piedmont, which borders the mine site on two sides. "It will destroy the beauty of this area and it will look completely different. Your house's property values will decline and nobody is going to want to move here."

Speaking during the Oct. 21 meeting, Betts said he and his daughter have asthma and they worry it could be worsened by limestone dust that can blow about in the frequent high winds.

"I'm not going to put my daughter in danger by breathing in this silica that can cause years-long problems," Betts said. "If this happens, we may have to move our church out of Piedmont, and we don't want to move out of Piedmont."

State and local laws limited notifications

A rare combination of a lax state mining law and a lack of county land-use regulations allowed the Piedmont mine to gain approval without input from the public or local government.

South Dakota has two levels of permit requirements depending on the type and scope of a proposed mine, said Rich Williams, an attorney who represents the city of Piedmont.

A more invasive mine, such as a gold or silver mine, requires a specific state permit that mandates an environmental impact study, an analysis by state regulators and public input, Williams said.

But for a limestone, sand or gravel mine like the one proposed for Piedmont, a mining company only needs to obtain a general state mining license, submit project maps and pay a bond that enable it to mine on any piece of private property where it secures the right to do so.

No public hearings or notifications are required for that type of mine, so Piedmont residents and town leaders were not required to be notified in advance, Williams said.

They were also kept out of the process by the lack of land-use regulations in Meade County, which has no zoning laws, said Phil Anderson, chairman of the Piedmont board of trustees. Attempts at public votes to enact zoning laws in the county have failed over the years, Anderson told News Watch.

"The responsibility for this resides on our people a little bit because they don't want government telling them what to do, though sometimes we need government to be involved," he said.

A spokeswoman for Simon did not respond to a list of email questions sent by News Watch. Simon is part of a French-owned conglomerate and has about a dozen mine or materials locations in the Black Hills region, ranging from Sturgis to Hot Springs.

Little recourse for mine opponents

The Oct. 21 meeting was marked by frustration and worry by both city officials and members of the public. Officials said that while they have some level of control over mining within the city limits, they are unable to regulate mining on parcels that surround the west side of the city.

South Dakota Rep. Terri Jorgenson, a Meade County Republican, was one of four state lawmakers to attend the meeting.

Jorgenson said she has contacted several state agency officials — including those at the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources — to learn more about the limestone mine but was unable to find any firm path to opposing or blocking the project at this point.

"Basically what the state is doing is just reclamation," she said. "After mining is complete, the state's

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responsibility is to make sure the land goes back to what it was before.”

DANR did not immediately return a call Thursday seeking comment.

Jorgenson said she has concerns about the mine’s potential impacts on air and water quality, property values and on the local elementary school, where children could be exposed to dust or noise. She promised to continue to push for answers on how to mitigate resident worries.

Jorgenson and others said it might take innovative thinking and a grassroots effort by locals to find ways to control the activities of the mining company or to mitigate negative impacts from the mine.

Anderson said his research found that the mine area likely contains about 5 million tons of limestone that would sell for up to \$33 a ton, about 10% of which will go to landowners who allow mining on their property.

“The city of Piedmont will not see any financial benefit from this project,” Anderson said.

Residents worried over health, property values

Resident George Malley, whose home borders the mine boundary, said he has four children who could be impacted by mine activities.

“I’m concerned about the air and water quality,” Malley said. “I have special needs children and I don’t know what that blasting could do to them.”

Bree Woods, a second-generation Piedmont resident, said the limestone mine could hamper agricultural operations of local landowners.

“We’re still an ag community. We have horses and we have people that have cattle,” Woods said. “This is going to create massive vet bills for all of us that have animals that are our livelihood.”

At the close of the Oct. 21 meeting, the residents, local officials and state lawmakers all agreed to work together to either block the mine from opening or to make the best of the situation if mining operations begin.

“I’ll do what I said I would, and that is to pray about this,” Malley told Anderson, the city board chairman.

Russian missile and drone attacks kill 4 in Ukraine as Zelenskyy pleads for air defense

By SAMYA KULLAB and ELISE MORTON Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian missile and drone attacks on Ukraine overnight into Saturday killed at least four people and wounded 20, officials said, and prompted fresh pleas from Ukraine’s president for Western air defense systems.

In the capital, Kyiv, two people were killed and 13 were wounded in a ballistic missile attack in the early hours of Saturday, Kyiv’s police said.

A fire broke out in a non-residential building in one location, while debris from intercepted missiles fell in an open area at another site, damaging windows in nearby buildings, Ukraine’s State Emergency Service wrote on the message app Telegram.

“Explosions in the capital. The city is under ballistic attack,” Mayor Vitali Klitschko wrote on Telegram during the onslaught.

In the Dnipropetrovsk region, two people were killed and seven wounded, acting regional Gov. Vladyslav Haivanenko said, adding that apartment buildings and private homes were damaged in the strikes.

Ukraine’s air force said Russia launched nine missiles and 62 drones, of which four missiles and 50 drones were intercepted.

In Russia, the Defense Ministry said its air defenses shot down 121 Ukrainian drones over Russia overnight.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday that such attacks intensify Ukraine’s need for Patriot defense systems.

“It is precisely because of such attacks that we pay special attention to Patriot systems — to be able to protect our cities from this horror. It is critical that partners who possess relevant capability implement what we have discussed in recent days,” he wrote in English on X.

“America, Europe and the G7 countries can help ensure that such attacks no longer threaten lives,” he

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said.

Zelenskyy is hoping Ukraine can purchase 25 Patriots from the U.S. to fortify its air defenses, particularly in cities.

Zelenskyy on Friday urged the United States to expand its sanctions on Russian oil from two companies to the whole sector, and appealed for long-range missiles to hit back at Russia.

Zelenskyy was in London for talks with two dozen European leaders who have pledged military help to shield his country from future Russian aggression if a ceasefire stops the more than three-year war.

The meeting hosted by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer aimed to step up pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin, adding momentum to recent measures that have included a new round of sanctions from the United States and European countries on Russia's vital oil and gas export earnings.

The talks also addressed ways of helping protect Ukraine's power grid from Russia's almost daily drone and missile attacks as winter approaches, enhancing Ukrainian air defenses, and supplying Kyiv with longer-range missiles that can strike deep inside Russia. Zelenskyy has urged the U.S. to send Tomahawk missiles, an idea U.S. President Donald Trump has considered.

Kirill Dmitriev, Putin's envoy for investment and economic cooperation, said Friday he believes Russia, the U.S. and Ukraine were "quite close to a diplomatic solution" to end the three-year war.

Speaking to CNN after arriving in Washington for talks with U.S. officials, Dmitriev said a planned summit in Budapest between Trump and Putin had not been canceled but would likely occur later.

Trump said Tuesday his plan for a swift meeting with Putin was on hold because he didn't want it to be a "waste of time."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov made clear in public comments Tuesday that Russia is opposed to an immediate ceasefire.

A White House official confirmed Friday that Dmitriev, who announced his visit on X, will meet with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to publicly discuss the private meeting.

Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit has died at age 93

By DENIS D. GRAY, JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI and TIAN MACLEOD JI Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit, who supervised royal projects to help the rural poor, preserve traditional craft-making and protect the environment, died on Friday. She was 93.

The Royal Household Bureau said she died in a hospital in Bangkok, adding that she began suffering from a blood infection on Oct. 17 and despite her medical team's efforts, her condition did not improve. She suffered a stroke in 2012 and was afterwards largely absent from public life due to declining health. Her husband, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, died in October 2016.

The bureau's statement said King Maha Vajiralongkorn had directed that she be given a funeral with the highest honors, and that he had instructed members of the royal family and royal servants to observe mourning for one year.

Mourners gathered outside Chulalongkorn Hospital on Saturday morning after hearing the news.

"It is yet again another great loss for the whole nation. I heard about it at 4 a.m. I felt like fainting. The whole world seemed like it had stopped," said 67-year-old Maneerat Laowalert.

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said Saturday that Sirikit's passing was "a great loss for the country." He said the national flag will fly half-staff at all government agencies for 30 days, and civil servants will observe mourning for one year.

Although overshadowed by her late husband and her son, the current king, Sirikit was beloved and influential in her own right. Her portrait was displayed in homes, offices and public spaces across Thailand and her Aug. 12 birthday was celebrated as Mother's Day. Her activities ranged from helping Cambodian refugees to saving some of the country's once-lush forests from destruction.

The Thai monarchy traditionally has avoided playing an open role in politics, but in recent decades of political upheaval, marked by two military takeovers and several rounds of bloody street protests, specula-

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tion grew about Sirikit's views and her behind the scenes influence. When she publicly attended the 2008 funeral of a protester killed during a clash with police, many saw it as her taking a side in the political schism.

Sirikit met the king while living in Europe

Sirikit Kitiyakara was born into a rich, aristocratic family in Bangkok on Aug. 12, 1932, the year absolute monarchy was replaced by a constitutional system. Both of her parents were related to earlier kings of the current Chakri dynasty.

She attended schools in wartime Bangkok, the target of Allied air raids, and after World War II moved with her diplomat father to France where he served as ambassador.

At 16, she met Thailand's newly crowned king in Paris, where she was studying music and languages. Their friendship blossomed after Bhumibol suffered a near-fatal car accident and she moved to Switzerland, where he was studying, to help care for him. The king courted her with poetry and composed a waltz titled, "I Dream of You."

The pair married in 1950, and at a coronation ceremony later the same year both vowed to "reign with righteousness for the benefit and happiness of the Siamese (Thai) people."

The couple had four children: current King Maha Vajiralongkorn, and princesses Ubolratana, Sirindhorn and Chulabhorn.

During their early married life, the Thai royals crisscrossed the world as goodwill ambassadors and forged personal ties with world leaders.

A turn to Thailand's rural areas

But by the early 1970s, the king and queen turned most of their energies to Thailand's domestic problems, including rural poverty, opium addiction in hill tribes and a communist insurgency.

The queen, an impeccable dresser and avid shopper, also relished climbing hills and visiting simple villages where older women would call her "daughter."

Thousands raised their problems to her, ranging from marital squabbles to serious diseases, and the queen and her assistants took up many personally.

While some in Bangkok gossiped about her involvement in palace intrigues and her lavish lifestyle, her popularity in the countryside endured.

"Misunderstandings arise between people in rural areas and the rich, so-called civilized people in Bangkok. People in rural Thailand say they are neglected, and we try to fill that gap by staying with them in remote areas," she said in an interview with The Associated Press in 1979.

Royal development projects were set up across Thailand, some of them initiated and directly supervised by the queen.

In 1976, the queen launched a foundation to promote Thai traditional handcrafts. The SUPPORT foundation has trained thousands of villagers in crafts including silk-weaving, jewelry-making, painting and ceramics.

She also set up wildlife breeding centers, "open zoos," and hatcheries to save endangered sea turtles. Her Forest Loves Water and Little House in the Forest projects sought to demonstrate the economic gains of preserving forest cover and water sources.

While royalty elsewhere had only ceremonial or symbolic roles, Queen Sirikit believed the monarchy was a vital institution in Thailand.

"There are some in the universities who think the monarchy is obsolete. But I think Thailand needs an understanding monarch," she said in the 1979 interview. "At the call, 'The king is coming,' thousands will gather.

"The mere word king has something magic in it. It is wonderful."

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Barger, Varsho and Kirk lead homer barrage as Blue Jays rout Dodgers 11-4 in World Series opener

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

TORONTO (AP) — Blue Jays fans waited 32 years to let loose cheering a World Series home run. They got to do it three times.

Addison Barger launched the first pinch-hit grand slam in Fall Classic history, Alejandro Kirk followed with a two-run homer in a nine-run sixth inning and Toronto overwhelmed the defending champion Los Angeles Dodgers 11-4 in Friday night's opener.

"Just madness," Barger said of the third-highest-scoring inning in Series annals.

Daulton Varsho, limited by injuries to 71 games during the season, started Toronto's comeback from a 2-0 deficit with a two-run drive in the fourth off two-time Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell.

The longball barrage was fitting as the Fall Classic returned to Toronto for the first time since 1993, when Joe Carter hit the second walk-off homer to end a World Series. And in an unusual tie to that night, Varsho is named after Darren Daulton, the Philadelphia Phillies catcher Mitch Williams was throwing to when Carter connected.

"It's kind of a surreal moment, kind of being full circle for me. Yeah, it's honestly an honor to be named after him," Varsho said.

Shohei Ohtani hit his first Series home run for the heavily favored Dodgers, seeking to become the first repeat champion since the New York Yankees took three titles in a row from 1998-2000. Los Angeles was trailing by nine when he went deep off Braydon Fisher for a two-run shot in the seventh, his fourth homer in two games.

Fans angry that Ohtani spurned the Blue Jays to sign a \$700 million contract with the Dodgers in December 2023 chanted: "We don't need you!" when he came to the plate in the ninth.

"Don't poke the bear," Toronto pitcher Chris Bassitt warned.

Game 1 winners have won 23 of the last 27 titles. Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is Saturday night at Rogers Centre.

Playing after a one-week layoff following its National League Championship Series sweep, Los Angeles took a 2-0 lead against 22-year-old rookie Trey Yesavage on RBI singles by Kiké Hernández in the second and Will Smith in the third.

Yesavage made his fourth postseason start — one more than his regular-season career total. At 22 years, 88 days old he became the second-youngest pitcher to start a World Series opener behind Brooklyn's Ralph Branca at 21 years, 267 days in 1947 at Yankee Stadium.

Yesavage lasted four innings before a raucous crowd of 44,353. He left the bases loaded in the second by retiring Ohtani on a groundout and stranded a runner at third the next inning when he struck out Max Muncy.

"It was an insane experience that I'll remember for the rest of my life," said Yesavage, whose first start this season was in front of 327 fans for Class-A Dunedin in Jupiter, Florida.

Dodgers star Mookie Betts called the second inning "the turning point in the game, even though it was early."

"If you want to win you need to cash it in," he said.

Seranthony Domínguez got the win with 1 1/3 hitless innings.

Varsho's homer was the first off Snell by a left-handed hitter since Juan Soto connected for the Yankees on June 2 last year. Snell gave up a career-high five hits on changeups and was charged with five runs, eight hits and three walks in five-plus innings.

"There's no excuses. I need to be better. I need to throw strikes," said Snell, who hadn't pitched since Oct. 13.

Snell was in the Series for the first time since 2020 with Tampa Bay, when he was removed in the sixth inning of Game 6 while pitching a shutout against the Dodgers. Los Angeles rallied against the Rays' bullpen for its first championship since 1988.

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Now the Dodgers are chasing their third crown in six years.

Coming off a seven-game ALCS against Seattle that ended Monday, Toronto got 14 hits and key contributions from Bo Bichette and Varsho, who combined with Vladimir Guerrero Jr. to become the first trio of sons of former major leaguers to start for one team in a Series game.

Returning from a sprained left knee that had sidelined him since Sept. 6, Bichette played second base for the first time in six years and favored the knee. He singled in the first, ranged to the left side of the infield to field a grounder and save a run, then with the score 2-2 drew a full-count walk from Snell starting the sixth.

Twelve batters went to the plate in the inning. Ernie Clement singled off reliever Emmet Sheehan for a 3-2 lead, pinch-hitter Nathan Lukes drew a bases-loaded walk and Andrés Giménez added an RBI single.

Given a heads up he might pinch hit, Barger went to the Trajekt machine and took swings off pitches emulating Sheehan's. Then the Dodgers brought in left-hander Anthony Banda, and Barger hit a 413-foot drive to right-center on a hanging slider to put Toronto ahead 9-2.

Barger had spent Thursday night on the pullout couch of teammate Davis Schneider because Barger needed his own apartment for family attending the Series.

"I looked over and I just see him just sleeping there in the middle of the night," Schneider said. "He's a head case, but he's funny."

Kirk, who singled off the right-field wall a pitch before Varsho's homer, capped the outburst with his fourth home run of the postseason and third hit of the game.

"You've got to just flush it," Banda said. "Get ready for tomorrow."

Up next

Dodgers RHP Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Blue Jays RHP Kevin Gausman start Saturday night. Yamamoto won Game 2 of the Series last year, allowing one run and one hit over 6 1/3 innings in a 4-2 victory over the Yankees. He is coming off the first postseason complete game in eight years, a three-hitter against the Milwaukee Brewers in the NLCS. Gausman will be making his Series debut.

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the Milwaukee Brewers in the NLCS. Gausman will be making his Series debut.

Trump ends trade talks with Canada over tariffs ad that Ontario premier now says he'll phase out

By WILL WEISSERT, SEUNG MIN KIM and ROB GILLIES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump announced he's ending "all trade negotiations" with Canada because of a television ad sponsored by one of its provinces that used the words of former President Ronald Reagan to criticize U.S. tariffs — prompting the province's leader to later pull the ad.

The post on Trump's social media site Thursday night ratcheted up tensions with the U.S.'s northern neighbor after Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said he plans to double his country's exports to countries outside the U.S. because of the threat posed by Trump's tariffs. White House officials said Trump's reaction was a culmination of the administration's long, pent-up frustration about Canada's strategy in trade talks.

Later Friday, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, whose province had sponsored the ad, said it would be taken down, though it will still run this weekend.

Ford said after talking with Prime Minister Mark Carney he's decided to pause the advertising campaign effective Monday so that trade talks can resume. Ford said they've achieved their goal, having reached U.S. audiences at the highest levels.

"Our intention was always to initiate a conversation about the kind of economy that Americans want to build and the impact of tariffs on workers and businesses," Ford said. "We've achieved our goal, having reached U.S. audiences at the highest levels."

The U.S. president alleged the ad misrepresented the position of Reagan, a two-term president who remains a beloved figure in the Republican Party, and was aimed at influencing the U.S. Supreme Court ahead of a hearing scheduled for next month that could decide whether Trump has the power to impose his sweeping tariffs, a key part of his economic strategy. Trump is so invested in the case that he has said he'd like to attend oral arguments.

"You know, it's a crooked ad," Trump said Friday night as he left the White House for a trip to Asia, shortly after the ad aired during the seventh inning of Fox's national broadcast of Game 1 of the World Series between the Toronto Blue Jays and Los Angeles Dodgers.

"They could have pulled it tonight," Trump said. "Well, that's dirty play — but I can play dirtier than they can, you know."

Canadian premier digs in after Trump ends talks

The ad was paid for by Ontario's government, not the Canadian federal government. Ford, the premier, didn't initially back down, posting Friday that Canada and the U.S. are allies "and Reagan knew that both are stronger together." Ford then provided a link to a Reagan speech where the late president voices opposition to tariffs.

Ford had said the province plans to pay \$54 million (about \$75 million Canadian) for the ads to air across multiple American television stations using audio and video of Reagan speaking about tariffs in 1987.

Ford is a populist conservative who doesn't belong to the same party as Carney, a Liberal.

For his part, Carney said his government remains ready to continue talks to reduce tariffs in certain sectors.

"We can't control the trade policy of the United States. We recognize that that policy has fundamentally changed from the 1980s," he said Friday morning before boarding a flight for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Malaysia.

Trump is also traveling to the summit. But he told reporters on Air Force One that he had no intention to meet Carney there. "I don't think there's much they can do," Trump said, noting he was inclined to leave the trade deal with Canada "the way it is."

Reagan's foundation speaks out against ad

Earlier Thursday night, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute posted on X that the

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ad "misrepresents the 'Presidential Radio Address to the Nation on Free and Fair Trade' dated April 25, 1987." It added that Ontario did not receive foundation permission "to use and edit the remarks" and said it was reviewing legal options.

The foundation in Simi Valley, California, is perhaps best known for maintaining the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum. Its board includes longtime Republican Party stalwarts such as former Trump Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, who resigned after the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol, and former House Speaker Paul Ryan, whose free-market philosophy often clashes with Trump's protectionist tendencies.

Another board member is Lachlan Murdoch, the son of Rupert, who is executive chairman and CEO of Fox Corporation. The board is chaired by Fred Ryan, the former publisher and CEO of The Washington Post.

Trump wrote on social media Thursday night that "The Ronald Reagan Foundation has just announced that Canada has fraudulently used an advertisement, which is FAKE, featuring Ronald Reagan speaking negatively about Tariffs." He added, "TARIFFS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY, AND ECONOMY, OF THE U.S.A. Based on their egregious behavior, ALL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ARE HEREBY TERMINATED."

Reagan did not actually love tariffs. He often criticized government policies — including protectionist measures such as tariffs — that interfered with free commerce and he spent much of that 1987 radio address spelling out the case against tariffs.

Blowup was a long time coming, administration officials indicate

White House spokesman Kush Desai said the ad was the "latest example of how Canadian officials would rather play games than engage with the Administration."

Kevin Hassett, director of the National Economic Council, told reporters at the White House on Friday that Canada has shown a "lack of flexibility" and also cited "leftover behaviors from the Trudeau folks," referring to former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who had a frosty relationship with the Trump administration.

"If you look at all the countries around the world that we've made deals with, and the fact that we're now negotiating with Mexico separately reveals that it's not just about one ad," Hassett said.

Carney met with Trump earlier this month to try to ease trade tensions, as the two countries and Mexico prepare for a review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a trade deal Trump negotiated in his first term but has since soured on.

More than three-quarters of Canadian exports go to the U.S., and nearly \$3.6 billion Canadian (\$2.7 billion U.S.) worth of goods and services cross the border daily.

Trump initially appeared unfazed by the ad

Trump said earlier in the week that he had seen the ad on TV and didn't seem bothered by it. "If I was Canada, I'd take that same ad also," he said Tuesday during a lunch with Republican senators.

Ontario bought more than \$275,000 of ad reservations for the spot to air in 198 of the nation's 210 media markets this month, according to data from the nonpartisan media tracking firm AdImpact. It was broadcast most frequently in the New York market, with more than 530 airings, followed by Washington, D.C., at around 280. The only other markets with more than 100 airings were those around Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and West Palm Beach, Florida.

Ford previously got Trump's attention with an electricity surcharge to U.S. states. Trump responded by doubling steel and aluminum tariffs.

The president has moved to impose steep U.S. tariffs on many goods from Canada. In April, Canada's government imposed retaliatory levies on certain U.S. goods -- but it carved out exemptions for some automakers to bring specific numbers of vehicles into the country, known as remission quotas.

Trump's tariffs have especially hurt Canada's auto sector, much of which is based in Ontario. This month, Stellantis said it would move a production line from Ontario to Illinois.

Tropical Storm Melissa stationary in the Caribbean as 4 deaths reported and huge rains expected

By DÁNICA COTO, JOHN MYERS JR. and EVENS SANON Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Tropical Storm Melissa was nearly stationary in the central Caribbean on Friday as forecasters warned it could strengthen and swipe Jamaica as a powerful hurricane and dump a staggering amount of rain — up to 35 inches (89 centimeters) — on southwest Haiti, where they warned of catastrophic flooding and landslides.

The erratic storm was expected to drop copious rain on Jamaica and the southern regions of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. At least three people were killed in Haiti, and one person was killed and one reported missing in Dominican Republic.

"These heavy rains are just going to sit over one area for several days," said Jamie Rhome, deputy director at the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

The storm was located about 180 miles (290 kilometers) southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, and about 245 miles (390 kilometers) southwest of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. It had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph) and was moving northwest at 3 mph (6 kph), the U.S. center said.

A hurricane watch and a tropical storm warning were in effect for Jamaica and Haiti's southwest peninsula.

The center of Melissa is expected to move near or over Jamaica early next week, forecasters said.

Up to 25 inches (64 centimeters) of rain is forecast for parts of Jamaica, southern Haiti and the southern Dominican Republic through Tuesday. Up to 35 inches of rain is possible across Haiti's Tiburon Peninsula, the center said. That was considered an unusually high amount even for a slow-moving storm.

The storm is then forecast to hit eastern Cuba as a major hurricane early Wednesday, where up to 12 inches (30 centimeters) could fall in some areas.

Catastrophic warnings for Haiti

The National Hurricane Center warned that "heavy rainfall will result in catastrophic flash flooding and landslides across southwestern Haiti into early next week."

It noted that strong winds could also last for a day or more over Haiti's Tiburon peninsula.

Haiti's Civil Protection Agency said a landslide in Port-au-Prince killed two people and injured another, with the death toll rising to three. Earlier this week, a large tree fell on an elderly man in southern Haiti and killed him, while five other people in the country's central region were injured in flooding.

The U.N. said it has prepared more than 100 emergency shelters in Haiti's southern region.

Wilgar Joseph said he and his family were leaving their home in Les Cayes out of safety because it has a zinc roof.

"I'll stay with a friend whose home is on higher ground so I can protect myself in case it gets out of control," he said.

Meanwhile, thousands of people living in makeshift shelters across Port-au-Prince after gangs forced them to flee their homes worried about the storm.

"The message on the radio is to protect ourselves," said Dina Georges. "How can I protect myself if I don't have a home? I'm on the streets. And on top of that, I have two kids to protect."

Nephtali Johnson Pierre, 35, echoed those sentiments: "I'm dealing with two storms: the gangs and the weather."

'A slow-moving disaster'

Melissa was expected to move toward Jamaica over the weekend. It was forecast to strengthen into a hurricane by Saturday and become a major hurricane by Sunday, possibly reaching Category 4 status before dawn on Monday.

Forecasters said that Jamaica could see life-threatening flooding and landslides because the ground is already saturated from recent heavy rains unrelated to the storm.

The storm is moving so slowly that parts of Jamaica could experience hurricane conditions for 72 hours or longer, said Alex DaSilva, AccuWeather's lead hurricane expert.

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"Melissa is evolving into a slow-motion disaster," he said. "Millions of people are at risk of catastrophic impacts. We are increasingly concerned about the threat of a humanitarian disaster unfolding, especially if this storm stalls."

Marcus Thompson, who lives in Kingston, said he covered his windows and stocked up on water and canned food.

"We've been through storms before, but it's better to be prepared early this time," he said.

Others checked their roofs, cleaned gutters and charged electrical devices.

"I moved my car to higher ground and gathered all essential documents just in case," said Alton Williams, who lives in Mandeville.

In eastern Kingston, Veronica James said she was following updates and keeping her children informed.

"If officials decide evacuation is necessary, we have a small bag ready with medicine and important papers," she said.

Schools, health centers and government offices closed across Jamaica on Thursday, with authorities warning that all airports would close within 24 hours if a hurricane warning is issued. More than 650 shelters were activated.

Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness said the storm's slow movement posed planning difficulties but noted the public sector would close by Friday afternoon.

"Jamaica is at risk," he said. "There is a threat."

The Bahamas' Foreign Affairs Ministry announced it would evacuate Bahamian students out of Jamaica on Friday ahead of the storm.

Flooding persists in Dominican Republic

The storm has damaged nearly 200 homes in the Dominican Republic and knocked out water supply systems, affecting more than half a million customers. It also downed trees and traffic lights and unleashed a couple of small landslides.

All public schools across the Dominican Republic were closed Friday, as were government offices in 12 provinces under alert. More than two dozen communities were cut off by floodwaters.

"This is an event that we should be following minute by minute," said Juan Manuel Méndez García, emergency operations director in the Dominican Republic.

Officials noted that evacuations in areas under alert were mandatory.

"The main thing here is to save lives. The risk is the enormous amount of rain," said Dominican President Luis Abinader.

Melissa is the 13th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had predicted an above-normal season with 13 to 18 named storms.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver 'deeply disturbed' by gambling arrests of Billups and Rozier

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, in his first public comments since the arrests of Portland coach Chauncey Billups and Miami guard Terry Rozier on gambling-related charges, said Friday night that he was stunned by the indictments that have rocked the league.

"My initial reaction was I was deeply disturbed," Silver said on Amazon Prime Video, during the streaming service's first broadcast — Boston at New York. "There's nothing more important to the league and its fans than the integrity of the competition. I had a pit in my stomach. It was very upsetting."

Such was a sentiment shared by many around the league on Friday, one day after the indictments were unsealed and nearly three dozen people — most notably, Billups and Rozier — were arrested by federal officials.

Rozier was arrested because federal officials allege he conspired with associates to help them win bets based on his statistical performance. The charges are similar to what former Toronto player Jontay Porter

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faced before he was banned from the league by Silver in 2024.

Billups faces charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering for participating in what federal officials called Mafia-backed rigged poker games. He also matches the credentials of someone described only as Co-Conspirator 8 in an indictment detailing how some people gave bettors inside information on player health statuses.

The arrests have overshadowed the opening week around the league.

"I apologize to our fans that we are all dealing with this situation," Silver said during the in-game interview.

The Rozier case has gone on since March 23, 2023. He was with the Charlotte Hornets at that time, and sportsbooks — legal ones — alerted the NBA to irregular patterns involving Rozier's "prop bets" that day. Rozier went on to play about 9 1/2 minutes, and those who bet that he would underperform the listed stat lines won those wagers. Federal officials said more than \$200,000 was bet on those lines alone.

The NBA investigated and found no reason to sanction Rozier, Silver said.

"We frankly couldn't find anything," Silver said. "Terry at the time cooperated. He gave the league office his phone. He sat down for an interview. And we ultimately concluded that there was insufficient evidence despite that aberrational behavior to move forward.

"He still hasn't been convicted of anything, in fairness to Terry. Obviously, it doesn't look good. But he's now been put on administrative leave. There's a balance here of protecting people's rights and investigating."

Los Angeles Clippers coach Tyronn Lue calls Billups his best friend and said the news was difficult to take. He said he spoke with Billups on Thursday night and was encouraged by what he heard.

"To go through something like this, the allegations, his family, my goddaughters, it was a tough day," Lue said. "You never want to see your friends go through anything like that."

Milwaukee coach Doc Rivers started in the NBA as a player more than 40 years ago. He's seen plenty of good and bad. He thought he had heard it all. That is, until now.

"It's really sad," Rivers said Friday.

Along with Billups and Rozier, former NBA player Damon Jones now faces charges because officials said he tipped off bettors about the health status of two Los Angeles Lakers players. The details in that indictment clearly show that Jones was discussing the availability of LeBron James and former Lakers center Anthony Davis with bettors before their statuses for certain games was known publicly. There is no indication that James or Davis had any knowledge of what Jones was alleged to be doing.

"We see now what those things can turn into and how they can spread, just how valuable this information is," Detroit coach J.B. Bickerstaff said. "It's a difficult situation overall but once you introduce gambling that the sports world has now, there's going to be some very dangerous situations out there for everybody — from a security standpoint, from this type of thing standpoint."

All teams are required by the NBA to educate players, coaches and staff annually about what is allowed and not allowed when it comes to gambling. The Orlando Magic met recently about that very topic.

And then after the news Thursday, they met again.

"Yesterday was another reminder of what we have to do," Magic coach Jamahl Mosley said. "We had another conversation with the group. I think the more that is going on, the more we have to continue to talk to the group about what is happening."

The league has at least 14 relationships with sportsbooks, including FanDuel and DraftKings. Some teams have their own deals as well. Silver has often spoken of how legal betting can be monitored and how unusual patterns can be flagged immediately, part of the reason why the league believes the integrity of games can be protected.

But some coaches and players still believe more can be done.

"The league, the game and the business of the league has evolved. And so we just have to be aware of how things evolve in this business, right?" San Antonio coach Mitch Johnson said. "It's very important for us to continue to just be educated and mindful of everything that has to do with our business. ... I believe in Adam Silver and the league, that they will do whatever is necessary to continue to grow the game in the right way."

Another issue for players and coaches is how social media has given bettors ways to communicate with those inside the league. Those interactions, many have said, are not always friendly.

"The outside world, in my day, couldn't get to us. They literally couldn't get to us," Rivers said Friday. "And now they can, with ease."

Inspector Clouseau? The mystery man in an AP photo after the Louvre jewel heist creates a buzz

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — It was shortly after the stunning heist of the crown jewels at the Louvre when Paris-based Associated Press photographer Thibault Camus caught in his frame a dapperly dressed young man walking by uniformed French police officers, their car blocking one of the museum gates.

Instinctively, he took the shot.

It wasn't a particularly great photo, with someone's shoulder obscuring part of the foreground, Camus told himself.

But it did the job — showing French police sealing off the world's most-visited museum after the brazen daylight robbery last Sunday.

Plus, Camus figured, the guy walking past the officers was unusually well dressed, in a coat, a jacket and tie and wearing a fedora, adding a touch of Paris couture to the scene.

And so off went the photo to AP's worldwide audiences.

From there, fertile imaginations sprung into high gear — whipping up an online buzz.

Posts on social media declared the well-dressed man to be a French detective — if you will, a more dashing version of the famed Inspector Clouseau from "Pink Panther" movies — even though AP's photo caption had not identified him.

It simply read: "Police officers block an access to the Louvre museum after a robbery Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025, in Paris."

A post on X that now has 5.6 million views says: "Actual shot (not AI!) of a French detective working the case of the French Crown Jewels that were stolen from the Louvre."

Another poster — with 1.2 million followers — claimed the man "who looks like he came out of a detective film noir from the 1940s is an actual French police detective who's investigating the theft."

Camus says nothing he saw led him to that conclusion — the man was just someone who streamed away from the Louvre as authorities evacuated the area, Camus says.

"He appeared in front of me, I saw him, I took the photo," Camus says. "He passed by and left."

If the unidentified man really is one of the more than 100 investigators hunting for the jewel thieves, the authorities are keeping it very hush-hush.

"We'd rather keep the mystery alive ;)" the Paris prosecutor's office said with a wink in an email response to AP questions.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy urges US to broaden Russian oil sanctions and seeks long-range missiles

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday urged the United States to expand sanctions on Russian oil from two companies to the whole sector, and appealed for long-range missiles to hit back at Russia.

Zelenskyy was in London for talks with two dozen European leaders who have pledged military help to shield his country from future Russian aggression if a ceasefire stops the more than three-year war.

The meeting hosted by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer aimed to step up pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin, adding momentum to recent measures that have included a new round of sanctions

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from the United States and European countries on Russia's vital oil and gas export earnings.

The talks also addressed ways of helping protect Ukraine's power grid from Russia's almost daily drone and missiles attacks as winter approaches, enhancing Ukrainian air defenses, and supplying Kyiv with longer-range missiles that can strike deep inside Russia. Zelenskyy has urged the U.S. to send Tomahawk missiles, an idea U.S. President Donald Trump has flirted with.

The Ukrainian leader said Trump's decision this week to impose oil sanctions was "a big step," and said "we have to apply pressure not only to Rosneft and Lukoil, but to all Russian oil companies."

"Besides, we are carrying out our own campaign of pressure with drones and missiles specifically targeting the Russian oil sector," he said during a news conference at the Foreign Office in London.

Trump also has put on hold a plan for a swift meeting with Putin in Budapest, because he didn't want it to be a "waste of time."

Putin has so far resisted efforts to push him into negotiating a peace settlement with Zelenskyy and has argued that the motives for Russia's all-out invasion of its smaller neighbor are legitimate. Russia has also been adept at finding loopholes in Western sanctions.

A top Russian official said Friday he has arrived in the United States for talks with U.S. officials. Kirill Dmitriev, Putin's envoy for investment and economic cooperation, announced his visit in a post on X. He said it was "planned a while ago" on an invitation "from the U.S. side."

Dmitriev will meet with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff, a White House official not authorized to publicly discuss the private meeting confirmed on condition of anonymity. The meeting was first reported by Axios.

Dmitriev has been a key interlocutor in discussions between the Trump administration and the Kremlin on numerous issues, including the Ukraine war and the release of American detainees in Russia.

Putin's unbudging stance has exasperated Western leaders.

"He's rejected the opportunity for talks once again, instead making ludicrous demands for Ukrainian land, which he could not and has not taken by force," Starmer said at a news conference alongside Zelenskyy and several other European leaders. "Of course, that is a complete non-starter."

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said Putin's goals remain unchanged but he "is running out of money, troops and ideas."

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof also attended Friday's meeting of the "Coalition of the Willing" in person. About 20 other leaders joined by video link.

Building a 'reassurance force'

Ukraine's Western allies need to resolve some big questions about the future part they will play as Europe's biggest conflict since World War II heads toward its fourth anniversary.

The uncertainties include how they can help fund war-devastated Ukraine, what postwar security guarantees they might be able to provide, and what Washington's commitments to future security arrangements might be.

Details of the potential future "reassurance force" are scant, and the London meeting seeks to further develop the idea — even though any peace agreement appears at the moment to be only a distant possibility.

The force is likely to consist of air and naval support rather than Western troops deployed in Ukraine, according to officials. U.K. Defense Secretary John Healey says it would be "a force to help secure the skies, secure the seas, a force to help train Ukrainian forces to defend their nation."

The war has shown no sign of subsiding, as a front-line war of attrition kills thousands of soldiers on both sides while drone and missile barrages cause damage in rear areas.

Russia says it has captured Ukrainian villages

The Russian Defense Ministry claimed Friday that over the past week its forces have captured 10 Ukrainian villages. The small conquests are part of Russia's slow but steady slog to envelop the remaining Ukrainian strongholds in the Donetsk region from both the north and the south and create footholds for pressing further west into the Dnipropetrovsk region.

The Defense Ministry also said its forces downed 111 Ukrainian drones over several regions overnight, with debris causing damage to homes and infrastructure..

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Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin reported that air defenses downed three drones heading to the city, which forced flights to be suspended at two Moscow airports.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian authorities said Russian artillery struck a residential block in the southeastern city of Kherson on Friday, killing two people and injuring 22 others.

Russian planes also dropped at least five powerful glide bombs on the northeastern city of Kharkiv, injuring six people and damaging homes, according to Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov.

And for the first time, Russia fired glide bombs on Ukraine's southern Odesa region Friday, according to Oleh Kiper, head of the Odesa Regional Military Administration, calling it "a new, serious threat" in the area. Glide bombs are significantly cheaper than missiles and carry a heavier payload.

National Guard deployments in DC and Portland, Oregon, are focus of court hearings

By GENE JOHNSON and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

No National Guard troops are expected to be deployed in Portland, Oregon, for at least several days, after a temporary federal appeals court decision Friday. Meanwhile, a judge in Washington, D.C., is weighing whether to pull more than 2,000 troops off the streets of the nation's capital.

The developments are the latest in a head-spinning array of lawsuits and overlapping rulings prompted by Trump's push to send the military into Democratic-run cities despite fierce resistance from mayors and governors. Troop deployment remains blocked in the Chicago area, where all sides are waiting to see if the U.S. Supreme Court intervenes to allow it.

Here's what to know about the latest legal efforts to block or deploy the Guard in various cities.

Troops in Oregon remain in limbo

A federal appeals court on Friday paused a decision issued by a three-judge panel earlier in the week that could have allowed President Donald Trump to deploy 200 Oregon National Guard troops, ostensibly to protect federal property in Portland.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said it needs until 5 p.m. Tuesday to decide whether to reconsider the panel's decision, and the panel's decision won't take effect until then.

U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut, a Trump appointee in Portland, issued two temporary restraining orders earlier this month — one prohibiting Trump from calling up Oregon troops to Portland and another blocking him from sending any Guard members to Oregon at all after he tried to evade the first order by deploying California troops instead.

A 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel put the first ruling on hold Monday, letting Trump take command of 200 Oregon National Guard troops. But the second order remained in effect, blocking him from actually deploying them.

At a hearing Friday, the Justice Department told Immergut she must immediately dissolve the second order because its reasoning was the same as that rejected by the appeals panel in a 2-1 decision Monday. Attorneys for Oregon disagreed, saying the orders were distinct and that she should wait to see if the 9th Circuit will reconsider the panel's ruling.

A challenge to troops in Washington, DC

U.S. District Judge Jia Cobb, an appointee of former President Joe Biden, heard arguments Friday on District of Columbia Attorney General Brian Schwab's request for an order that would remove more than 2,000 Guard members from Washington streets. She did not rule from the bench.

In August, Trump issued an executive order declaring a crime emergency in the district — though the Department of Justice itself says violent crime there is at a 30-year low.

Within a month, more than 2,300 Guard troops from eight states and the district were patrolling under the Army secretary's command. Trump also deployed hundreds of federal agents to assist them.

"Our constitutional democracy will never be the same if these occupations are permitted to stand," attorneys from Schwab's office wrote.

Government lawyers said Congress empowered the president to control the D.C. National Guard's

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operation. They argued that Schwalb's lawsuit is a frivolous "political stunt" threatening to undermine a successful campaign to reduce violent crime in Washington.

Although the emergency period ended in September, more than 2,200 troops remain. Several states told The Associated Press they would bring their units home by Nov. 30, unless extended.

Judge continues hearing on West Virginia's deployment

Among the states that sent troops to the district was West Virginia. A civic organization called the West Virginia Citizen Action Group says Gov. Patrick Morrisey exceeded his authority by deploying 300 to 400 Guard members to support Trump's efforts there.

Under state law, the group argues, the governor may deploy the National Guard out of state only for certain purposes, such as responding to a natural disaster or another state's emergency request.

"The Governor cannot transform our citizen-soldiers into a roving police force available at the whim of federal officials who bypass proper legal channels," the group's attorneys, with the American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia, wrote in a court document.

Morrisey has said West Virginia "is proud to stand with President Trump," and his office has said the deployment was authorized under federal law. The state attorney general's office has asked Kanawha County Circuit Court Judge Richard D. Lindsay to reject the case, saying the group has not been harmed and lacks standing to challenge Morrisey's decision.

Lindsay heard some arguments Friday before continuing the hearing to Nov. 3 to give the state time to focus more on whether Morrisey had the authority to deploy the Guard members.

In Chicago, awaiting word from the Supreme Court

U.S. District Judge April Perry on Wednesday blocked Guard deployment to the Chicago area until the case is decided in her court or the U.S. Supreme Court intervenes. Perry previously blocked the deployment for two weeks through a temporary restraining order.

Attorneys representing the federal government said they would agree to extend the order, but would also continue pressing for an emergency order from the Supreme Court that would allow for the deployment.

Lawyers representing Chicago and Illinois have asked the Supreme Court to continue to block the deployment, calling it a "dramatic step."

In emotional speech, Zohran Mamdani defends Muslim identity against 'racist and baseless' attacks

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Zohran Mamdani, the Democratic nominee for New York City mayor, pledged Friday to further embrace his Muslim identity in response to growing attacks by former Gov. Andrew Cuomo and his surrogates that he characterized as "racist and baseless."

Encircled by faith leaders outside a Bronx mosque, Mamdani spoke in emotional terms about the "indignities" long faced by the city's Muslim population, choking back tears as he described his aunt's decision not to ride the subway after the Sept. 11 attacks because she didn't feel safe being seen in a religious head covering.

He recounted how, when he first entered politics, an uncle gently suggested he keep his faith to himself.

"These are lessons that so many Muslim New Yorkers have been taught," Mamdani said. "And over these last few days, these lessons have become the closing messages of Andrew Cuomo, Curtis Sliwa and Eric Adams."

At a news conference later Friday, Cuomo accused Mamdani of "playing the victim" for political purposes and denied that Islamophobia existed on a wide scale in New York.

Throughout the race, Mamdani, a democratic socialist, has been criticized by Cuomo and others over his criticism of Israel's government which he had accused of committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

But the tone of those attacks have amped up in recent days, drawing allegations from some Democrats that Cuomo's campaign is leaning into Islamophobia in the final stretch of the campaign.

Appearing on a conservative radio station Thursday, Cuomo appeared to laugh along at host Sid Rosen-

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berg's suggestion that Mamdani would "be cheering" another 9/11 attack. "That's another problem," Cuomo replied.

A Cuomo social media account posted, then removed, a video depicting Mamdani eating rice with his hands and describing his supporters as criminals. A campaign spokesperson said the video was posted in error.

At an event endorsing the former governor, Mayor Eric Adams invoked the possibility of terrorist attacks in New York City, seeming to suggest — without explanation — they would be more likely under a Mamdani administration.

"New York can't be Europe. I don't know what is wrong with people," Adams said, standing alongside Cuomo. "You see what's playing out in other countries because of Islamic extremism."

At a debate earlier this week, Sliwa, the Republican candidate, falsely smeared Mamdani as a supporter of "global jihad."

Asked about Rosenberg's comments, Cuomo said he "didn't take the remarks seriously at the time."

"Of course I think it's an offensive comment. But it did not come out of my mouth," he added.

Messages left with Adams' and Sliwa's campaign were not immediately returned.

In his speech Friday, Mamdani said he was aiming his remarks not at political opponents but at his fellow Muslim New Yorkers.

"The dream of every Muslim is simply to be treated the same as any other New Yorker," he said. "And yet for too long we have been told to ask for less than that, and to be satisfied with whatever little we receive."

"No more," he said.

To that end, Mamdani said he would further embrace his Muslim identity, a decision he said he consciously avoided at the start of his campaign.

"I thought that if I behaved well enough, or bit my tongue enough in the face of racist, baseless attacks, all while returning back to my central message, it would allow me to be more than just my faith," Mamdani said. "I was wrong. No amount of redirection is ever enough."

He continued: "I will not change who I am, how I eat, or the faith that I'm proud to call my own. But there is one thing that I will change. I will no longer look for myself in the shadows. I will find myself in the light."

Mamdani, who won the primary in stunning fashion, has faced skepticism from some in the Democratic establishment, particularly over his criticism of Israel. On Friday, Mamdani earned the endorsement of House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries.

Cuomo told reporters that Mamdani's criticism of Israel had made Jewish people afraid to leave their homes.

He also rejected Mamdani's claim that Muslim New Yorkers have been made to feel uncomfortable in their own city.

"Don't tell me New Yorkers are Islamophobic. They're not," Cuomo said.

"What he is doing is the oldest, dirtiest political trick in the book: divide people," Cuomo said.

The CEO of the Alamo's historic site has resigned after a top Texas Republican criticized her

By JOHN HANNA Associated Press

The CEO of the nonprofit managing the Alamo resigned after a powerful Republican state official criticized her publicly, suggesting that her views aren't compatible with the history of the Texas shrine.

Kate Rogers said in a statement Friday that she had resigned the day before, after Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick wrote a letter to the Alamo Trust's Board of Directors suggesting that she either resign or be removed. Patrick criticized her over an academic paper questioning the GOP-controlled Legislature's education policies and suggesting she wanted the historic site in Texas to have a broader focus.

"It was with mixed emotions that I resigned my post as President and CEO at the Alamo Trust yesterday," Rogers said in a statement texted to The Associated Press. "It became evident through recent events that it was time for me to move on."

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Several trust officials did not immediately respond to email or cellphone messages Friday seeking comment.

Patrick had posted a letter to the board Thursday on X, calling her paper “shocking.” She wrote it in 2023 for a doctorate in global education from the University of Southern California. Patrick posted a portion online.

“I believe her judgment is now placed in serious question,” Patrick wrote. “She has a totally different view of how the history of the Alamo should be told.”

It is the latest episode in an ongoing conflict over how the U.S. tells its history. Patrick’s call for Rogers’ ouster follows President Donald Trump’s pressure to get Smithsonian museums in Washington to put less emphasis on slavery and other darker parts of America’s past.

The Alamo, known as “the Shrine of Texas Liberty,” draws more than 1.6 million visitors a year. The trust operates it under a contract with the Texas General Land Office, and the state plans to spend \$400 million on a renovation with a new museum and visitor center set to open in 2027. Patrick presides over the Texas Senate.

In San Antonio, Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai, the county’s elected top administrator, decried Patrick’s “gross political interference.”

“We need to get politics out of our teaching of history. Period,” he said in a statement Friday.

In the excerpt from her paper, Rogers noted the Texas Legislature’s “conservative agenda” in 2023, including bills to limit what could be taught about race and slavery in history courses.

“Philosophically, I do not believe it is the role of politicians to determine what professional educators can or should teach in the classroom,” she wrote.

Her paper also mentioned a 2021 book, “Forget the Alamo,” which challenges traditional historical narratives surrounding the 13-day siege of the Alamo during Texas’ fight for independence from Mexico in 1836.

Rogers noted that the book argues that a central cause of the war was Anglo settlers’ determination to keep slaves in bondage after Mexico largely abolished it. Texas won the war and was an independent republic until the U.S. annexed it in 1845.

Rogers also wrote that a city advisory council wanted to tell the site’s “full story,” including its history as a home to Indigenous people — something the state’s Republican leaders oppose. She said she would love the Alamo to be “a place that brings people together versus tearing them apart.”

“But,” she added, “politically that may not be possible at this time.”

Traditional narratives obscure the role slavery might have played in Texas’ drive for independence and portray the Alamo’s defenders as freedom fighters. Patrick’s letter called the siege “13 Days of Glory.”

The Mexican Army attacked and overran the Texas defenses. But “Remember the Alamo” became a rallying cry for Texas forces.

“We must ensure that future generations never forget the sacrifice for freedom that was made,” Patrick wrote in his letter to the trust’s board. “I will continue to defend the Alamo today against a rewrite of history.”

Wall Street hits records following an encouraging update on inflation

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks hit records on Friday after an update on inflation came in a bit less painful than feared.

The S&P 500 rose 0.8% and topped its prior all-time high, which was set earlier this month. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rallied 472 points, or 1%, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 1.1%. Both also set records.

The data on inflation is encouraging because it could mean less pain for lower- and middle-income households struggling with still-high increases in prices every month. Even more importantly for Wall Street, it could also clear the way for the Federal Reserve to keep cutting interest rates in hopes of giving

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a boost to the slowing job market.

The Fed just cut its main interest rate last month for the first time this year, but it's been hesitant to promise more relief because lower rates can make inflation worse, beyond goosing the economy and prices for investments. Following the inflation report, traders continue to bet on a near certainty that the Fed will cut rates at its next two meetings, including one next week.

"Right now, Fed officials are more concerned about the labor market than about inflation," according to Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management. "Without any evidence to the contrary, there's nothing to really change their minds about cutting."

Stocks had been shaky in recent weeks following a tremendous rally of 35% for the S&P 500 from a low in April. Criticism climbed that stocks became too expensive after their prices rose much faster than corporate profits. Worries also flared about potentially bad loans that banks made following a period of calm that may have encouraged too much risk-taking. And President Donald Trump rattled markets after threatening much higher tariffs on China, the world's second-largest economy.

But stocks have rebounded each time, only to push higher. Banks have characterized the industry's hiccups as just a collection of one-offs, while Trump is set to meet China's leader, Xi Jinping, at a conference next week.

And most big U.S. companies are reporting stronger profits for the latest quarter than analysts expected, as is usually the case.

Ford Motor revved 12.2% higher to lead all companies in the S&P 500 after the automaker topped analysts' expectations for profit in the latest quarter. The company said its business is running at the high end of its forecasted range for financial performance this year that it set out in February.

Intel added 0.3% after reporting profit for the latest quarter that blew past analysts' expectations. CEO Lip-Bu Tan credited the artificial-intelligence boom with "accelerating demand for compute and creating attractive opportunities."

Google's parent company climbed 2.7% after Anthropic announced an expansion worth tens of billions of dollars, through which it would increase usage of Google cloud technologies for its AI chatbot, Claude. Given its massive size, Alphabet was one of the strongest forces lifting the S&P 500 index, along with other AI beneficiaries like Nvidia.

Procter & Gamble's profit beat analysts' forecasts, despite what CEO Jon Moeller called "a challenging consumer and geopolitical environment," and the stock of the company behind the Charmin, Oral-B and Pampers brands rose 0.9%.

They helped offset a drop for Newmont Mining, which fell 6.2% even though it also reported a stronger profit than expected.

The miner's stock came into the day with a stunning gain of nearly 139% for the year so far, thanks to the surging price of gold. But gold's run has stalled in the past few days since setting its latest record.

No investment's price goes up forever, and criticism had been growing that gold's price had gone too far, too fast after it shot up even more than the U.S. stock market.

Many of the same factors that attracted buyers to gold this year are still there, including concerns about the mountains of debt that the U.S. and other governments worldwide are amassing. The U.S. government's gross national debt topped \$38 trillion this week, and the worry is that a continued acceleration will only worsen inflation.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 53.25 points to 6,791.69. The Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 472.51 to 47,207.12, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 263.07 to 23,204.87.

In stock markets abroad, indexes rose across much of Europe and Asia. South Korea's Kospi jumped 2.5%, and Japan's Nikkei 225 rallied 1.4% for two of the world's bigger moves.

In the bond market, Treasury yields held relatively steady, as the inflation solidified already high expectations for coming cuts to rates by the Fed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury edged down to 3.99% from 4.01% late Thursday.

A report from the University of Michigan on Friday also said expectations for inflation among U.S. con-

sumers remains mixed. Such numbers are important because expectations for high inflation can encourage behavior that pushes inflation even higher, creating a vicious cycle.

Tennessee explosives plant blast that killed 16 people was a chain reaction felt 20 miles away

By JONATHAN MATTISE and KRISTIN M. HALL Associated Press

McEWEN, Tenn. (AP) — A massive blast at a Tennessee explosives plant that killed 16 people, leveled the building and was felt more than 20 miles away began in an area where workers used kettles to produce a mixture of explosives and set off other explosives stored nearby, authorities said Friday.

Investigators still haven't been able to identify the remains of two of the people killed in the Oct. 10 explosion at the Accurate Energetic Systems factory in Bucksnot, an unincorporated community about 60 miles (97 kilometers) southwest of Nashville, officials said at a news conference.

The delicate investigation at the site of the plant has concluded, but determining a cause could take months more, said Brice McCracken, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' special agent in charge at the National Center for Explosives Training and Research. In addition to locating victims' remains, the on-site work involved removing and disposing of explosives that didn't detonate in the blast.

The next phase centers on ATF labs and testing facilities, where investigators will try to determine what triggered the explosion, said Jamey VanVliet, ATF special agent in charge in the Nashville division.

"Those results don't come quickly," VanVliet said. "They come through time, care, and precision. And that's what this community deserves: answers that are proven, not guessed."

From 24,000 to 28,000 pounds of explosives detonated that day, authorities said. The blast originated on the 15,000-square-foot plant's first floor, near kettles used in the production of an explosive mixture for the commercial mining industry, McCracken said.

The building was primarily used to make explosives known as cast boosters — typically a mixture of TNT and RDX, or cyclonite, that is poured by hand into a cardboard tube, he said.

Explosives were mixed in kettles on the mezzanine level before being pumped into heating kettles on the main floor, McCracken said.

"Everything is mixed up top and then it pumps down into the lower floor, where it stays heated," McCracken said. "And then they're able to pull it out in a pitcher and then each cast is hand-poured into the cardboard tube."

The main floor also stored explosives near a loading dock, and cast boosters were cooled on that floor before being packaged, he said.

After the initial explosion happened in those production kettles, investigators believe other explosive materials stored on the main floor also detonated, McCracken said.

During the investigation, authorities searched an area of about 500 acres (200 hectares), much of it dense with woods, looking for evidence.

The scene was turned back over to the company Thursday, McCracken said.

What happened at the plant

The blast, which was felt more than 20 miles (32 kilometers) away, left a smoldering wreck of twisted metal and burned-out vehicles at the factory. Authorities said there were no survivors from the site of the blast. Items of interest for the investigation were found more than a half-mile away, Humphreys County Sheriff Chris Davis said.

The company, which employs about 150 people, has a sprawling complex in rural central Tennessee with eight specialized production buildings and a lab. It straddles the Hickman and Humphreys county line in unincorporated Bucksnot, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) southwest of Nashville.

The company, headquartered in nearby McEwen, has customers in the aerospace, defense, demolition and mining industries.

It has been awarded numerous military contracts, largely by the U.S. Army and Navy, to supply different types of munitions and explosives, according to public records. The products range from bulk explosives

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to landmines and small breaching charges, including C-4.

In a statement Friday, Accurate Energetic Systems CEO Wendell Stinson said the company is “continuing to support investigators and is under obligation to preserve the site for a to-be-determined period of time” — anticipating it may be “many months” — in case more on-site review is needed.

The company started a fund with a local community foundation to help solicit donations for affected families.

Lawsuit filed over the explosion

The explosion killed people ages 21 to 60. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has positively identified 14 of the 16 victims using rapid DNA testing.

Given the state of the scene, TBI Director David Rausch said the expectation had been they would be able to identify 40% to 50% of the victims. Still, he said it has fallen short so far of their hopes to identify every victim. Authorities have named all 16 victims.

Officials are still conducting tests to try to identify the final two victims, Davis said. The sheriff said he could “hear it in their voice” when he spoke with their families.

“There’s not enough words in the dictionary that we could use to describe those feelings or emotions,” Davis said.

Last week, a lawsuit was filed in state court on behalf of the 9-year-old daughter of Jeremy Moore. The father was killed in the blast.

The lawsuit was filed against AAC Investments LLC, which is a company closely tied to Accurate Energetic Systems. The lawsuit claims AAC was the owner, operator and manager of the factory and that the explosion happened because AAC did not maintain a “reasonably safe factory” for the explosives work.

Moore, 37, cherished spending time with and supporting his daughter at cheerleading, softball or any adventure she wanted to do, according to his obituary.

Lee Coleman, an attorney for Moore’s family, said the complaint could be amended once further details become available, and that defendants could be added.

A company spokesperson declined to comment on the lawsuit.

US is sending an aircraft carrier to Latin America in major escalation of military firepower

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military is sending an aircraft carrier to the waters off South America, the Pentagon announced Friday, in the latest escalation of military firepower in a region where the Trump administration has unleashed more rapid strikes in recent days against boats it accuses of carrying drugs.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth ordered the USS Gerald R. Ford and its strike group to deploy to the U.S. Southern Command region to “bolster U.S. capacity to detect, monitor, and disrupt illicit actors and activities that compromise the safety and prosperity of the United States,” Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said on social media.

The USS Ford, which has five destroyers in its strike group, is now deployed to the Mediterranean Sea. One of its destroyers is in the Arabian Sea and another is in the Red Sea, a person familiar with the operation told The Associated Press. As of Friday, the aircraft carrier was in port in Croatia on the Adriatic Sea.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military operations, would not say how long it would take for the strike group to arrive in the waters off South America or if all five destroyers would make the journey.

Deploying an aircraft carrier will surge major additional resources to a region that has already seen an unusually large U.S. military buildup in the Caribbean Sea and the waters off Venezuela. The latest deployment and the quickening pace of the U.S. strikes, including one Friday, raised new speculation about how far the Trump administration may go in operations it says are targeted at drug trafficking, including whether it could try to topple Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. He faces charges of narcoterrorism in the U.S.

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Moving thousands more troops into the region

There are already more than 6,000 sailors and Marines on eight warships in the region. If the entire USS Ford strike group arrives, that could bring nearly 4,500 more sailors as well as the nine squadrons of aircraft assigned to the carrier.

Complicating the situation is Tropical Storm Melissa, which has been nearly stationary in the central Caribbean with forecasters warning it could soon strengthen into a powerful hurricane.

Hours before Parnell announced the news, Hegseth said the military had conducted the 10th strike on a suspected drug-running boat, leaving six people dead and bringing the death count for the attacks that began in early September to at least 43 people.

Hegseth said on social media that the vessel struck overnight was operated by the Tren de Aragua gang. It was the second time the Trump administration has tied one of its operations to the gang that originated in a Venezuelan prison.

"If you are a narco-terrorist smuggling drugs in our hemisphere, we will treat you like we treat Al-Qaeda," Hegseth said in his post. "Day or NIGHT, we will map your networks, track your people, hunt you down, and kill you."

The strikes have ramped up from one every few weeks when they first began last month to three this week, killing a total of at least 43 people. Two of the most recent strikes were carried out in the eastern Pacific Ocean, expanding the area where the military has launched attacks and shifting to where much of the cocaine is smuggled from the world's largest producers, including Colombia.

Escalating tensions with Colombia, the Trump administration imposed sanctions Friday on Colombian President Gustavo Petro, his family and a member of his government over accusations of involvement in the global drug trade.

US focus on Venezuela and Tren de Aragua

Friday's strike drew parallels to the first announced by the U.S. last month by focusing on Tren de Aragua, which the Trump administration has designated a foreign terrorist organization and blamed for being at the root of the violence and drug dealing that plague some cities.

While not mentioning the origin of the latest boat, the Republican administration says at least four of the boats it has hit have come from Venezuela. On Thursday, the U.S. military flew a pair of supersonic heavy bombers up to the coast of Venezuela.

Maduro argues that the U.S. operations are the latest effort to force him out of office.

Maduro on Thursday praised security forces and a civilian militia for defense exercises along some 2,000 kilometers (about 1,200 miles) of coastline to prepare for the possibility of a U.S. attack.

In the span of six hours, "100% of all the country's coastline was covered in real time, with all the equipment and heavy weapons to defend all of Venezuela's coasts if necessary," Maduro said during a government event shown on state television.

The U.S. military's presence is less about drugs than sending a message to countries in the region to align with U.S. interests, according to Elizabeth Dickinson, the International Crisis Group's senior analyst for the Andes region.

"An expression that I'm hearing a lot is 'Drugs are the excuse.' And everyone knows that," Dickinson said. "And I think that message is very clear in regional capitals. So the messaging here is that the U.S. is intent on pursuing specific objectives. And it will use military force against leaders and countries that don't fall in line."

Comparing the drug crackdown to the war on terror

Hegseth's remarks around the strikes have recently begun to draw a direct comparison between the war on terrorism that the U.S. declared after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the Trump administration's crackdown on drug traffickers.

President Donald Trump this month declared drug cartels to be unlawful combatants and said the U.S. was in an "armed conflict" with them, relying on the same legal authority used by the Bush administration after 9/11.

When reporters asked Trump on Thursday whether he would request that Congress issue a declaration

of war against the cartels, he said that wasn't the plan.

"I think we're just going to kill people that are bringing drugs into our country, OK? We're going to kill them, you know? They're going to be like, dead," Trump said during a roundtable at the White House.

Lawmakers from both major political parties have expressed concerns about Trump ordering the military actions without receiving authorization from Congress or providing many details.

"I've never seen anything quite like this before," said Sen. Andy Kim, D-N.J., who previously worked in the Pentagon and the State Department, including as an adviser in Afghanistan.

"We have no idea how far this is going, how this could potentially bring in, you know, is it going to be boots on the ground? Is it going to be escalatory in a way where we could see us get bogged down for a long time?" he said.

Republican Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida, who has long been involved in foreign affairs in the hemisphere, said of Trump's approach: "It's about time."

While Trump "obviously hates war," he also is not afraid to use the U.S. military in targeted operations, Diaz-Balart said. "I would not want to be in the shoes of any of these narco-cartels."

New York Attorney General Letitia James pleads not guilty in mortgage fraud case pushed by Trump

By BEN FINLEY, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — New York Attorney General Letitia James accused the Trump administration of using the justice system as a "tool of revenge" after she pleaded not guilty Friday in a federal mortgage fraud case the president pressed the Justice Department to bring.

James' first court appearance in Virginia sets the stage for a high-stakes legal battle between the Republican administration and a longtime Democratic Trump foe who angered him with a major civil fraud case she brought against him. She's accused of lying on mortgage papers to get favorable loan terms when purchasing a modest house in Norfolk, where she has family.

James is the third Trump adversary to appear before a judge this month on federal charges, amplifying concerns that the president is using the government's law enforcement powers to seek retribution for his own legal troubles. Justice Department leaders have defended the cases and argue the Biden administration — which brought two indictments against him — was the one that weaponized the justice system.

James says she believes in the rule of law

The attorney general left the courthouse smiling to cheers from dozens of waiting supporters, who chanted, "We stand with Tish!" The indictment charging her with bank fraud and making false statements to a financial institution, she declared, was about "a justice system which has been used as a tool of revenge ... and a weapon against those individuals who simply did their job and who stood up for the rule of law."

"My faith is strong, and I have this belief in the justice system and the rule of law, and I have a belief in America," James said, adding, "There's no fear today."

The judge set a trial date for Jan. 26, James' attorney, Abbe Lowell, told the judge the defense will seek to have the case dismissed, arguing that it's a vindictive prosecution brought at the direction of the president.

James was indicted this month after the top federal prosecutor who had been overseeing the investigation was pushed out by the Trump administration and the president publicly called on Attorney General Pam Bondi to take action against James and other political foes.

The allegations against James

Prosecutors allege that when buying the Norfolk home in 2020, James signed a standard document called a "second home rider" in which she agreed to keep the property primarily for her "personal use and enjoyment for at least one year," unless the lender agreed otherwise.

Rather than using the home as a second residence, the indictment alleges, James rented it out to a family of three. According to the indictment, the misrepresentation allowed James to obtain favorable loan terms not available for investment properties.

James was first elected in 2018 as New York state's top lawyer, after holding elected jobs in New York

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City. She is the first woman elected as the state's attorney general.

James has been a frequent target of Trump's ire, especially since she won a staggering judgment against the president and his companies in a lawsuit alleging he defrauded banks by overstating the value of his real estate holdings on financial statements. An appeals court overturned the fine, which had ballooned to more than \$500 million with interest, but upheld a lower court's finding that Trump had committed fraud.

James' indictment followed the resignation of Erik Siebert as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia amid pressure from Trump administration officials to bring a case. Siebert was replaced with Lindsey Halligan, a White House aide and former Trump lawyer who had never previously served as a federal prosecutor and presented James' case to the grand jury herself.

After Siebert's resignation, Trump, in an extraordinary social media post, urged Bondi to prosecute James and other political foes, noting that he had been impeached and indicted himself multiple times. Trump wrote the administration "can't delay any longer, it's killing our reputation and credibility," adding: "JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED, NOW!!!"

Other cases targeting Trump foes

Defense lawyers have said they intend to challenge Halligan's appointment, a step also taken this week by attorneys for former FBI Director James Comey in a different case filed by Halligan. Comey has been charged with lying to Congress in a criminal case filed days after Trump appeared to urge his attorney general to prosecute him, and he has pleaded not guilty.

James' lawyers have also asked for an order prohibiting prosecutors from disclosing to the news media information about the investigation, or materials from the case, outside of court.

The motion followed the revelation from earlier this week that Halligan contacted via an encrypted text messaging platform a reporter from Lawfare, a media organization that covers legal and national security issues, to discuss the James prosecution and complain about coverage of it. The reporter published the exchange that she and Halligan had.

A third Trump adversary, former national security adviser John Bolton, pleaded not guilty last week to charges against him of emailing classified information to family members and keeping top secret documents at his Maryland home.

The Justice Department has also been investigating mortgage fraud allegations against Democratic Sen. Adam Schiff of California, whom Trump has called to be prosecuted over allegations related to a property in Maryland. In a separate mortgage investigation, authorities have been probing allegations against Federal Reserve Board member Lisa Cook, who is challenging a Trump administration effort to remove her from her job. Schiff and Cook have denied wrongdoing.

Rubio tours US-led center in Israel overseeing the ceasefire in Gaza

By MATTHEW LEE and WAFAA SHURFAFA Associated Press

KIRYAT GAT, Israel (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday toured a U.S.-led center in Israel overseeing the Gaza ceasefire, as the Trump administration worked to set up an international security force in the territory and shore up the tenuous truce between Israel and Hamas.

Rubio was the latest in a series of top U.S. officials to visit the center for civilian and military coordination. U.S. Vice President JD Vance was there earlier this week where he announced its opening, and U.S. envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law, were also in Israel.

Around 200 U.S. troops are working alongside the Israeli military and delegations from other countries at the center, planning the stabilization and reconstruction of Gaza. On Friday, an Associated Press reporter saw international personnel there with flags from Cyprus, Greece, France, Germany, Australia and Canada.

"I think we have a lot to be proud of in the first 10 days, 11 days, 12 days of implementation, where we have faced real challenges along the way," said Rubio.

He named the U.S. ambassador to Yemen, Steven Fagin, to lead the civilian side of the coordination center in southern Israel. The center's top military official is Adm. Brad Cooper of the U.S. Central Command.

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Optimistic tone

The United States is seeking support from other allies, especially Gulf Arab nations, to create an international stabilization force to be deployed to Gaza and train a Palestinian force.

Rubio said U.S. officials were working on possible language to secure a United Nations mandate or other international authorization for the force in Gaza because several potential participants would require one before they can take part. He said many countries had expressed interest, and decisions need to be made about the rules of engagement.

He said such countries need to know what they're signing up for, including "what is their mandate, what is their command, under what authority are they going to be operating, who's going to be in charge of it, what is their job?" He also said Israel needs to be comfortable with the countries that are participating.

Rubio met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday. Israeli media has referred to the parade of American officials visiting their country to make sure the ceasefire stays on track as "Bibi-sitting." The term, using Netanyahu's nickname of Bibi, refers to an old campaign ad when Netanyahu positioned himself as the "Bibi-sitter" whom voters could trust with their kids.

Rebuilding in rubble

In Gaza City, Palestinians who have been trying to rebuild their lives have returned home to rubble.

Families are scrounging to find shelter, patching together material to sleep on with no blankets or kitchen utensils.

"I couldn't find any place other than here. I'm sitting in front of my house, where else can I go? In front of the rubble, every day I look at my home and feel sorrow for it, but what can I do?" said Kamal Al-Yazji as he lighted pieces of sponge to cook coffee in Gaza City.

His three-story house, once home to 13 people, has been destroyed, forcing his family to live in a make-shift tent. He said they're suffering from mosquitos and wild dogs and they can barely afford food because their banknotes are so worn that shopkeepers won't accept them.

As Umm Muhammad al-Araishi walked in the Gaza City neighborhood where she lived before the war, she was looking for a familiar landmark, the Rantisi hospital. But the hospital and the buildings around it were heavily damaged by Israel — which had declared the area a "combat zone" — to the point where little was recognizable.

"I couldn't find the place, I didn't recognize where my house is, I didn't recognize the whole neighborhood," she said.

Rubio said Friday that a conglomerate of up to a dozen groups would be involved in aid efforts in Gaza, including from the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations. However, he said there would be no role for the U.N. aid agency in Gaza, known as UNRWA.

"The United Nations is here, they're on the ground, we're willing to work with them if they can make it work," said Rubio. "But not UNRWA. UNRWA became a subsidiary of Hamas."

Earlier this week the International Court of Justice said that Israel must allow UNRWA to provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian territory.

Israel has not allowed UNRWA to bring in its supplies since March. But the agency continues to operate in Gaza, running health centers, mobile medical teams, sanitation services and school classes for children. It says it has 6,000 trucks of supplies waiting to get in.

The agency has faced criticism from Netanyahu and his far-right allies, who say the group is deeply infiltrated by Hamas.

How Hispanics' views of Trump have changed since January, according to a new AP-NORC poll

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX Associated Press

President Donald Trump's favorability has fallen among Hispanic adults since the beginning of the year, a new AP-NORC poll shows, a potential warning sign from a key constituency that helped secure his victory in the 2024 election.

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The October survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that 25% of Hispanic adults have a “somewhat” or “very” favorable view of Trump, down from 44% in an AP-NORC poll conducted just before the Republican took office for the second time. The percentage of Hispanic adults who say the country is going in the wrong direction has also increased slightly over the past few months, from 63% in March to 73% now.

The shift could spell trouble for Republicans looking to cement support with this group in future elections. Many Hispanic voters were motivated by economic concerns in last year’s election, and the new poll shows that despite Trump’s promises of economic revitalization, Hispanic adults continue to feel higher financial stress than Americans overall. Hispanic voters made up 10% of the electorate in 2024, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of interviews with registered voters, and the number of eligible Hispanic voters has been growing rapidly in recent decades.

Alejandro Ochoa, 30, is a warehouse worker in Adelanto, California. He identifies as a Republican and voted for Trump last year, but he’s now unhappy with the president. He criticized some of Trump’s budget cuts, adding that the cost of groceries is too high and buying a home is still unattainable for him.

“He was kind of relying on essentially the nostalgia of, ‘Hey, remember, before COVID? Things weren’t as expensive,’” Ochoa said. “But now it’s like, OK, you’re in office. I’m still getting done dirty at the grocery store. I’m still spending an insane amount of money. I’m trying to cut corners where I can, but that bill is still insanely expensive.”

Declining approval on economy and immigration

Hispanic voters shifted toward Trump in the last election, though a majority still backed Democrat Kamala Harris: 43% of Hispanic voters nationally voted for Trump, according to AP VoteCast, up from 35% in the 2020 presidential election, which he lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

But the poll now finds that Hispanic adults are slightly less likely to approve of Trump’s handling of the economy and immigration — two issues that were major strengths for him in last year’s presidential campaign — and their views of his overall presidential performance have slipped a little as well.

In March, 41% of Hispanic adults approved of the way Trump was handling his job as president, but now that has fallen to 27%.

Over the past few months, Hispanic communities have also been a target of the president’s hard-line immigration tactics. The poll found that Hispanic adults’ approval of his handling of immigration has declined slightly since March.

Some see the two issues as linked. Trump’s attacks on immigration have affected low-wage and high-skilled workers alike, at a moment when the economy is already uncertain because of his erratic trade policies.

Fel Echandi, of Winter Haven, Florida, is a behavioral specialist who identifies as a Democrat but sometimes votes for Republican candidates. He said he appreciates Trump’s views on transgender issues, including restroom access for transgender women.

But he’s concerned that Trump’s immigration policies leave many people living in fear, with negative effects on the economy.

“A lot of people rely on immigrants to do labor in certain areas,” Echandi said. “When that gets affected, all prices go up. Our food costs more because of the costs to get people to do that work.”

The poll found particularly high levels of financial stress among Hispanic adults, compared with the rest of the country. More Hispanics say the cost of groceries, housing and health care and the amount of money they get paid are “major” sources of stress, compared with U.S. adults overall.

Favorability among Hispanic Republicans drops slightly

Views of Trump have even soured a little among Hispanic Republicans.

In the latest poll, 66% of Hispanic Republicans said they have a “very” or “somewhat” favorable view of Trump. That’s a slight shift compared with where Trump stood in an AP-NORC poll from September 2024, when 83% of Hispanic Republicans viewed him at least “somewhat” favorably. About 8 in 10 white Republicans had a favorable view of Trump in the new poll, which was unchanged from the year before.

In another potentially worrying sign for the president, younger Hispanics and Hispanic men — two groups

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that swung particularly dramatically toward him in last year's election — also see him a bit more negatively.

About two-thirds of Hispanic adults under age 45 and Hispanic men now view Trump unfavorably, according to the new poll. That's a slight uptick from September 2024, when about half in both groups had a negative opinion of him.

Other concerns about Trump's chaotic second term emerged in interviews.

Teresa Covarrubias, a 65-year-old retired schoolteacher from Los Angeles, feels things are going in the wrong direction and said she was troubled by how some of Trump's actions have defied norms and may impact social safety net programs.

"My major concern is the disregard for the Constitution and the law, and then also the level of cronyism," said Covarrubias, who is an independent voter. "The people at the top are just grifting and taking, and then there's the rest of us."

Hispanic adults are more likely to prioritize immigration

There are signs in the poll that Trump's tough immigration approach may be alienating some Hispanic adults. Over the past few months, the president has doubled down on his pledge of mass deportations, with escalating crackdowns in Latino neighborhoods in cities including Chicago.

The poll found that, in general, Hispanic adults are more likely to say immigration is an important issue to them personally. About two-thirds of Hispanic adults prioritize immigration, compared with about 6 in 10 white adults and about half of Black adults.

And although their views on immigration enforcement aren't uniform, Hispanic adults are much less likely than U.S. adults overall to favor deporting all immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. About one-quarter of Hispanic adults support this policy, the new poll found, while roughly half of them are opposed and the rest don't have an opinion. Among U.S. adults overall, about 4 in 10 favor deporting all immigrants in the U.S. illegally, while 34% are opposed and about 2 in 10 don't have an opinion.

Rick Alvarado, 63, a Republican who lives in San Diego, says he still supports Trump and praised his actions to cut public spending. Alvarado, a property manager, is behind Trump's immigration crackdown in cities including Los Angeles and Chicago, saying he believes some immigrants are involved in organized crime.

But he added that he would like to see a solution for those without criminal records to obtain legal residency status.

"The people who are productive should have a pathway to stay here somehow," Alvarado said.

As Israel returns bodies, Palestinians face a grisly search through corpses for lost loved ones

By WAFAA SHURAF and SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — In photos, Wahiba Shabat immediately recognized her son's body. A mother's heart knows, she said. But when she finally saw his decomposed corpse, she wasn't sure.

Israel had handed over her son's body naked, his hands tied behind his back with a zip tie. Scars around his ankles indicated he'd been bound there too, Shabat said. His jaw was broken, with caked blood in his mouth. She had to feel around for a scar on the back of his head to confirm it was him.

The body of Mahmoud Shabat was among the remains of 195 Palestinians released by Israel over the past 10 days. Their handover is part of an ongoing exchange of the dead, as Hamas gradually returns the remains of 28 hostages under the Gaza ceasefire deal that also brought the release of all living hostages and some 2,000 Palestinians from Israeli prisons.

Families flocked to Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza, where the bodies were taken, trying to find out whether loved ones missing for much of the war are among them.

The Israeli military told The Associated Press that all bodies returned so far are those of combatants. AP couldn't verify the claim, based on examining photos of bodies and speaking to doctors, experts and families. Several relatives who identified bodies, including Shabat's, said they weren't fighters.

Israel gave no identification for the bodies and doesn't allow DNA testing material into Gaza. The bodies are heavily decomposed and damaged, and it's up to families to recognize their loved ones. Some bodies

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show signs of possible abuse, including having been bound.

Israel's military said it operates in accordance with international law. Under the ceasefire, Israel agreed to return 15 bodies for each body of a dead hostage.

Stephen Cordner, emeritus professor in forensic medicine at Australia's Monash University, reviewed some of the photos of bodies and said some damage could be from the conditions the remains were kept in — for example, deep indentations could be caused by morgue surfaces where bodies were kept. But he said binding wrists behind the bodies "would be unusual" and called for a proper investigation.

"This represents an international forensic emergency," he said.

Fighters are among the bodies handed over, Gaza official says

Many of the bodies handed over appear to be fighters or others killed during the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, and following days, said Munir al-Bursh, a senior Gaza Health Ministry official.

Thousands of militants stormed across the border and attacked communities in southern Israel, triggering the war. Other Palestinians streamed in as well — to support the attack, to loot homes or out of curiosity after 16 years of largely being sealed inside Gaza. Shabat said her 34-year-old son Mahmoud was among those rushing in, and the family later reported him missing.

Thousands of families in Gaza are searching for loved ones missing during the war. Besides bodies from the Oct. 7 attack, Israel is believed to be holding remains of other Palestinians — dozens of them, including doctors — who died in Israeli custody after being detained from Gaza. Israeli troops also took hundreds of bodies exhumed from graves in their search for hostages.

No returned bodies are of those known to have died in detention, said al-Bursh, whose cousin, Adnan al-Bursh, one of Gaza's best-known orthopedic surgeons, died in an Israeli prison in April 2024.

One family identified a body as that of a Palestinian who was driving to his laborer job in Israel on Oct. 7. He appears to have been shot in the head in his car, his family said. A photo of his body showed a bullet extracted from the remains.

Israel is expected to hand over another 200 bodies, Al-Bursh said. Hamas has returned the remains of 15 of 28 hostages.

Forensic teams struggle to examine bodies

Nasser Hospital has one of Gaza's two remaining refrigerated, functioning morgues; the rest are unusable after Israeli strikes. The International Committee of the Red Cross provided several refrigerated trucks, said Dr. Ahmed Dhair, a senior forensic specialist at Nasser hospital.

Authorities take photos of each body, posting them on the Health Ministry's website for families to search. Because there's no reliable internet connection for most people in Gaza, officials also show the pictures in a shed at the hospital's courtyard, where families sit in a canopied makeshift hall and watch.

Most bodies seem unrecognizable, covered in mud, blood or ice from months in Israeli morgues. On some, eyes are missing. On others, the face is smashed or seems even blank, with features seemingly erased or smeared away. Some bodies are naked. Photos focus on scars, birthmarks, or distinctive clothing or shoes that relatives might recognize.

"How can mothers, fathers or any family member remember what their relative was wearing two years ago?" said Ahmed Massoud, spokesperson for the Palestinian Center for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared, which collaborates with the Health Ministry.

Dhair said Israel sent almost no information with the bodies. He said more than 150 remains had Israeli serial numbers with the letters "ST," which officials said might indicate they were held at the morgue of Sde Teiman, a military prison camp in southern Israel. Israeli authorities didn't reply to questions about the coding.

Four forensic teams examine the bodies, he said, but they have little means to firmly determine causes of death. Some cases showed evidence of gunshots to the head or chest, Dhair said.

AP reviewed photos of 162 bodies. At least 49 appeared to be in military garb, signaling they were likely militants.

At least 13 have hands or feet bound in zip ties or handcuffs, visible signs on their wrists or ankles that

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they'd been bound, or clothes that may have been used as blindfolds or gags. One body had a colostomy bag; another had a medical tube in his arm, suggesting he might have been in a hospital shortly before death.

'May God comfort every mother'

For two years, 62-year-old Shabat and her husband were unsure of the fate of their son, Mahmoud, who worked as a muezzin at a mosque, performing the call to prayer, and played on the local soccer team. Excited when the Oct. 7 attack began, he rushed from their home in Beit Hanoun, the closest Gaza town to the border, and into Israel, Shabat said.

When the bodies were released, Shabat and her husband rushed to Nasser Hospital. Searching through online photos, Shabat believed she found Mahmoud. But the "features looked tortured," she said. She needed to see the body to be sure.

His body was frozen, the skin reddened. As she ran her fingers over his skull to find his scar, she burst into tears and screamed: "It is Mahmoud! It is my son!"

Three days after identifying the body, the family buried Mahmoud.

"Thank God, I now buried my son," Shabat said. "May God comfort every mother and let her know where her children are."

Shaimaa Abu Awda got no such relief. She goes to Nasser Hospital every day, looking for signs of 16-year-old son Rayan. He was on his way to school as the Oct. 7 attack happened. Witnesses saw him enter Israel with other bystanders.

"He is a child, not a fighter," Abu Awda said. "If he has been killed, it's God's will. ... But I want at least to find his body to bury him, like the rest of those people."

How a 2018 Supreme Court decision paved the way for meteoric growth in legal sports betting

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 2018 Supreme Court decision opened the floodgates to legalized sports-betting industry, now worth billions of dollars a year, even as it recognized that the decision was controversial.

That high-court ruling is back in the spotlight after the arrests on Thursday of more than 30 people, including an NBA player and coach, in two cases alleging sprawling criminal schemes to rake in millions by rigging sports bets and poker games involving Mafia families.

What did the Supreme Court decide?

The court's ruling struck down a 1992 federal law, the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, that had barred betting on football, basketball, baseball and other sports in most states.

Justice Samuel Alito wrote in his majority opinion that the way Congress went about the gambling ban, barring states from authorizing sports betting, violated the Constitution's Tenth Amendment, which protects the power of states.

"The legalization of sports gambling requires an important policy choice, but the choice is not ours to make," Alito wrote. The court's "job is to interpret the law Congress has enacted and decide whether it is consistent with the Constitution. PASPA is not."

The trouble with the law, Alito explained, was that Congress did not make betting on sports a federal crime. Instead, it prohibited states from authorizing legalized gambling, improperly infringing on their authority. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Clarence Thomas, Anthony Kennedy, Neil Gorsuch and Elena Kagan joined Alito's opinion.

Dissenting justices said the court should have acted more narrowly

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote that even if the part of the law regulating the states' behavior should be struck down, the rest of it should have survived. In particular, Ginsburg wrote that a separate provision that applied to private parties and betting schemes should have been left in place.

Writing for Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Stephen Breyer, Ginsburg said that when a portion of a law violates the Constitution, the court "ordinarily engages in a salvage rather than a demolition operation,"

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preserving what it can. She said that instead of using a "scalpel to trim the statute" her colleagues used "an axe." Breyer agreed with the majority that part of the law must be struck down but said that should not have doomed the rest of the law.

But Alito, in his majority opinion, wrote that Congress did not contemplate treating the two provisions separately.

Opponents of gambling warned about corruption

Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey, a former college and NBA star, was a sponsor of the law that he said was needed to protect against "the dangers of sports betting."

All four major U.S. professional sports leagues and the NCAA had urged the court to uphold the federal law, saying a gambling expansion would hurt the integrity of their games. They also said that with legal sports betting in the United States, they'd have to spend a lot more money monitoring betting patterns and investigating suspicious activity.

The Trump administration also called for the law to be upheld.

Alito acknowledged in his majority opinion "the legalization of sports gambling is a controversial subject," in part for its potential to "corrupt professional and college sports."

He included references to the "Black Sox Scandal," the fixing of the 1919 World Series by members of the Chicago White Sox, and the point-shaving scandal of the early 1950s that rocked college basketball.

But ultimately, he wrote, Congress couldn't require states to keep sports gambling prohibitions in place.

Alaska Airlines resumes operations after an IT outage grounded its flights for hours

SEATTLE (AP) — Alaska Airlines said its operations have resumed Friday after it had to ground its planes for hours because of an information technology outage.

The airline said in a statement that 229 flights were canceled because of the outage and that more flight disruptions were expected as it worked to "reposition aircraft and crews."

Alaska Airlines said it is working on getting travelers affected by the disruption to their destinations.

It asked that passengers check their flight status before heading to the airport.

The grounding Thursday affected Alaska Air and Horizon Air flights.

Hawaiian Airlines, which was bought by Alaska Air Group last year, said its flights were operating as scheduled.

In July, Alaska grounded all of its flights for about three hours after the failure of a critical piece of hardware at a data center.

There has been a history of computer problems disrupting flights in the industry, though most of the time the disruptions are only temporary.

Today in History: October 25, Teapot Dome Scandal conviction

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Saturday, Oct. 25, the 298th day of 2025. There are 67 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 25, 1929, former Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall was convicted of accepting bribes in exchange for oil field leases at Teapot Dome in Wyoming and the Elk Hills and Buena Vista oil fields in California. As a result of the "Teapot Dome Scandal" Fall would become the first U.S. Cabinet member to be imprisoned for crimes committed while in office.

Also on this date:

In 1760, Britain's King George III succeeded his late grandfather, George II.

In 1859, radical abolitionist John Brown went on trial in Charles Town, Virginia, for his failed raid at Harpers Ferry. (He was convicted and later hanged.)

In 1962, during an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council, U.S. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson

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II demanded that Soviet Ambassador Valerian Zorin confirm or deny the existence of Soviet-built missile bases in Cuba. Stevenson then presented the council with photographic evidence of the bases, a key moment in the Cuban missile crisis.

In 1983, a U.S.-led force invaded Grenada at the order of President Ronald Reagan, who said the action was needed to protect U.S. citizens there.

In 1986, in Game 6 of the World Series, the New York Mets rallied for three runs with two outs in the 10th inning, defeating the Boston Red Sox 6-5 and forcing a seventh game; the tiebreaking run scored on Boston first baseman Bill Buckner's error on Mookie Wilson's slow grounder. (The Mets went on to win Game 7 and the Series.)

In 1999, golfer Payne Stewart and five others were killed when their Learjet lost cabin pressure, flew hundreds of miles off course on autopilot, and crashed in a field in South Dakota. Stewart was 42.

In 2002, Democratic U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone of Minnesota was killed in a plane crash in northern Minnesota along with his wife, daughter and five others, a week-and-a-half before the election.

In 2022, Rishi Sunak became Britain's first prime minister of color after being chosen to lead the governing Conservative Party.

In 2023, Robert Card opened fire at a bowling alley and a bar and grill in Lewiston, Maine, killing 18 people and leaving 13 others wounded. Card was found dead by suicide two days after the attack, the worst mass shooting in Maine's history.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Marion Ross is 96. Author Anne Tyler is 84. Rock singer Jon Anderson (Yes) is 81. Political strategist James Carville is 81. Basketball Hall of Famer Dave Cowens is 77. Olympic gold medal wrestler Dan Gable is 77. Olympic gold medal hockey player Mike Eruzione is 71. Actor Nancy Cartwright (TV: "The Simpsons") is 68. Rock drummer Chad Smith (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 64. Actor-comedian-TV host Samantha Bee is 56. Country singer Chely (SHEL'-ee) Wright is 55. Violinist Midori is 54. Baseball Hall of Famer Pedro Martinez is 54. Actor Craig Robinson is 54. Author Zadie Smith is 50. Actor Mehdad (muh-KAD') Brooks is 45. Pop singer Katy Perry is 41. Singer Ciara is 40. Golfer Xander Schauffele is 32. MLB All-Star Juan Soto is 27.