

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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.

## Wednesday, Oct. 29

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.; UMYF, 6:15 p.m.  
FCCLA Blood Drive, 8 a.m.  
6th Grade GBB Practice, 6 p.m.  
4th-6th Grade GBB hosts Britton-Hecla, 6 p.m.

## Thursday, Oct. 30

3rd Grade GBB Practice, 5 p.m.  
Football Playoffs

## Friday, Oct. 31

St. John's Lutheran: Reformation Day Service, 7 p.m.  
United Methodist: Trunk or Treat, 5 p.m.  
Downtown Trick or Treat, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Groton Daily Independent**  
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# 1440

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

## Arrests in Louvre Heist

French police made the first arrests linked to a daring heist at Paris' Louvre over the weekend, one week after thieves made off with roughly \$100M in jewels from the world's most visited museum. Officials said two suspects were detained (at least four were directly involved), including one preparing to depart for Algeria. None of the pieces were recovered.

The low-tech burglary took place Oct. 19, when the group used a furniture lift and power tools to break in through a first-floor window in broad daylight. Among the artifacts taken were eight pieces of the French crown jewels—an exhibit of royal pieces dating from the 9th to 19th centuries—including a tiara belonging to Napoleon III's wife, Eugénie. A bejeweled crown was also snagged but dropped in the getaway.

Experts say the recovery rate is under 10%, with jewelry either melted down and resold or purchased by discreet, high-priced buyers.

## Trump's Asia Trip

President Donald Trump landed in Malaysia yesterday for a nearly weeklong Asia trip that will culminate in a meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Trump kicked off the week by attending a peace deal signing between Cambodia and Thailand, a deal Cambodia credits Trump with helping to broker. Trump then announced separate trade deals with Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam that will see them purchase dozens of US-made planes (for over \$25B) as well as invest in the US agricultural and energy sectors. Malaysia and Thailand also agreed to supply the US with access to critical minerals and rare earth materials.

Trump next heads to Japan to meet with the country's first female prime minister. He will then attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference in South Korea, where he will meet with Xi to discuss a framework trade agreement to avert 100% tariffs set to go into effect Nov. 1.

## New Menopause Drug

The Food and Drug Administration approved a new drug to treat women during menopause Friday. The drug—elinzanetant, produced under the brand name Lynkuet—is one of the few nonhormonal treatments for symptoms including night sweats and hot flashes.

Roughly 80% of women experience vasomotor symptoms, which can last for an average of seven to 10 years. As estrogen levels decrease during menopause, nerves in the hypothalamus region of the brain—which regulate body temperature—become hyperactive. Hormonal treatments typically involve a combination of estrogen and progesterone. This drug is the first nonhormonal option targeting two brain receptors involved in regulating temperature. In a Phase 3 clinical trial, 73% of women experienced reduced symptoms, compared to 47% using a placebo.

Bayer's once-a-day pill will be publicly available next month. A 30-day supply costs \$625, though insurance could lower the monthly cost to as little as \$25 per month.

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## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

June Lockhart, actress known for roles in "Lassie," "Lost in Space," dies at age 100.

Former New York Jets center Nick Mangold dies at age 41 from complications due to kidney disease.

Miss Nebraska Audrey Eckert is crowned the winner of Miss USA 2025; Miss USA 2024 Alma Cooper skips crowning ceremony without explanation.

World Series Game 3 begins tonight at 8 pm ET, after Los Angeles Dodgers win Game 2 against Toronto Blue Jays to tie the series 1-1.

## Science & Technology

ExxonMobil sues California over the state's climate disclosure law, alleging it violates the First Amendment by forcing the company to agree with its position on climate change.

Sleep researchers find regions of the brain controlling movement and sensory input stay "on" during non-REM periods, helping the body stay aware of the outside world during rest.

Study reveals details of how the body senses heat at the molecular level, distinguishing between warmth and dangerous heat.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close at record highs Friday (S&P 500 +1.0%, Dow +0.8%, Nasdaq +1.2%), as mild inflation data suggests the Federal Reserve may pursue further interest rate cuts.

President Donald Trump to add 10% tariffs to Canadian imports over an anti-tariff ad airing in Ontario that used a voice-over of former President Ronald Reagan.

US-China TikTok deal reportedly finalized, details to be announced Thursday; agreement would spin off US operations of the app to a consortium including Oracle and others.

## Politics & World Affairs

Hurricane Melissa strengthens into a Category 4 storm, threatening to bring flash flooding to Jamaica, southern Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.

Sudanese rebel group Rapid Support Forces announces it has captured the Sudanese army's headquarters in el-Fasher; if confirmed, it would mean all five Darfur state capitals are under RSF control.

Russia tests a new nuclear-powered cruise missile; the Burevestnik, nicknamed "Skyfall" by NATO, is designed to evade existing missile detection systems.

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## Names Released in Pennington County Fatal Crash

What: Two-vehicle fatal crash

Where: I-90 at mile marker 54, 2 miles west of Rapid City, SD

When: 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Driver 1: Brandon Lee Ice, 43-year-old male from Rapid City, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2019 Chevrolet Silverado

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Driver 2: Jason Emsley Nisen, 43-year-old male from Box Elder, SD, life-threatening injuries

Vehicle 2: 2022 International Truck-Tractor

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Pennington County, S.D.- A Rapid City, South Dakota man died following a two- vehicle crash Tuesday morning near Rapid City.

Preliminary crash information indicates Jason Emsley Nisen, the driver of a 2022 International Truck-Tractor, was traveling eastbound on I-90 near mile marker 54. At the same time, Brandon Lee Ice, the driver of a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado, was traveling westbound at the same location when he crossed the median and struck the International Truck-Tractor.

Ice died from his injuries. Nisen was transported to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries.

All information released is preliminary.

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



**GT** Varsity Volleyball  
Faulkton at Groton  
Mon., Oct. 27  
7:15 p.m.

Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

**GDILIVE**  
YouTube  
A production of the  
Groton Daily Independent  
For more info: GDILIVE.COM

The poster features a large 'GT' logo in yellow and white, a Roman helmet icon, and a tiger head illustration.



**GT** Varsity Volleyball  
Milbank at Groton  
Tues., Oct. 28  
7:15 p.m.

Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

**GDILIVE**  
YouTube  
A production of the  
Groton Daily Independent  
For more info: GDILIVE.COM

The poster features a large 'GT' logo in yellow and white, a bulldog head icon, and a tiger head illustration.



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The first quarter was dominated by the Chargers, who had 106 total yards compared to Minnesota's 16. The Vikings got the ball to start the game but were forced to punt, then the defense allowed a 14-play, 83-yard touchdown drive. A three-and-out (that went backwards nine yards) on Minnesota's next possession gave the ball right back to Los Angeles, who had a seven-point lead after 15 minutes of play.

The Chargers scored another touchdown early in the second quarter, extending their lead to 14-0. Minnesota followed that up with a nine-play drive that ended in a field goal, finally putting some points on the board. The Vikings caught a break when the Chargers missed a field goal on their

next drive, but they failed to capitalize and punted the ball right back after a three-and-out. Despite having the ball at the 6-yard line, the Chargers were undaunted, only needing nine plays to go 94 yards for a third first-half touchdown. The Vikings missed a field goal to end the half and went into the locker room down 21-3. Just for comparison, the Chargers had 18 first downs in the first half, compared to four for the Vikings, and 266 total yards compared to 93.

The Chargers opened the second half with a nine-play drive that ended with a field goal to extend their lead to 24-3. The Vikings responded with a punt. However, a tipped ball on the Chargers' next possession was intercepted by Josh Metellus, and the Vikings were gifted a touchdown by a series of Los Angeles penalties to cut the deficit to 14.

The Chargers found the endzone yet again to begin the fourth quarter to make it a three-score game again, and two plays later, Carson Wentz threw an interception. Needing to just run the clock out, the Chargers' next drive took nearly five minutes and added another three points. The Vikings' next drive picked up two yards, and they turned the ball over on downs. The Chargers then took another four minutes off the clock and kicked another field goal, extending the lead to 37-10. With less than two minutes left in the game, Minnesota threw in the towel and put their backups in to end this disaster.

At this point, I don't even know what to say. I'm frustrated as a fan. This team won 14 games last season, and the front office decided to gamble on too many things this offseason. They gambled on hitching the wagon to a 2nd-year QB coming off an injury who never had to do much in college. They gambled on aging, injury-riddled free agents on both the offensive and defensive lines, and our high-priced center may never play in the NFL again. They gambled on the secondary, allowing Cam Bynum to walk and not bringing in any legit cornerbacks, and now teams are just passing at will against the Vikings. The Vikings gambled and lost nearly every hand, and it's us, the fans, who have to pay for their incompetence.

Looking ahead, it doesn't get any better, as the Vikings travel to Detroit to take on the Lions. It's going to be ugly.



**Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD FACP**



## **"The key to boosting immunity"**

It's hard to look at your television or social media and not see a headline about some "superfood," supplement, or other product promising to "boost immunity." And who doesn't want to boost immunity, especially in a year in which measles outbreaks are becoming routine? Genuinely, there is one entity available to us that, more than any other fad, will help our immunity and protect us against infection: vaccines.

Vaccines are one of the great miracles in the history of science serving humanity. Whereas in centuries before, seeing children and young people die of infectious diseases was a universal experience, vaccines have truly changed the world in that regard. Diseases like smallpox

and polio have been wiped out after being something parents feared throughout human existence.

With the huge successes of vaccines, in some ways we as a society have forgotten their wonderful impact. Measles, up until the 1960's a disease that was commonplace and resulted in unfortunate deaths of infants and children, was rarely seen after widespread vaccination in the late 20th century and early 2000's. Unfortunately, because of declining rates of childhood vaccination, that is no longer true. Various misinformation campaigns and, probably, a general sense of insignificance (no new parents remember anyone having measles), are to blame.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that statistically requires about 95% vaccination rate in a population to achieve herd immunity. Herd immunity status gives protection to vulnerable individuals including those too young to vaccinate (infants under one year of age). We have seen large outbreaks of measles in numerous states this year, generally in communities where that herd immunity is not being achieved. And because measles is so highly contagious, kids who have not been vaccinated may have to miss school for weeks to stay safe. Most sadly, we have seen deaths this year in the US from a disease which was considered eliminated as recently as 2020. Let's hope this isn't a sign of other preventable infectious diseases making a comeback.

So, if you're looking to boost your immunity this season, of course I recommend a healthy diet, regular exercise, and adequate sleep. But if you want to make the biggest impact, talk to your doctor about vaccines and get caught up with evidence-based recommendations. Your immune system will thank you.

*Dr. Kelly Evans Hullinger practices internal medicine at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, SD. She serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org), Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).*

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## Men's Basketball Falls to Murray State in Exhibition Play

Murray, Ky. – The Northern State University men's basketball team opened their season Sunday afternoon in exhibition action at Murray State University. The Wolves and Racers faced off for the first time in program history with MSU recording the win.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 74, MSU 112

Attendance: 2716

### HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern tallied 34 points in the first half and 40 in the second, while Murray State notched 52 in the first and 60 in the second

The Wolves shot 42.4% from the floor, 33.3% from the 3-point line, and 50.0% from the foul line in the game, scoring 36 points off the bench, 34 points in the paint, 11 points off turnovers, and 11 second chance points

They recorded 21 rebounds, 11 made 3-pointers, ten assists, four steals, and four blocks with 13 guys seeing action in the game

The Racers shot 58.7% from the floor, 46.7% from beyond the arc, and 66.7% from the free throwing line, scoring 60 points off the bench, 60 points in the paint, 26 second chance points, and 11 points off turnovers

Three Wolves scored in double figures led by Joshua Book with 14 points, hitting 6-of-12 from the floor  
Simon Akena and Marshawn Smith followed with 13 and ten points respectively

Tobi Obiora and Nelson Reynolds led the team with four rebounds each, while James Gleen dished out a team best three assists

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Joshua Book: 14 points, 50.0 field goal%, 2 rebounds, 1 assist

Simon Akena: 13 points, 45.5 field goal%, 1 rebound, 1 block, 1 steal

Nelson Reynolds: 9 points, 50.0 field goal%, 4 rebounds, 1 assist

### UP NEXT

The Wolves will be back in action on Monday, November 3 at the University of Wyoming, facing the Cowboys led by Sundance Wicks. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m. (CT) in Laramie.

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## **Down Syndrome Awareness Night — Today at the Volleyball Matches!**

**From Groton Area Facebook Page**

Join us today, October 27, at the Groton Area vs. Faulkton volleyball matches starting at 6:00 PM!

We're coming together to raise awareness for Down Syndrome and to show support for the Torrence family as Baylor, daughter of Brooke Torrence (6th Grade Teacher/Head CC Coach/JH Track Coach), prepares for heart surgery in November.

There will be information and opportunities to support the Torrence family throughout the night. Let's fill the stands with blue and yellow as we cheer on our teams and our community!

A blue poster with yellow geometric shapes (triangles and chevrons) and white dot patterns in the corners. The text is centered and reads:

## **DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS NIGHT**

**Monday, October 27 at the Groton vs.  
Faulkton volleyball game**

**In support of Baylor Torrence  
(daughter of Mrs. Torrence) before her  
heart surgery in November**



## EARTHTALK

### Iron-Air Batteries: A Revolution In Energy Storage?

by Audrey Li

Dear EarthTalk: What's new regarding more efficient batteries that can help usher in a new age of renewable energy?

-- Paul Beckman, Marion, OH

Batteries are everywhere—in your phone, your car—even the artificial organs that many depend on for life. But behind this universal usage is extensive ecological damage—the battery-making process requires intensive mining for heavy metals, leaks toxins into soil and water, and depletes local water sources in communities. But new and innovative ways to increase the efficiency and sustainability of batteries.

One of the most novel innovations out this year is iron-air batteries, those that use a sustainable rust-based reaction to produce energy. As air passes through the cathode (the negatively-charged portion of the battery) and reacts with the liquid, a water-based electrolyte, ions subsequently latch onto the positively-charged iron anode, producing rust. The movement of ions through this rust produces electricity, a process that can be repeated by continually unrusting the battery after each reaction. Form energy co-founder and Chief Scientist Yet-Ming Chiang notes the economic viability of iron-air batteries for large-scale usage: "Air is still free and iron is one of the most widely produced, lowest cost materials in the world." In Minnesota, a 1.5 megawatt pilot project was shown to be able to power 400 homes for 100 hours, a clear example of how iron-air batteries could be the next big innovation for large-scale battery usage.



**Form Energy is one of the companies working on iron-air batteries that could revolutionize the technology of tomorrow.** Credit: Form Energy.

Besides iron-air batteries, solid-state batteries are what George Crabtree, director of the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research, believes to be "very likely... the next big thing at the commercial level." Solid-state batteries use electrolytes like argyrodite, garnet and perovskite that are more efficient than liquid-electrolytes in nearly all aspects: they're lighter, take up less space and can hold more energy per unit of mass. These qualities make them effective for Electrical Vehicle (EV) usage and grid-scale energy storage. However, researchers like University of Houston professor Yan Yao, who recently developed a glass-like electrolyte, are still looking for materials that fulfill all four factors for viability in the market: low-cost, easy-to-build, having a high degree of mechanical stability, and chemical stability.

With lithium-based batteries being so ubiquitous, some scientists are looking to improve on the existing model rather than supplanting it entirely. Batteries made out of Lithium-Sulfur, for example, exhibit four times greater energy density than traditional lithium batteries due to their usage of light, active materials. Ultimately, innovations in batteries are a cornerstone to shaping a more sustainable future. According to associate professor of materials science at Columbia University Yuan Yuang, making renewable energy more reliable will help stabilize energy grids and support a more sustainable energy future.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **Lower spending, higher sales tax, revenue shifts: A closer look at 19 ways to reduce property taxes**

**Legislature will consider task force's ideas this winter**

**BY: MAKENZIE HUBER**

The 19 proposals advanced on Wednesday by a legislative task force aiming to reduce property taxes for South Dakota homeowners are a mix of ideas including spending cuts, increases in other taxes and tapping into other funds.

In addition to recommendations by the task force, lawmakers will likely have to contend with other property tax proposals when they convene for the annual legislative session in January. That could include a revival of a state sales tax rate increase from 4.2% to 5% and the governor's proposed optional half-percent sales tax for counties, which currently don't have authority to tax sales (only the state and cities have that power).

Lawmakers on the task force expressed a hope in June to propose legislation that will significantly cut the average South Dakota homeowner's property taxes. South Dakota property taxes paid by homeowners increased 38.8% between 2020 and 2024.

The proposals include cutting state spending and applying the savings to property tax relief, replacing some property tax revenue with sales tax increases, using one-time tax credits for temporary relief, and reserving a portion of future state revenue increases each year to reduce property taxes.

Chair of the task force and Senate President Pro Tempore Chris Karr, R-Sioux Falls, said details need to be hashed out with some of the proposals. Task force member and Sen. Randy Deibert, R-Spearfish, cautioned lawmakers at the end of the meeting.

"We need to be very careful about what we wish for," Deibert said. "If we lower our property taxes so much, we'll have more people moving here and have a big impact on that. We have to be very careful on that balance, to keep our quality of life and not be overrun by people moving here because we have such a great tax environment."

#### **Cut state spending by 5%**

The most contentious proposal to make it through the task force is cutting state government general fund spending by 5%, or about \$123 million — with cooperation from Gov. Larry Rhoden's administration to identify where potential cuts could be made. The cuts themselves wouldn't reduce property taxes, because the state doesn't receive any property tax revenue (only counties, schools, cities and other local governments do). The state would have to dedicate the savings toward property tax relief.

Task force Vice Chair and House Speaker Jon Hansen, R-Dell Rapids, said the executive branch's cooperation is needed to "cut state government in this fashion."

"I think the fundamental reason for this request is because, if we want real tax relief, it must come from cuts to government spending," said Hansen, who is running for governor next year. "Otherwise, we're just shifting the burden onto other taxpayers."

Other members of the task force and the public warned task force members against state cuts. Jim Terwilliger, commissioner of the South Dakota Bureau of Finance and Management, said many of the budget cuts proposed by the Rhoden administration for this fiscal year were unpopular with lawmakers, and some of them were restored.

"It's pretty easy to say, 'Oh, let's go cut 5%,'" Terwilliger said, adding, "I think it's going to be very, very

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difficult to do that at the end of the day.”

## **Reserve some future revenue growth for property tax relief**

Another recommendation would create a new property tax relief fund by depositing 25% of the annual increase in ongoing state revenue into the fund each year.

The idea, proposed by Karr, would be a long-term investment in property tax relief, he said.

Sen. Taffy Howard, R-Rapid City, said it would be a new line item in the state budget and grow each year. Karr compared the idea to annual increases in state employee salaries, education and Medicaid reimbursements.

“Even with an average of 4% growth, we can have a significant buildup,” Karr said, adding, “Maybe this is the seed we plant for future growth in property tax relief.”

## **Sales tax increase used for property tax relief**

The task force also advanced a proposal to use a sales tax increase from 4.2% to 4.5% to create a fund to replace a portion of property taxes collected by school districts. A temporary sales tax reduction from 4.5% to 4.2%, adopted in 2023, is already scheduled to expire in 2027 unless lawmakers make it permanent.

South Dakota Retailers Association Executive Director Nathan Sanderson encouraged lawmakers to support the idea, saying that his organization has been advocating for the “relatively simple” proposal since 2022.

## **One-time \$500 tax credits**

A \$500 property tax credit for owner-occupied properties would be funded by remaining Housing and Infrastructure Financing program money and budget reserve funding, totaling \$120 million.

Lawmakers used a combination of state and federal funding in 2023 to create a \$200 million Housing and Infrastructure Financing program, meant to spur housing developments across South Dakota. Much of that money has been spent as grants, but just under \$65 million in loans remain untouched. The Legislature earlier this year dipped into the fund to spend \$15 million on a loan for the Douglas School District, serving the Ellsworth Air Force Base, to help build an elementary school.

Hansen proposed spending the remaining funds on property tax relief. On Friday, the governor unveiled a rival proposal to spend some of the the remaining housing infrastructure money on airport expansions in Sioux Falls and Rapid City.

Julie Johnson, a lobbyist who represents various housing groups, said many organizations have proposals in the works to use the remainder of the Housing and Infrastructure Financing money.

“I would urge your avoidance of that fund,” Johnson said. “It’s filled incredible niches in the housing infrastructure economy and allowed a lot of communities to take the next steps into building their own opportunities.”

## **Tax increment financing regulations**

One of the most controversial proposals related to property taxes is Howard’s tax increment financing district regulation package.

Local tax increment financing districts provide upfront financing to build streets, water pipes and other infrastructure for development, while capturing the higher property taxes generated by the development to pay off the financing over time. TIFs, as they are known, have become controversial in some areas, including Rapid City, where critics including Howard allege they’ve become handouts for wealthy developers.

If passed, Howard’s proposal would restrict TIFs by reducing the percentage of a city or county’s overall assessed value that can be part of a TIF, requiring that at least 50% of the area within a proposed TIF district be blighted, redefining “blight,” requiring counties to approve TIF districts established by a city, requiring an independent evaluation that a project would not be built unless a TIF was established, and

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requiring a special election for TIF districts totaling \$10 million or more.

Howard called the changes "common sense" as TIFs become a more commonly used tool, especially in urban counties, to "reign it back."

Other task force members, including Deibert, were concerned the package is too restrictive and would harm communities. Deibert and other critics conceded that TIFs could be further regulated in the state, but without "punishing people who really need" them.

The impact of TIFs on local property taxpayers is a subject of debate, with critics saying the capturing of a project's property taxes to pay off TIF financing temporarily burdens other taxpayers, while TIF proponents say TIFs spur development that broadens the tax base over time.

## Other proposals

Other proposals advanced by the task force:

Expanding the state's property assessment freeze program income limit for older and disabled South Dakotans.

Requiring counties to include a QR code on property tax bills to direct taxpayers to the state's property tax website, in an effort to increase transparency about how property taxes are used.

Setting school districts' annual increase for property tax revenue at the same level as all other taxing districts, since school districts are currently exempt.

Allowing property owners applying for tax relief programs to fill out forms online, rather than at the county office.

Raising the minimum value of a new structure or addition that qualifies for the discretionary formula, a property tax incentive to promote economic development in the state, from \$30,000 to \$100,000.

Creating a new fund directing all state lottery revenues to state aid for education, rather than placing the revenues into the state general fund.

Prohibiting a school district from transferring money from its capital outlay fund to its general fund, as well as limiting annual increases in a school district's capital outlay property taxes to 3% or inflation, whichever is less, and removing additional increases allowed from growth.

Expanding the state's property tax relief program for disabled veterans by increasing the maximum exempt assessed value to the entire assessed value of the property, and offering a refund of property taxes to eligible South Dakotans who qualify but did not apply in the last five years of eligibility.

Allowing more cities to implement a property tax rebate program for owner-occupied properties, such as the one in Sioux Falls, which has such a program in place because it has a unique charter, called home rule, allowing more autonomy in its governance.

Restricting school district opt outs (decisions to exceed state-imposed limits on property tax revenue growth), by making it easier to bring an opt out to a vote of the people by automatic referral, decreasing signature requirements for referral, requiring 60% approval, or increasing the number of days opponents have to gather petition signatures to force a referral.

Creating a fund to replace a portion of property taxes collected by school districts, using any sources of revenue lawmakers put toward the fund.

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

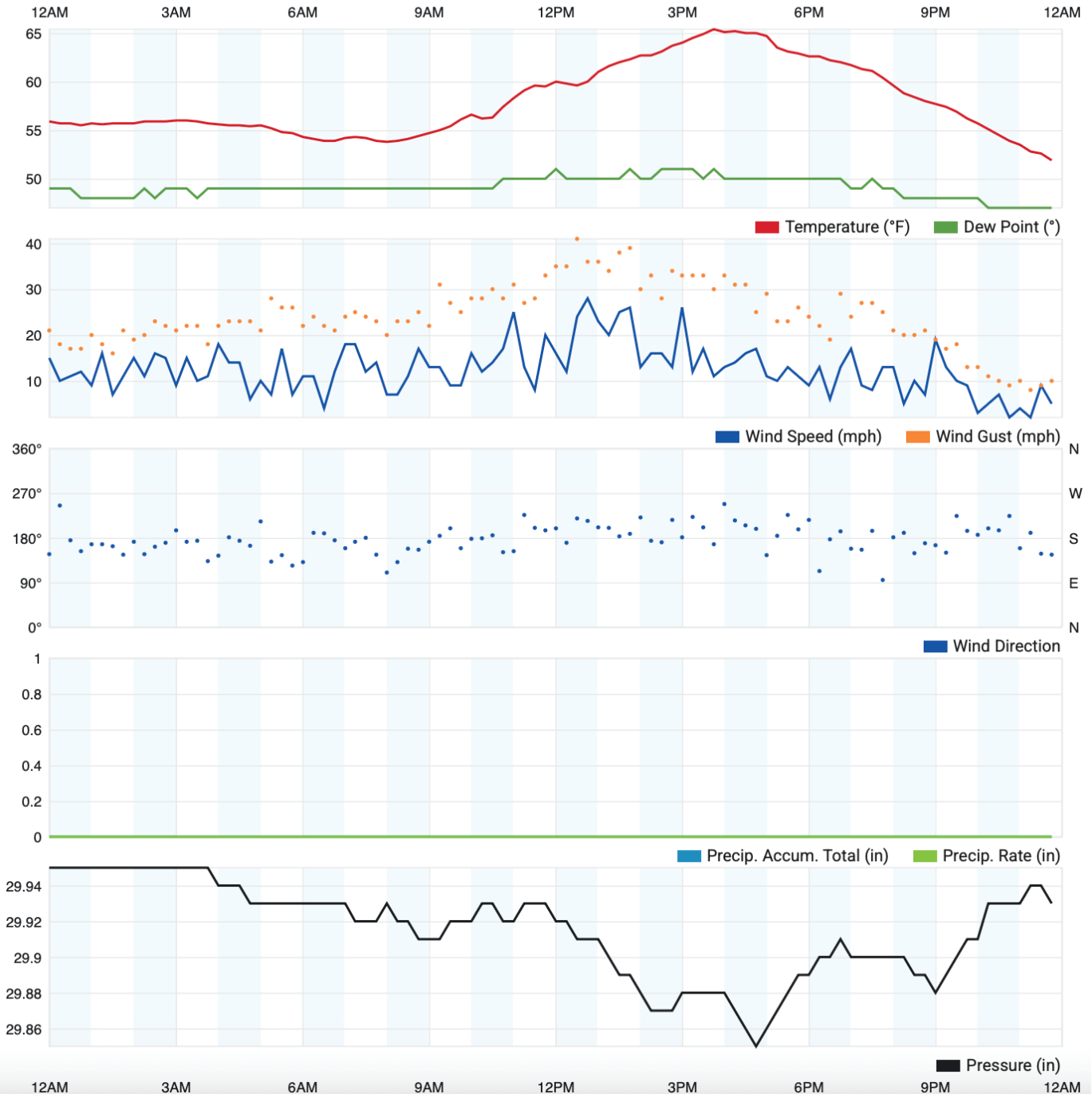


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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

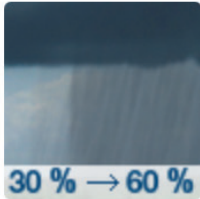
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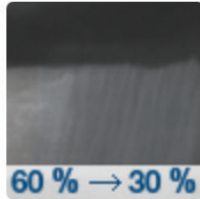
Today



High: 55 °F

Breezy.  
Chance  
Showers then  
Showers  
Likely

Tonight



Low: 39 °F

Showers  
Likely then  
Chance  
Showers

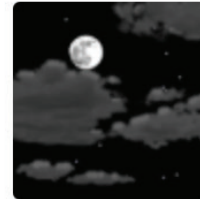
Tuesday



High: 51 °F

Chance  
Showers

Tuesday Night



Low: 29 °F

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday



High: 49 °F

Sunny



## Rain Monday and Tuesday

October 26, 2025  
3:35 PM

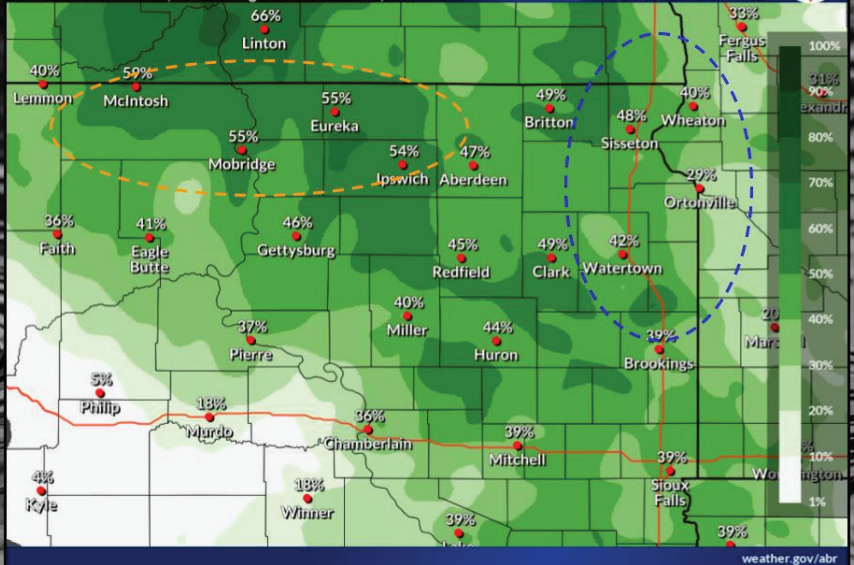
Pictured Below: Chance of half an inch of rain Monday morning through early Tuesday morning.

- Rain is still expected to fall over central and northeastern South Dakota as well as western Minnesota beginning Monday morning.
  - Rain will fall through Monday night over central South Dakota and through Tuesday evening over northeastern South Dakota.
  - The heaviest rainfall is expected Monday afternoon.
- **The orange circle is where the highest rainfall totals are expected on Monday.**
  - Rainfall totals in this area have decreased, and 0.25"-0.5" are now expected.
  - Some isolated areas may see up to 0.75" in total.
- **The blue circle has seen chances for rain on Tuesday increase over the last 24 hours.**
  - Another quarter of an inch may fall through Tuesday afternoon.

### Percent Chance of 0.5" Liquid Precipitation or More

Valid 7 AM Mon Oct 27, 2025 through 7 AM Tue Oct 28, 2025

Weather Forecast Office  
Aberdeen, SD  
Issued Oct 26, 2025 2:15 PM CDT



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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Rain is still expected to fall Monday and Tuesday, with 0.25"-0.5" expected over most of the area. Localized totals may reach up to 0.75" in total. The heaviest rainfall totals are expected to fall Monday afternoon. Please see the graphic for more specific location information.

# Groton Daily Independent

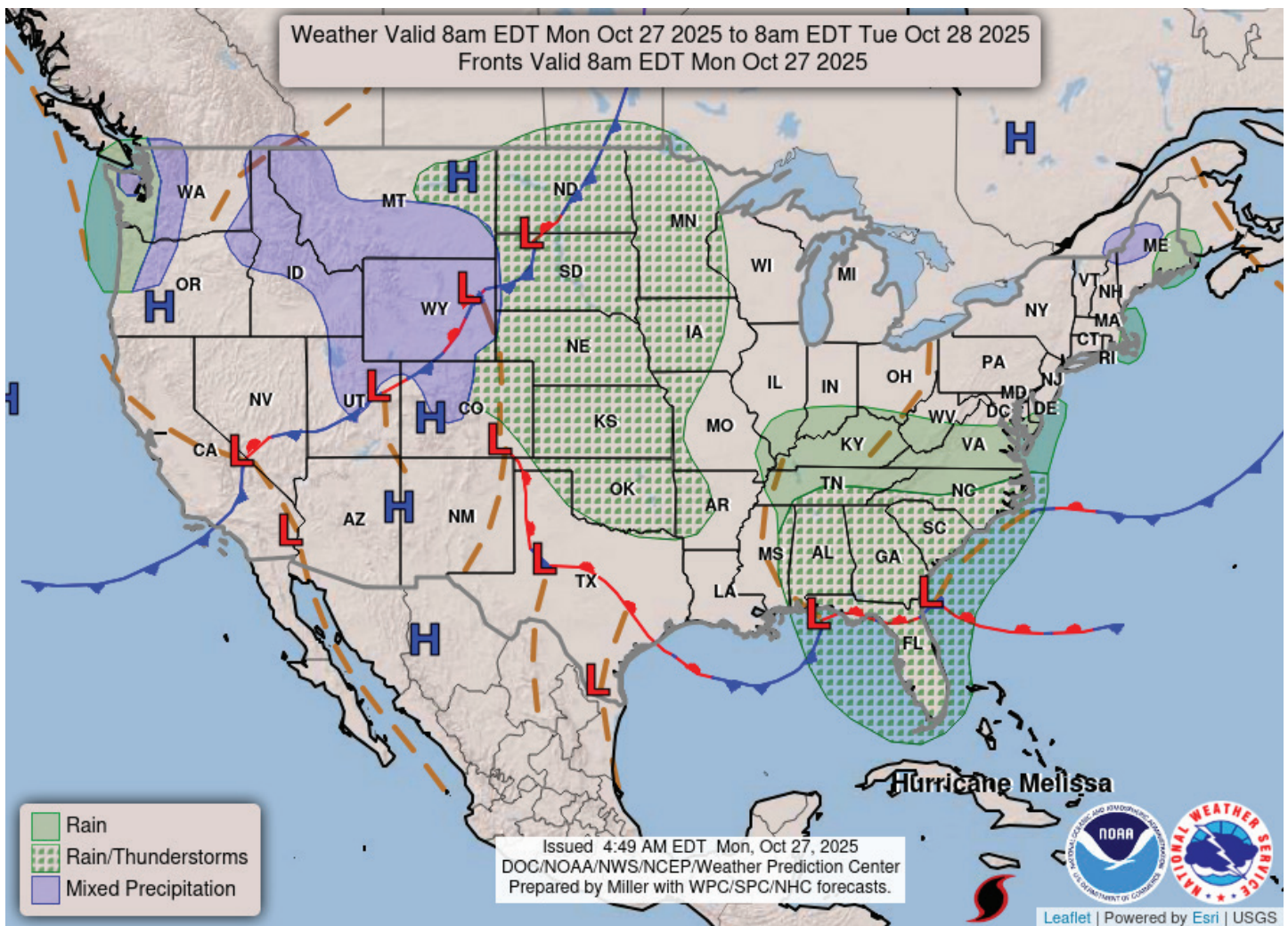
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 66 °F at 3:43 PM**  
**Low Temp: 52 °F at 11:27 PM**  
**Wind: 44 mph at 12:52 PM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 83 in 1983  
Record Low: 1 in 2020  
Average High: 53  
Average Low: 28  
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.94  
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.48  
Average Precip to date: 20.27  
Precip Year to Date: 23.40  
Sunset Tonight: 6:27 pm  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:06 am





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## **Today in Weather History**

October 27, 1991: The first winter storm of the season moved across western and northern South Dakota. The storm produced widespread snow and freezing rain. Strong winds also produced blowing snow which caused blizzard conditions. Snow amounts ranged from 3 to 11 inches. Many schools and businesses in western South Dakota were closed. Snow drifts, as high as 6 feet, made many roads impassable. Travel across western South Dakota was extremely difficult, if not impossible. Forty traffic accidents occurred in the Black Hills while five accidents were reported in Pierre. Many major roads were closed due to the snow and visibility. Rapid City airport was closed. Freezing rain downed power and telephone lines in Mobridge, Gettysburg, Belvidere, Midland, and Mission. Ice also broke six power poles in Walworth County. Some rural areas were without electricity for 30 hours.

1764 - A "very remarkable storm of snow with high winds" produced 22 inches at Rutland in central Massachusetts. (David Ludlum)

1913: At least three people died, and more than a hundred people were injured when the Abercynon Tornado struck an area from Edwardsville to Cilfynydd in South Wales.

1929 - A snowstorm dumped 27 inches upon Ishpeming, MI, in 24 hours to establish a state record. (David Ludlum)

1962 - An early season winter storm over New England blanketed northern Maine with 7 to 16 inches of snow, and southeastern New England with up to 3 inches of snow. Worcester MA received a record 4.7 inches of snow. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain from Virginia to New York State. Fallen leaves made roads and sidewalks slick, and also clogged sewers. Rainfall totals of 1.55 inches at Newark NJ, 1.54 inches at Harrisburg PA, 1.27 inches at Scranton PA, and 1.22 inches at Atlantic City NJ, were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure brought snow and gale force winds to the Great Lakes Region, and snow and high winds to the north central U.S. Winds gusted to 47 mph at Lansing MI, and reached 55 mph at Pierre SD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Wintry weather invaded the northwestern U.S. A storm crossing the Central Rockies produced up to 23 inches of snow in the mountains east of Salt Lake City UT. "Indian Summer" continued in the Lower Ohio Valley and the Upper Great Lakes Region. Afternoon highs of 71 degrees at Marquette MI and 72 degrees at Sault Ste Marie MI were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2006: An F1 tornado (waterspout) came ashore and caused significant damage on the west side of Apalachicola Florida.





## God's Call to Repentance

**When we repent, God responds with compassion, forgiveness, and acceptance.**

Luke 15:11-24

In the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the younger brother asked for his inheritance early so he might live as he chose. Once the father gave it to him, the young man made many unwise choices. What happened next illustrates the principles of godly repentance.

After squandering all of his money, the wayward son found work feeding pigs. One day he came to his senses and recognized his terrible plight. His repentance began with an awareness of his wrong choices and the fact that his situation was due to them.

Knowing that his difficulties came from unrighteous behavior, the prodigal grieved over his mistakes and acknowledged his sin (Luke 15:18). He declared he was no longer worthy to be considered his father's son. His repentance was made complete when he turned away from his old ways and returned to his father. The Lord likewise calls us to repent and return to Him.

What a welcome the wayward young man received! Upon seeing his son, the father was filled with compassion and ran to embrace him. Forgiveness and acceptance were extended—blessings that God also freely offers to whoever asks Him.

The prodigal son did not clean himself up before returning home. He simply left his old life, turned toward home, and trusted in his father's mercy. And so can we.

*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: 1 Days 17 Hrs 33 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.25.25

2 31 33 35 50 7

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$5,530,000**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 48 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.26.25

2 8 11 24 30 10

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 3 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.25.25

13 15 22 23 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$63,000**

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 3 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.25.25

3 24 46 58 61 7

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 32 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.25.25

2 12 22 39 67 15

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$358,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 32 Mins 0 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

### **Melissa strengthens to a Category 5 hurricane as it nears Jamaica**

By DÁNICA COTO and JOHN MYERS JR. Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Hurricane Melissa intensified to Category 5 strength Monday as it neared Jamaica with up to 30 inches (76 centimeters) of rain and a life-threatening storm surge.

Melissa is forecast to make landfall on the island Tuesday and cross Cuba and the Bahamas through Wednesday.

Melissa was centered about 130 miles (205 kilometers) south-southwest of Kingston, Jamaica, and about 315 miles (505 kilometers) south-southwest of Guantánamo, Cuba, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

The hurricane had maximum sustained winds of 160 mph (260 kph) and was moving west at 3 mph (6 kph), the center said.

Category 5 is the highest on the Saffir-Simpson scale with sustained winds exceeding 157 mph (250 kph). Melissa is the strongest hurricane in recent history to directly hit the small Caribbean nation.

Some local areas of eastern Jamaica could get 40 inches (1 meter) of rain while western Haiti could get 16 inches (40 centimeters), according to hurricane center. "Catastrophic flash flooding and numerous landslides are likely," it warned.

The slow-moving storm has killed at least three people in Haiti and a fourth person in the Dominican Republic, where another person remains missing.

"I want to urge Jamaicans to take this seriously," said Desmond McKenzie, deputy chairman of Jamaica's Disaster Risk Management Council. "Do not gamble with Melissa. It's not a safe bet."

The hurricane was expected to make another landfall later Tuesday in eastern Cuba. A hurricane warning was in effect for Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo and Holguin provinces, while a tropical storm warning was in effect for Las Tunas. Up to 20 inches (51 centimeters) of rain were forecast for parts of Cuba, along with a significant storm surge along the coast.

A record storm for Jamaica

Melissa could be the strongest hurricane Jamaica has experienced in decades, said Evan Thompson, principal director at Jamaica's meteorological service. He warned that cleanup and damage assessment would be severely delayed because of anticipated landslides, flooding and blocked roads.

In addition to the rainfall, Melissa is likely to cause a life-threatening storm surge on Jamaica's southern coast, peaking around 13 feet (4 meters) above ground level, near and to the east of where the center of Melissa makes landfall, the U.S. center said.

"Don't make foolish decisions," warned Daryl Vaz, Jamaica's transport minister. "We are in a very, very serious time over the next few days."

A hit on Hispaniola

The storm already has dropped heavy rain in the Dominican Republic, where schools and government offices were ordered to remain closed on Monday in four of nine provinces still under red alert.

Melissa damaged more than 750 homes across the country, displacing more than 3,760 people. Floodwaters also have cut access to at least 48 communities, officials said.

In neighboring Haiti, the storm destroyed crops in three regions, including 15 hectares (37 acres) of maize at a time when at least 5.7 million people, more than half of the country's population, is experiencing crisis levels of hunger, with 1.9 million of those facing emergency levels of hunger.

"Flooding is obstructing access to farmland and markets, jeopardizing harvests and the winter agricultural season," the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization said.

Melissa was expected to keep dumping torrential rain over southern Haiti and the southern Dominican Republic in upcoming days.

## Milei triumphs in Argentine midterm elections closely watched by Washington

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina's libertarian President Javier Milei won decisive victories in key districts in midterm elections Sunday, clinching a crucial vote of confidence that strengthens his ability to carry out his radical free-market experiment with billions of dollars in backing from the Trump administration.

In the election widely seen as a referendum on Milei's past two years in office, his upstart La Libertad Avanza party scored over 40% of votes compared with 31% for the left-leaning populist opposition movement, known as Peronism, exceeding analysts' projections.

Milei, a key ideological ally of U.S. President Donald Trump, said his party and allied blocs picked up 14 seats in the Senate and 64 in the lower house of Congress on Sunday, bolstering the government's support in the legislature enough to uphold presidential vetoes and block impeachment efforts.

At La Libertad Avanza headquarters late Sunday in downtown Buenos Aires, a beaming Milei hailed the election sweep as a mandate to press forward with his spending cuts and introduce ambitious tax and labor reforms. The results also automatically position him as a candidate for reelection in 2027.

"The Argentine people have decided to leave behind 100 years of decadence," Milei exulted as his supporters cheered, referring to a succession of Peronist governments that brought Argentina infamy for its inflationary spirals and sovereign debt defaults.

"Today we have passed the turning point. Today we begin the construction of a great Argentina."

High stakes include \$40 billion from the U.S.

Perhaps never has an Argentine legislative election generated so much interest in Washington and Wall Street.

Trump appeared to condition a \$20 billion currency swap deal with Argentina's central bank and an additional \$20 billion loan from private banks on a good showing for Milei in national midterms, threatening to rescind the assistance for the cash-strapped country in the event of a Peronist victory.

"If he wins we're staying with him, and if he doesn't win, we're gone," Trump said after welcoming Milei to the White House earlier this month.

Those contentious comments added to mounting pressure on Milei, who has scrambled to avert a currency crisis since the Peronist opposition won a landslide victory in Buenos Aires provincial polls last month. Argentina's bonds and currency nosedived as markets sensed that the public was losing patience with Milei's reforms and that the midterm race would be tight.

To stem the run on the peso, Milei burned through billions of dollars in foreign exchange reserves to shore up the peso. In an extraordinary move, the U.S. Treasury then came to the rescue, selling dollars to help meet soaring demand for greenbacks and finalizing the credit line.

In the end, the Peronist alliance performed poorly, underscoring how weak the once-dominant movement has become in the Milei era, largely as a result of internal divisions. Markets were widely expected to rally on Monday.

"For foreign investors, this outcome is a relief because it shows that the Milei program can be sustainable," said Marcelo J. García, the America's director for the geopolitical risk consultancy Horizon Engage.

"It leaves the opposition weakened and fragmented, just as it was when Milei won the presidency in December 2023," Garcia added.

The Peronist coalition has struggled to channel rising public anger with Milei's painful austerity measures into a new political strategy after delivering the economic shambles that the chain saw-wielding outsider inherited in late 2023.

Trump, while on his way to Japan on Monday, posted on Truth Social that Milei was "doing a wonderful job" after his party beat expectations in midterm elections.

"Our confidence in him was justified by the People of Argentina," Trump wrote.

Milei responded to Trump's post, calling him "a great friend" of Argentina and thanking him for "trusting

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the Argentine people.”

A changed electoral map

The results showed Milei’s young libertarian party gaining support across the country — including in some surprising corners that have long been under the sway of Peronism.

In the closely watched Buenos Aires province, a Peronist stronghold home to nearly 40% of the electorate, La Libertad Avanza eked out a razor-thin victory Sunday. Just last month, the Peronists beat Milei’s party there by a whopping 14 percentage points.

Axel Kicillof, governor of Buenos Aires province and the most influential elected official in the Peronist opposition, criticized Trump for putting his thumb on the scale.

He warned that the billions of dollars in financial aid from the U.S. Treasury and investment banks would do nothing to help ordinary Argentines squeezed by Milei’s cuts to subsidies or forced out of business by a contracting economy.

“I want to make it clear that neither the U.S. government nor JP Morgan are charitable societies,” he said. “If they come to Argentina, it is for nothing other than to take a profit.”

With Milei’s efforts to deregulate the economy and scrap tariffs winning over Argentina’s powerful agriculture sector, La Libertad Avanza also swept Santa Fe, which dominates soybean production and processing, and Córdoba, another powerhouse farming province.

Risks remain for Milei as austerity hits hard

Despite Milei’s new momentum, experts caution that the irascible president still needs to court political allies to see through his agenda. Given the limited number of seats up for grabs in this election, it was mathematically impossible for Milei to secure a majority in either house.

“This victory is necessary, but not sufficient to maintain control of Congress,” said political consultant Sergio Berensztein. “The government must build a broad and effective coalition with like-minded forces.”

Seeking to capitalize quickly on Sunday’s results, Milei said he called the country’s powerful provincial governors to accelerate agreements on long-term economic reform.

Sunday’s outcome will also test public patience for Milei’s cost-cutting measures in the coming months. Although Milei’s budget cuts have significantly driven down inflation — from an annual high of 289% in April 2024 to 32% last month — the price increases still outpace salaries and pensions.

The electorate appears increasingly polarized between beneficiaries of Milei’s reforms and those who say they’re struggling to make ends meet like never before.

In the financial district of Puerto Madero, luxury car dealerships report sales surging since Milei scrapped import restrictions. Streets bustle with bankers who praise the president for ending a yearslong ban on selling dollars online. Fine restaurants serve Argentine oil executives who gush about his efforts to draw foreign investment.

But at a soup kitchen on the other side of Argentina’s Riachuelo River, Epifanía Contreras, 64, said she feels like she’s bearing the brunt of the cutbacks.

“You can’t live on 290,000 pesos a month with today’s inflation,” she said, describing how her \$200 monthly pension has shriveled in value since Milei cut cost-of-living increases. “The situation is getting worse and worse.”

Reflecting widespread public resignation, electoral authorities reported a turnout rate of just under 68% Sunday, among the lowest recorded since the nation’s 1983 return to democracy. Voting is compulsory in Argentina.

“I vote out of obligation, nothing more,” said Matías Paredes, 50, a real estate broker whose foreign clientele vanished with Milei’s strong exchange rate. “None of these figures inspire optimism. We’re just choosing the lesser evil.”

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## For Japan's new leader, the key to connecting with Trump could be a Ford F-150 truck

By JOSH BOAK and MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — President Donald Trump arrived on Monday in Japan where new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is banking on building a friendly personal relationship with the U.S. leader to ease trade tensions.

One key to this strategy might lie in an idea floated by Japan's government to buy a fleet of Ford F-150 trucks, a meaningful gesture that may also be impractical given the narrow streets in Tokyo and other Japanese cities.

It's an early diplomatic test for Takaichi, the first woman to lead Japan. She took office only last week, and has a tenuous coalition backing her.

Trump instantly bought into the idea of Ford trucks as he flew to Asia aboard Air Force One.

"She has good taste," Trump told reporters. "That's a hot truck."

The two spoke over the phone while Trump was mid-flight on Saturday. Takaichi stressed her status as a protege of the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a favorite of Trump's from his first term, and said she praised him for brokering the Gaza ceasefire that led to the return of hostages held by Hamas.

"I thought (Trump) is a very cheerful and fun person," she said. "He well recognizes me and said he remembers me as a politician whom (former) Prime Minister Abe really cared about," she said. "And I told the president that I extremely look forward to welcoming him in Tokyo."

Trump spent Sunday in Malaysia, where he participated in a regional summit, and departed Monday morning for Japan. While on Air Force One on Monday, he said he planned to talk in Tokyo about the "great friendship" between the U.S. and Japan.

Resetting the trade relationship

Beneath the hospitality is the search for a strategy to navigate the increasingly complex trade relationship that Trump shook up earlier this year with tariffs.

Trump wants allies to buy more American goods and also make financial commitments to build factories and energy infrastructure in the U.S.

The meetings in a Japan come ahead of Trump's sit-down with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday in South Korea.

Both the U.S. and Japan have sought to limit China's manufacturing ambitions, as the emergence of Chinese electric vehicles, artificial intelligence and advanced computer chips could undermine the American and Japanese economies.

"In light of the planned meeting between Trump and Xi Jinping shortly afterward, Trump may also be considering how he might strengthen his hand by demonstrating the robustness of the U.S.-Japan relationship," said Kristi Govella, Japan chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank.

Japan's previous administration agreed in September to invest \$550 billion in the U.S., which led Trump to trim a threatened 25% tariff on Japanese goods to 15%. But Japan wants the investments to favor Japanese vendors and contractors.

Japan's economy and trade minister, Ryosei Akazawa, has said his ministry is compiling a list of projects in computer chips and energy to try to meet the investment target.

"As far as I know, I'm hearing that there are a number of Japanese companies that are showing interest," he told reporters Friday, though he did not give further details.

Ford trucks in Tokyo would be a powerful symbol

Japanese officials are looking at the possibility of buying more American soybeans, liquefied natural gas and autos.

For Trump, the prospect of Ford trucks in the skyscrapered streets of Tokyo would be a win. The administration has long complained that American vehicles were being shut out of a market that is the home of Toyota, Honda, Nissan, Isuzu, Mitsubishi and Subaru. In a September interview on CNBC, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said Japan wouldn't buy U.S.-branded vehicles because "Chevys" were popular



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with Japanese gangsters.

Takaichi may arrange for Ford F-150 trucks to be showcased in a place Trump gets to see them, Japan's Nikkei newspaper reported. The government is considering importing the trucks for its transport ministry to use for inspecting roads and infrastructure, though there are concerns that the F-150 could cause congestion on narrow Japanese streets. A Ford spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment.

Japanese media have reported that Toyota Motor Corp. Chairman Akio Toyoda could announce plans to import his company's American-made cars back to Japan during a dinner with Trump and other business leaders on Wednesday.

The gestures — combined with Takaichi's connection to Abe — should help her deal with Trump, who seems predisposed to like her.

"I think she's going to be great," Trump said aboard Air Force One. "She's a great friend of Mr. Abe who was a great man."

In 2016, Abe gave Trump a high-end golf club to celebrate his first election, and the leaders bonded over their love of golf. Trump often expresses sadness about Abe's 2022 assassination.

But there are risks for Takaichi in emphasizing her ties to Abe, said Rintaro Nishimura, who specializes in Japan at advisory firm The Asia Group.

"Because it's Takaichi's first diplomatic engagement I think she wants to start with sort of a bang," Nishimura said. "Succeeding the Abe-line rhetoric is definitely going to be part of this engagement, although some also suggest that leaning too heavily on the Abe line might not exactly be good for her for creating her own kind of portfolio, her status as Japan's leader."

Trump lands in Tokyo on Monday, meeting first with Japanese Emperor Naruhito. After meeting with Takaichi on Tuesday, he will give a speech aboard the U.S.S. George Washington aircraft carrier anchored in Japan and then hold a dinner with business leaders. Trump plans to leave for South Korea on Wednesday.

But aboard Air Force One on Monday, he told reporters that he was also ready to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, should that be an option.

"If he wants to meet, I'll be in South Korea," Trump said.

## Shooting at a historically Black university's homecoming fest in Pennsylvania kills 1 and wounds 6

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY, Pa. (AP) — Gunfire erupted during outdoor festivities at Pennsylvania's Lincoln University late Saturday, killing one person and wounding six others as students and alumni celebrated homecoming at the historically Black school, authorities said.

Investigators were operating under a "strong belief" that there was more than one shooter but did not think they came to the campus "with a specific design to cause a mass casualty event," Chester County District Attorney Christopher de Barrena-Sarobe said Sunday during a news conference.

So far one person has been jailed on charges of carrying a concealed firearm without a license, and authorities were investigating whether that weapon was used in the shooting, de Barrena-Sarobe said.

Authorities said the shooting took place around 9:30 p.m. outside a large building called the International Cultural Center, where tents and tables were set up for tailgating and socializing after a football game earlier in the day.

Juwan Jeffers, 25, of Wilmington, Delaware, was shot in the head and died just after midnight, the district attorney said.

The other victims, who range in age from 20 to 25, were expected to survive, but the district attorney declined to provide individual updates on their conditions. He said they included a current student, a graduate and four people with no direct affiliation to the school.

De Barrena-Sarobe said authorities were conducting grid searches and declined to speculate on how many shots were fired until all bullet casings were recovered. He urged anyone with video from the scene or other information that could help the investigation to contact the FBI.



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The campus is about 45 miles (70 kilometers) southwest of Philadelphia. Chester County detectives are leading the investigation, with support from state police and the FBI.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro said on X that he was briefed on the shooting and offered the support of his administration and family.

"Join Lori and me in praying for the Lincoln University community," he said.

Lincoln University Police Chief Marc Partee said the shooting devastated the school's community on what was supposed to be a joyous day focused on the school's legacy. The school was to be closed Monday, with an event planned for students and the community.

"If there was another word to describe that, that's more impactful, I would use it," he said, "but 'devastated' is a start."

## Suspects arrested over the theft of crown jewels from Paris' Louvre museum

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN and NICOLAS GARRIGA Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Two suspects were arrested in connection with the theft of crown jewels from Paris' Louvre museum, justice and police officials said Sunday, a week after the heist that stunned the world and sparked a massive manhunt.

The Paris prosecutor said that investigators made arrests Saturday evening, adding that one of the men taken into custody was preparing to leave the country from Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport.

French media BFM TV and Le Parisien newspaper earlier reported that two suspects had been arrested and taken into custody. Paris prosecutor Laure Beccau did not confirm the number of arrests and did not say whether any jewels had been recovered.

A police official, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the ongoing case, told The Associated Press that two men in their 30s, both known to police, were taken into custody. He said one suspect was arrested as he attempted to board a plane bound for Algeria. The official added that one of the suspects was identified through DNA traces. Beccau said earlier this week that forensics experts were analyzing 150 samples at the scene.

The suspects can be held in police custody up to 96 hours.

Special police unit

Thieves took less than eight minutes last Sunday morning to steal jewels valued at 88 million euros (\$102 million) from the world's most-visited museum. French officials described how the intruders used a basket lift to scale the Louvre's façade, forced open a window, smashed display cases and fled. The museum's director called the incident a "terrible failure."

Beccau said investigators from a special police unit in charge of armed robberies, serious burglaries and art thefts made the arrests. In her statement, she rued the premature leak of information, saying it could hinder the work of over 100 investigators "mobilized to recover the stolen jewels and apprehend all of the perpetrators." Beccau said further details will be unveiled after the suspects' custody period ends.

French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez praised "the investigators who have worked tirelessly, just as I asked them to, and who have always had my full confidence."

The Louvre reopened earlier this week after one of the highest-profile museum thefts of the century stunned the world with its audacity and scale.

The thieves slipped in and out, making off with some of France's crown jewels — a cultural wound that some compared to the burning of Notre Dame Cathedral in 2019.

The thieves escaped with a total of eight objects, including a sapphire diadem, necklace and single earring from a set linked to 19th-century queens Marie-Amélie and Hortense.

They also took an emerald necklace and earrings tied to Empress Marie-Louise, Napoleon Bonaparte's second wife, as well as a reliquary brooch. Empress Eugénie's diamond diadem and her large corsage-bow brooch — an imperial ensemble of rare craftsmanship — were also part of the loot.

One piece — Eugénie's emerald-set imperial crown with more than 1,300 diamonds — was later found

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outside the museum, damaged but repairable.

News of the arrests was met with relief by Louvre visitors and passersby on Sunday.

"It's important for our heritage. A week later, it does feel a bit late, we wonder how this could even happen — but it was important that the guys were caught," said Freddy Jacquemet.

"I think the main thing now is whether they can recover the jewels," added Diana Ramirez. "That's what really matters."

## US warship docks in Trinidad and Tobago, putting more pressure on Venezuela

By ANSELM GIBBS Associated Press

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad and Tobago (AP) — A U.S. warship docked in Trinidad and Tobago's capital Sunday as the Trump administration boosts military pressure on neighboring Venezuela and its President Nicolás Maduro.

The arrival of the USS Gravelly, a guided missile destroyer, in the capital of the Caribbean nation is in addition to the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford, which is moving closer to Venezuela. Maduro criticized the movement of the carrier as an attempt by the U.S. government to fabricate "a new eternal war" against his country.

U.S. President Donald Trump has accused Maduro, without providing evidence, of being the leader of the organized crime gang Tren de Aragua.

Government officials from the twin-island nation and the U.S. said the massive warship will remain in Trinidad until Thursday so both countries can carry out training exercises.

A senior military official in Trinidad and Tobago told The Associated Press that the move was only recently scheduled. The official spoke under condition of anonymity due to lack of authorization to discuss the matter publicly.

Kamla Persad-Bissessar, the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, has been a vocal supporter of the U.S. military presence and the deadly strikes on suspected drug boats in waters off Venezuela.

U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Jenifer Neidhart de Ortiz said in a statement that the exercises seek to "address shared threats like transnational crime and build resilience through training, humanitarian missions, and security efforts."

On Sunday, Venezuela said the "dangerous conduct of military exercises" in the waters of a neighboring country constitute a "serious threat" to the Caribbean region and a "hostile provocation" toward the South American nation, according to a statement from the Foreign Ministry.

The visit by the warship comes one week after the U.S. Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago warned Americans to stay away from U.S. government facilities there. Local authorities said a reported threat against Americans prompted the warning.

Many people in Trinidad and Tobago criticize the warship's docking in town.

At a recent demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy, David Abdulah, the leader of the Movement for Social Justice political party, said Trinidad and Tobago should not have allowed the warship into its waters.

"This is a warship in Trinidad, which will be anchored here for several days just miles off Venezuela when there's a threat of war," he said. "That's an abomination."

Caricom, a regional trade bloc made up of 15 Caribbean countries, has called for dialogue. Trinidad and Tobago is a member of the group, but Persad-Bissessar has said the region is not a zone of peace, citing the number of murders and other violent crimes.

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## Flights to Los Angeles International Airport halted due to air traffic controller shortage

By The Associated Press undefined

Flights departing for Los Angeles International Airport were halted briefly due to a staffing shortage at a Southern California air traffic facility, the Federal Aviation Administration said Sunday, when the agency also reported staffing-related delays in Chicago, Washington and Newark, New Jersey.

The FAA issued a temporary ground stop at one of the world's busiest airports soon after U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy predicted that travelers would see more flights delayed and canceled in the coming days as the nation's air traffic controllers work without pay during the federal government shutdown.

During an appearance on the Fox News program "Sunday Morning Futures," Duffy said more controllers were calling in sick as money worries compound the stress of an already challenging job.

"Just yesterday, ... we had 22 staffing triggers. That's one of the highest that we have seen in the system since the shutdown began. And that's a sign that the controllers are wearing thin," he said.

The FAA said planes headed for Los Angeles were held at their originating airports starting at 11:42 a.m. Eastern time, and the agency lifted the ground stop at 1:30 p.m. Eastern time.

The hold did not appear to cause continuing problems at LAX; according to flight tracking website FlightAware, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport and Dallas Love Field Airport saw a much bigger share of late arrivals due to what the FAA said were weather and equipment issues.

Too few air traffic controllers per shift also caused takeoff and arrival disruptions Sunday at New Jersey's Newark Liberty International Airport and Teterboro Airport, and at Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Meyers, Florida, according to the FAA.

On Sunday evening, the FAA also slowed traffic into Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Chicago O'Hare International Airport because of traffic controller staffing.

## 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, speculation 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.

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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."

## The Latest: BYU cracks the top 10 of the AP Top 25, LSU drops out

By MAURA CAREY Associated Press

The top six college football teams in the AP Top 25 remained unchanged this week, but not all was quiet in the rankings: The Big 12 has five teams in the poll for the first time this season, Vanderbilt earned its highest ranking in 88 years and LSU dropped out.

BYU leads the Big 12 at No. 10, a one-spot promotion, followed by No. 13 Texas Tech, No. 17 Cincinnati,



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No. 22 Houston and No. 24 Utah. It's Houston's first time in the Top 25 since 2022.

No. 9 Vanderbilt and No. 10 Miami — which is tied with BYU — swapped spots, thanks to Vanderbilt's 17-10 win over then-No. 15 Missouri. It marked the Commodores' third regular-season win over a Top 25 opponent, a program record.

LSU's defeat at the hands of Texas A&M dropped the Tigers out of the rankings despite once polling as high as No. 3 and most recently at No. 20. Road losses to Mississippi and Vanderbilt and the 24-point home loss to the Aggies left the Tigers on the outside looking in.

No. 1 Ohio State is again followed by Indiana, Texas A&M, Alabama, Georgia and Oregon, though the Hoosiers got six more first-place votes than last week.

Here's the latest:

Looking ahead

By MAURA CAREY

Week 10 features several pivotal matchups that could alter the playoff race.

No. 5 Georgia faces Florida in a historic rivalry game. No. 9 Vanderbilt heads to No. 20 Texas, which could be without quarterback Arch Manning. No. 14 Tennessee hosts No. 18 Oklahoma in a matchup between two playoff hopefuls. And No. 17 Cincinnati travels to No. 24 Utah in a Big 12 clash.

Meanwhile, No. 8 Georgia Tech and No. 13 Texas Tech hope to avoid trap games against unranked opponents.

What the oddsmakers say

Ohio State remains the favorite to win the national championship at 5-2 odds, per BetMGM Sportsbook.

Indiana continues to build momentum and has the second best odds at 7-1. Alabama is close behind at 8-1. Texas A&M rounds out the top four contenders at 9-1.

Ohio State, Indiana and Texas A&M remain unbeaten through Week 9 and make up Nos. 1 through 3 in the AP Top 25. The Crimson Tide have won seven straight and sit comfortably at No. 4.

Hear from a voter: How much does Cincinnati's early loss to Nebraska affect its ranking?

By MATT MURSCHEL

Cincinnati would love for Nebraska to be ranked when it's all said and done to make its case for a strong finish. But the Huskers don't face anyone of any consequence in the final month, so it will be tough.

The Bearcats are a solid team right now and are playing really well.

Matt Murschel is a college football writer for The Orlando Sentinel and has been an AP Top 25 voter for over five years. You can follow him on X: @osmattmurschel.

Cincinnati continues its climb

Cincinnati's climb in the rankings continued this week following a 41-20 victory over Baylor.

The Bearcats improved to No. 17, the program's highest ranking since 2021. They first cracked the Top 25 two weeks ago, coming in at No. 24 after beating UCF.

It's the first time Cincinnati has won seven straight games since 2021, when they went on to reach the College Football Playoff.

Hear from a voter: Can Miami recover?

By MATT MURSCHEL

It's going to be tough for Miami to move up too much over the next month unless someone like Pitt moves into the Top 25. The rest of the schedule isn't that strong.

Oklahoma drops to No. 18 and Missouri to No. 19

By MAURA CAREY

Oklahoma and Missouri suffered the steepest falls among ranked teams this week.

The Sooners dropped five spots, slipping from No. 13 to No. 18 after losing to Ole Miss. Missouri fell four spots, from No. 15 to No. 19, after a last-minute loss to Vanderbilt.

It's Missouri's lowest ranking since Week 5 and Oklahoma's lowest since Week 1.

LSU is knocked out of the rankings after losing to Texas A&M

LSU's 49-25 loss to Texas A&M on Saturday dropped it out of the rankings.

The Tigers' second quarter lead was short-lived, as Texas A&M went on to outscore them 35-7 in the



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second half.

It was a tough day for quarterback Garrett Nussmeier, who was sacked five times for losses totaling 44 yards. Nussmeier was pulled late in the fourth quarter for backup quarterback Michael Van Buren Jr., who was then sacked twice during LSU's final offensive possession.

Hear from a voter: Thoughts on Navy and other undefeated teams?

By MATT MURSCHEL

Navy is an interesting team to watch.

They've played well but keep an eye on them over the next four games. They face North Texas, Notre Dame, USF and Memphis during that stretch. If they can find a way to survive that run, they will be ranked.

Vanderbilt earns its highest ranking in 88 years

By MAURA CAREY

Vanderbilt earned its highest ranking in 88 years this week, coming in at No. 9 after a 17-10 win against Missouri.

The program is off to its best start since 1941, when the Commodores went 8-1 to begin the season and 8-2 overall.

Saturday's victory came down to the final moments as Diego Pavia broke the tie with 1:52 on the clock, running the ball in for a 1-yard rushing touchdown.

Missouri backup quarterback Matt Zollers launched a Hail Mary from the 45-yard line in the final seconds of the game, finding receiver Kevin Coleman Jr. inches short of the end zone and solidifying the win for Vanderbilt.

Hear from a voter: Forecasting picks for the conference championship matchups

By MATT MURSCHEL

Here is how I believe the P4 title games will look: Big 10 (Ohio State vs. Indiana); Big 12 (BYU vs. Texas Tech); ACC (Georgia Tech vs. Miami); SEC (Alabama vs. Texas A&M) and AAC (Tulane vs. Memphis).

This is very early look so don't bet the milk money on it.

AP Top 25 temperature check

By MAURA CAREY

Heating up: Ole Miss (7), Vanderbilt (9), BYU (10), Tennessee (14), Cincinnati (17), Houston (22), USC (23), Utah (24), Memphis (25).

Cooling down: Oklahoma (18), Missouri (19), South Florida, LSU, Illinois.

Steady: Ohio State (1), Indiana (2), Texas A&M (3), Alabama (4), Georgia (5), Oregon (6), Notre Dame (12).

Hear from a voter: Why does Georgia Tech outrank BYU?

By MATT MURSCHEL

The BYU situation could change quickly thanks to a remaining schedule that features games against Texas Tech and Cincinnati. Wins over those two teams could go far into pushing them above Georgia Tech.

BYU and Miami tie at No. 10

By MAURA CAREY

The AP Top 25 has its first tie this season, with BYU and Miami both coming in at No. 10.

It's the highest ranking of the season for BYU, which ranked No. 11 last week, and it's a step down for Miami, previously No. 9.

BYU improved to 8-0 on Saturday with a 41-27 win against Iowa State. Miami defeated Stanford, 42-7.

The Big 12 reaches a season high of five ranked teams

No. 10 BYU leads the Big 12 pack. Texas Tech improved from No. 14 to No. 13 and Cincinnati rose to No. 17. No. 22 Houston and No. 24 Utah are new to the rankings this week.

It's Houston's first appearance in the AP Top 25 this season, a spot earned after a 24-16 victory over conference foe Arizona State.

The Cougars' last ranking was in 2022, when the program reached No. 24 as a member of the American Conference.

AP Top 25 poll rankings

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By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. Ohio State 2. Indiana 3. Texas A&M 4. Alabama 5. Georgia 6. Oregon 7. Ole Miss 8. Georgia Tech 9. Vanderbilt 10. Miami (Fla.) 10. BYU 12. Notre Dame 13. Texas Tech 14. Tennessee 15. Virginia 16. Louisville 17. Cincinnati 18. Oklahoma 19. Missouri 20. Texas 21. Michigan 22. Houston 23. USC 24. Utah 25. Memphis  
Hear from a voter: Can Memphis hang on? And will Army-Navy affect the playoff?

By MATT MURSCHEL

Memphis has a legitimate shot at the AAC title this season, but the Tigers will have to avoid letdowns against Tulane and Navy. If not, that opens the door for Navy to make its case.

Personally, I would love to see the Army-Navy game carry significant weight in the CFP race. That rivalry is one of the best in college football, and to add an extra dimension would make it even more special. It would make things interesting that's for sure.

Matt Murschel is a college football writer for The Orlando Sentinel and has been an AP Top 25 voter for over five years. You can follow him on X: @osmattmurschel.

Hear from a voter: When it comes to parity, is anything different this season?

By MATT MURSCHEL

There has been a lot of parity, especially in the top 10.

Some of that can be attributed to the transfer portal. Schools are becoming more aggressive in attracting talent. Many of those players were No. 2 or No. 3 at places like Ohio State or Alabama, but now are getting chances to start elsewhere.

Plus, these programs are putting more resources into their programs and it's starting to pay off. Indiana is a prime example of that with the hiring and retaining of Curt Cignetti. That's really helped shift the power at the top.

Hear from a voter: How did your top 10 shake out this week?

By MATT MURSCHEL

My top 5 didn't change much this week with Ohio State, Indiana, Texas A&M, Alabama and Georgia.

The toughest spot was at No. 6 with Ole Miss. The Rebels had a great road win at Oklahoma, pushing them ahead of Oregon and Georgia Tech.

I had Vanderbilt leapfrogging over Miami to round out the top 10. The Commodores are one of the hottest teams in the nation right now.

Knocking on the door

Houston improved to 7-1 on Saturday night with a 24-16 win against No. 24 Arizona State.

The Cougars have been knocking on the door for weeks, receiving 34 votes in last week's poll. Winning against the ranked Sun Devils could do the trick.

Memphis could return to the rankings after rallying in the fourth quarter to beat No. 18 South Florida, potentially offsetting the Tigers' upset loss to UAB last week.

Navy remained unbeaten with a 42-32 win over Florida Atlantic, improving to 8-0 on the season.

Who might rise and fall this week

Stock up: BYU, Texas Tech, Ole Miss, Tennessee, Cincinnati.

Stock down: LSU, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Florida.

Top 10 teams all hold strong in Week 9

Week 9 unfolded mostly as expected after four top 10 teams lost in Week 8.

Indiana, Georgia Tech, Texas A&M and Miami cruised past opponents. Alabama held off South Carolina and Vanderbilt edged Missouri in a last-minute thriller.

Oregon knocked off Wisconsin and Ole Miss returned to the win column with a victory over Oklahoma. Ohio State and Georgia had the week off.

Who votes in the poll, and how does it work?

No organization has been ranking teams and naming a major college football national champion longer than The Associated Press, since 1936.

AP employees don't vote themselves, but they do choose the voters. AP Top 25 voters comprise around 60 writers and broadcasters who cover college football for AP members and other select outlets. The goal

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is to have every state with a Football Bowl Subdivision school represented by at least one voter.

There is a 1-to-25 point system, with a team voted No. 1 receiving 25 points down to 1 point for a 25th-place vote. After that, it's simple: The poll lists the teams with the most points from 1 to 25, and others receiving votes are also noted.

Voting is done online, and the tabulation is automated.

## **US and China say a trade deal is drawing closer as Trump and Xi ready for a high-stakes meeting**

By CHRIS MEGERIAN, DAVID RISING and EILEEN NG Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — A trade deal between the United States and China is drawing closer, officials from the world's two largest economies said Sunday as they reached an initial consensus for President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to aim to finalize during their high-stakes meeting.

Any agreement would be a relief to international markets even if it does not address underlying issues involving manufacturing imbalances and access to state-of-the-art computer chips.

Beijing recently limited exports of rare earth elements that are needed for advanced technologies, and Trump responded by threatening additional tariffs on Chinese products. The prospect of a widening conflict risked weakening economic growth worldwide.

China's top trade negotiator, Li Chenggang, told reporters the two sides had reached a "preliminary consensus," while Trump's treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, said there was "a very successful framework."

Trump also expressed confidence that an agreement was at hand, saying the Chinese "want to make a deal and we want to make a deal." The Republican president is set to meet with Xi on Thursday in South Korea, the final stop of his trip through Asia.

Bessent told CBS' "Face the Nation" that the threat of additional higher tariffs on China was "effectively off the table." In interviews on several American news shows, he said discussions with China yielded initial agreements to stop the precursor chemicals for fentanyl from coming into the U.S., and that Beijing would make "substantial" purchases of soybean and other agricultural products while putting off export controls on rare earths.

When asked how close a deal was, Trump's trade representative, Jamieson Greer, said on "Fox News Sunday" that "it's really going to depend" on the two presidents.

Meanwhile, Trump reiterated that he plans to visit China in the future and suggested that Xi could come to Washington or Mar-a-Lago, Trump's private club in Florida.

The progress toward a potential agreement came during the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, in Kuala Lumpur, with Trump seeking to burnish his reputation as an international dealmaker.

Yet his way of pursuing deals has meant serious disruptions at home and abroad. His import taxes have scrambled relationships with trading partners while a U.S. government shutdown has him feuding with Democrats.

Trump attends ceasefire ceremony between Thailand and Cambodia

At the summit, Thailand and Cambodia signed an expanded ceasefire agreement during a ceremony attended by Trump. His threats of economic pressure prodded the two nations to halt skirmishes along their disputed border earlier this year.

Thailand will release Cambodian prisoners and Cambodia will begin withdrawing heavy artillery as part of the first phase of the deal. Regional observers will monitor the situation to ensure fighting doesn't restart.

"We did something that a lot of people said couldn't be done," Trump said. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet called it a "historic day," and Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said the agreement creates "the building blocks for a lasting peace."

The president signed economic frameworks with Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia, some of them aimed at increasing trade involving critical minerals. The United States wants to rely less on China, which has used limits on exports of key components in technology manufacturing as a bargaining chip in trade talks.

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"It's very important that we cooperate as willing partners with each other to ensure that we can have smooth supply chains, secure supply chains, for the quality of life, for our people and security," Greer said.

Trump reengages with a key region of the world

Trump attended this summit only once during his first term, and U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth seemed unfamiliar with ASEAN during his confirmation hearing in January.

This year's event was a chance for Trump to reengage with nations that have a combined \$3.8 trillion economy and 680 million people.

"The United States is with you 100%, and we intend to be a strong partner and friend for many generations to come," Trump said. He described his counterparts as "spectacular leaders" and said that "everything you touch turns to gold."

Trump's tariff threats were credited with helping spur negotiations between Thailand and Cambodia. Some of the worst modern fighting between the two countries took place over five days in July, killing dozens and displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

The president threatened, at the time, to withhold trade agreements unless the fighting stopped. A shaky truce has persisted since then.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim praised the agreement between Thailand and Cambodia, saying at the summit that "it reminds us that reconciliation is not concession, but an act of courage."

Tariffs are in focus on Trump's trip

Trump in Kuala Lumpur met Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who was also attending the summit. There has been friction between them over Brazil's prosecution of Jair Bolsonaro, the country's former president and a close Trump ally. Bolsonaro was convicted last month of attempting to overturn election results in his country.

During their meeting, Trump said he could reduce tariffs on Brazil that he enacted in a push for leniency for Bolsonaro.

"I think we should be able to make some good deals for both countries," he said.

While Trump was warming to Lula, he avoided Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. The president is angry with Canada because of a television advertisement protesting his trade policies, and on his way to the summit announced on social media he would raise tariffs on Canada because of it.

One leader absent from the summit was Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Although he was close with Trump during Trump's first term, the relationship has been more tense lately. Trump caused irritation by boasting that he settled a recent conflict between India and Pakistan, and he has increased tariffs on India for its purchase of Russian oil.

## American cardinal celebrates old Latin Mass in St. Peter's in a sign of change

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — A top American cardinal celebrated a traditional Latin Mass on Saturday in St. Peter's Basilica with the explicit permission of Pope Leo XIV, thrilling traditionalist Catholics who had felt abandoned after Pope Francis greatly restricted the ancient liturgy.

A few thousand pilgrims, many of them young families with multiple children and the women covering their heads with lace veils, packed the altar area of the basilica to standing room-only capacity.

Cardinal Raymond Burke, the conservative American figurehead, presided over the 2 1/2-hour liturgy, which was rich in hymn, incense and priests bowing to the altar, their backs to the faithful in the pews.

For many traditionalists, the moment was a tangible sign that Leo might be more sympathetic to their plight, after they felt rejected by Francis and his 2021 crackdown on the old liturgy.

Francis had taken action after the spread of the ancient liturgy, especially in the United States, dovetailed with the rise of religiously inspired political conservatism and decline in church attendance at more progressive parishes.



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"I'm very hopeful," said Rubén Peretó Rivas, an Argentine organizer of the pilgrimage. "The first signs of Pope Leo are those of dialogue and listening, truly listening to everyone."

Liturgy wars a long time brewing

The latest rounds in the liturgy wars date back to the Second Vatican Council, the 1960s meetings that modernized the church. Among the reforms was the celebration of the Mass in the vernacular, rather than Latin.

In the decades that followed, the old Latin Mass was still available but not widespread. In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI relaxed restrictions on celebrating it as part of his overall outreach to traditionalists still attached to the old rite.

In one of the most controversial acts of his pontificate, Francis in 2021 reversed Benedict's 2007 reform and reinstated restrictions on celebrating the old Mass. Francis said its spread had become a source of division in the church and been exploited by Catholics opposed to Vatican II.

Rather than heal the divisions, though, Francis' crackdown seemed to further drive a wedge.

"We are orphans," said Christian Marquant, a French organizer of Saturday's pilgrimage.

Leo's election and vows to bring peace and healing

Leo, history's first American pope, was elected with a broad consensus among cardinals and has said his aim is unity and reconciliation in the church. Many conservatives and traditionalists urged him to heal the liturgical divisions that spread over the Latin Mass, especially.

After Leo's election, Marquant wrote Leo a letter on behalf of some 70 traditionalist groups asking, among other things, for permission to celebrate a Mass according to the ancient rite in St. Peter's during the traditionalists' annual pilgrimage to Rome.

Burke, who had an audience with Leo on Aug. 22, gave him the letter and Leo gave his permission, Marquant said.

Francis, too, had allowed Latin Masses to be celebrated in the basilica even in the immediate aftermath of his 2021 crackdown, but only by low-ranking priests. In 2023 and 2024, the traditionalists couldn't find anyone even willing to approach Francis to ask permission, Marquant said.

On Saturday, Burke didn't mention Francis, his crackdown or Leo in his homily, the key section of which he delivered in Italian, Spanish, French and English. But he referred repeatedly to Benedict and his 2007 reform liberalizing the old liturgy as if it were still very much in force.

Through Benedict's reform, "the whole church is maturing in an ever deeper understanding and love for the great gift of the sacred liturgy, as it has been handed down to us in an unbroken line from the Apostolic Tradition, from the Apostles and their successors," Burke said.

The Hungarian ambassador to the Holy See, Eduard Habsburg, stood for over an hour with his family among the pilgrims to cross through the basilica's Holy Door, and then found spots in the standing-room-only section for the Mass.

"It's really nothing like the clichés you hear of traditionalists," he said as he inched his way into the basilica. "The reality is families with children."

In July, leaked Vatican documents undermined Francis' stated reason for having imposed the restrictions in the first place: Francis had said he was responding to "the wishes expressed" by bishops around the world who had responded to a 2020 Vatican survey, as well as the Vatican doctrine office's own opinion.

But the documents suggested that the majority of Catholic bishops who responded to the survey had expressed general satisfaction with the old Latin Mass and warned that restricting it would "do more harm than good."

Tradition-minded Catholics in the pews hopeful

James Rodio, a psychiatrist and father of three, has been attending the traditional Latin Mass with his family for nearly three decades in Cleveland, Ohio.

"I was just struck by the reverence and beauty and symbolism in action and gesture, and of course the content too," he said in a telephone interview.

Even though Rodio had always had access to a traditional Mass in Cleveland, he and other parishioners felt "frustration" at Francis' crackdown and the restrictions that he imposed.

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"Behind it all, there was a sadness" and sense that Francis didn't understand them, he said. "How could any organization have an approach for 16 or 17 centuries and then say it wasn't valid anymore?"

Rodio said he and his fellow parishioners are optimistic about Leo and hope he will allow more parishes to offer the traditional liturgy. In recent weeks, the diocese of Cleveland received a two-year extension to keep allowing the Latin Mass at two diocesan churches.

"My guess is Leo may try to do a lot by not doing a lot publicly," Rodio said.

## Hamas expands search for the remains of hostages in Gaza

By SAMY MAGDY and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Hamas has expanded its search for bodies of hostages in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian group said Sunday, a day after Egypt deployed a team of experts and heavy equipment to help retrieve them.

Under the U.S.-brokered ceasefire, which took effect on Oct. 10, Hamas is expected to return the remains of all Israeli hostages as soon as possible. Israel has agreed to return 15 bodies of Palestinians for each one.

Children and others watched the Egyptian equipment claw through the sand near badly damaged buildings in the southern city of Khan Younis.

Hamas has returned the remains of 15 hostages but hasn't handed over any in five days. Israel has returned the bodies of 195 Palestinians, many of them unidentified.

More complicated steps lie ahead under the ceasefire plan, including the disarming of Hamas and the postwar governance of famine-stricken Gaza, where the U.N. and partners continue to urge Israel to allow in more humanitarian aid.

International media have been barred from Gaza aside from brief visits with Israel's military, and Israel on Sunday said that hadn't changed.

Trump watches 48-hour period 'very closely'

Hamas' chief in Gaza, Khalil al-Hayya, said the group started searching new areas for bodies of the remaining 13 hostages, according to comments the group shared Sunday.

U.S. President Donald Trump warned Saturday he was "watching very closely" to ensure Hamas returns more bodies in the next 48 hours. "Some of the bodies are hard to reach, but others they can return now and, for some reason, they are not," he wrote on social media.

Hamas has repeatedly said efforts to retrieve remains face challenges because of the massive destruction.

An Egyptian team with equipment including an excavator and bulldozers entered Gaza on Saturday as part of mediators' efforts to shore up the ceasefire, two Egyptian officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Hamas alleges violation after Israeli strikes

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended the military's actions after Israeli forces struck the central Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza late Saturday, according to Al-Awda Hospital, which received the wounded.

The military claimed it targeted militants associated with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group who were planning to attack troops. Islamic Jihad, the second largest militant group in Gaza, denied the allegation.

Hamas called the strike a "clear violation" of the ceasefire agreement and accused Netanyahu of attempting to sabotage U.S. efforts to end the war.

"Of course, we also thwart dangers as they are being formed, before they are carried out, as we did just yesterday in the Gaza Strip," Netanyahu said at the start of his weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday.

Netanyahu also stressed that Israel remained in charge of its own security, after accusations last week that the Trump administration was dictating terms of Israel's response to security concerns in Gaza. Vice President JD Vance denied any such speculation during his visit.

Israel also targeted Nuseirat on Oct. 19, after the military accused Hamas militants of killing two soldiers. Israel that day launched dozens of strikes across Gaza, killing at least 36 Palestinians, including women

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and children, according to local health authorities. It was the most serious challenge to the ceasefire.

Over 68,500 Palestinians have died in two years of war sparked by the Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count. The ministry maintains detailed casualty records that are seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and independent experts. Israel has disputed them without providing its own toll.

Information-sharing on security threats

Saturday's strike came hours after U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio left Israel. He was the latest top U.S. official to visit a new center for civilian and military coordination that is attempting to oversee the ceasefire. U.S. envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law, visited last week.

Rubio said Saturday that Israel, the U.S. and the other mediators are sharing information to disrupt any threats, and asserted that it allowed them to identify a possible impending attack last weekend.

Around 200 U.S. troops are working alongside the Israeli military and delegations from other countries at the coordination center, planning the stabilization and reconstruction of Gaza. The U.S. has said none of its troops will operate on the ground in Gaza.

## Big 12 lands season-high 5 teams in the AP Top 25, No. 9 Vandy's ranking highest since 1937, LSU out

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

The Big 12 has five teams in the Top 25 for the first time this season, Vanderbilt earned its highest ranking in 88 years and LSU dropped out of The Associated Press college football poll Sunday following its third loss in four games.

The top six was unchanged, with Ohio State holding the No. 1 spot for a ninth straight week followed by Indiana, Texas A&M, Alabama, Georgia and Oregon.

The idle Buckeyes received 53 first-place votes and the Hoosiers got 11, six more than last week. Texas A&M was No. 1 on one ballot.

No. 7 Mississippi and No. 8 Georgia Tech swapped spots, as did No. 9 Vanderbilt and Miami, which is tied at No. 10 with BYU.

The Big 12's five ranked teams are BYU, No. 13 Texas Tech, No. 17 Cincinnati, No. 22 Houston and No. 24 Utah. The Big 12 last had five Top 25 teams in the Sept. 22, 2024, poll.

Houston, which knocked off then-No. 24 Arizona State 24-16 for its first road win against a ranked opponent since 2017, is in the Top 25 for the first time since the first two polls in 2022.

Vanderbilt's 17-10 win over then-No. 15 Missouri gave the Commodores a 7-1 start for the first time since 1941 and, at No. 9, its highest ranking since it was No. 7 for one week in 1937. Vandy has a program-record three regular-season wins over Top 25 opponents.

LSU was ranked as high as No. 3 for three weeks in September and in the top 10 for the first five polls. Road losses to Mississippi and Vanderbilt and this weekend's 24-point home loss against Texas A&M put the Tigers on the outside looking in.

It's the second straight year the Tigers have taken a fast fall. They were No. 8 a year ago and dropped out after three straight losses.

In and out

— No. 22 Houston, at 7-1, has its best start since 2021, two years before it joined the Big 12. None of the Cougars' four remaining regular-season games are against ranked opponents.

— No. 23 Southern California, which was idle following its 34-24 loss at Notre Dame, faces a challenging game at Nebraska.

— No. 24 Utah hammered Colorado 53-7 with Byrd Ficklin starting in place of injured quarterback Devon Dampier and leading an offense that rushed for 422 of its 587 total yards.

— No. 25 Memphis rebounded from its loss to UAB with a 34-31 win over South Florida to pull into a four-way tie for third place in the American behind Navy and Tulane.

— South Florida (18), LSU (20), Illinois (23) and Arizona State (24) dropped out.

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## Poll points

- The last time Texas A&M received a first-place vote was Oct. 11, 2015.
- No. 12 Notre Dame appeared in its 900th poll, tied for fourth-most all-time.
- No. 15 Virginia has its highest ranking since it was No. 10 on Nov. 7, 2004.
- The top six were unchanged for the first time since Nov. 12, 2023, when the top eight stood pat.

## Conference call

SEC (9 teams) — Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 14, 18, 19, 20.

Big Ten (5) — Nos. 1, 2, 6, 21, 23.

Big 12 (5) — Nos. T-10, 13, 17, 22, 24.

ACC (4) — Nos. 8, T-10, 15, 16.

American (1) — No. 25.

Independent (1) — No. 12.

## Ranked vs. ranked

— No. 9 Vanderbilt (7-1, 3-1 SEC) at No. 20 Texas (6-2, 3-1): Status of Texas QB Arch Manning uncertain after he banged his head on the turf on the first play of overtime in the win over Mississippi State.

— No. 17 Cincinnati (7-1, 5-0 Big 12) at No. 24 Utah (6-2, 3-2): Bearcats are on a seven-game win streak. Utes in a must-win situation the rest of season to stay in Big 12 race.

— No. 18 Oklahoma (6-2, 2-2 SEC) at No. 14 Tennessee (6-2, 3-2): Sooners' best-in-the-SEC defense gave up a bevy of big plays to Mississippi and now face one of the most explosive offenses in the country.

## Trump administration posts notice that no federal food aid will go out Nov. 1

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has posted a notice on its website saying federal food aid will not go out Nov. 1, raising the stakes for families nationwide as the government shutdown drags on.

The new notice comes after the Trump administration said it would not tap roughly \$5 billion in contingency funds to keep benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly referred to as SNAP, flowing into November. That program helps about 1 in 8 Americans buy groceries.

"Bottom line, the well has run dry," the USDA notice says. "At this time, there will be no benefits issued November 01. We are approaching an inflection point for Senate Democrats."

The shutdown, which began Oct. 1, is now the second-longest on record. While the Republican administration took steps leading up to the shutdown to ensure SNAP benefits were paid this month, the cutoff would expand the impact of the impasse to a wider swath of Americans — and some of those most in need — unless a political resolution is found in just a few days.

The administration blames Democrats, who say they will not agree to reopen the government until Republicans negotiate with them on extending expiring subsidies under the Affordable Care Act. Republicans say Democrats must first agree to reopen the government before negotiation.

Democratic lawmakers have written to Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins requesting to use contingency funds to cover the bulk of next month's benefits.

But a USDA memo that surfaced Friday says "contingency funds are not legally available to cover regular benefits." The document says the money is reserved for such things such as helping people in disaster areas.

It cited a storm named Melissa, which has strengthened into a major hurricane, as an example of why it's important to have the money available to mobilize quickly in the event of a disaster.

The prospect of families not receiving food aid has deeply concerned states run by both parties.

Some states have pledged to keep SNAP benefits flowing even if the federal program halts payments, but there are questions about whether U.S. government directives may allow that to happen. The USDA memo also says states would not be reimbursed for temporarily picking up the cost.

Other states are telling SNAP recipients to be ready for the benefits to stop. Arkansas and Oklahoma,



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for example, are advising recipients to identify food pantries and other groups that help with food.

Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., accused Republicans and Trump of not agreeing to negotiate.

"The reality is, if they sat down to try to negotiate, we could probably come up with something pretty quickly," Murphy said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union." "We could open up the government on Tuesday or Wednesday, and there wouldn't be any crisis in the food stamp program."

## Russia has tested a new nuclear-capable missile, Putin and top general say

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia tested a new nuclear-capable and powered cruise missile fit to confound existing defenses, inching closer to deploying it to its military, President Vladimir Putin said in remarks released on Sunday.

The announcement, which followed years of tests of the Burevestnik missile, comes as part of nuclear messaging from the Kremlin, which has resisted Western pressure for a ceasefire in Ukraine and strongly warned the U.S. and other NATO allies against sanctioning strikes deep inside Russia with longer-range Western weapons.

A video released by the Kremlin showed Putin, dressed in camouflage fatigues, receiving a report from Gen. Valery Gerasimov, Russia's chief of general staff, who told the Russian leader that the Burevestnik covered 14,000 kilometers (8,700 miles) in a key test Tuesday.

Gerasimov said the Burevestnik, or storm petrel in Russian, spent 15 hours in the air on nuclear power, adding "that's not the limit."

Little is known about the Burevestnik, which was code-named Skyfall by NATO, and many Western experts have been skeptical about it, noting that a nuclear engine could be highly unreliable.

When Putin first revealed that Russia was working on the weapon in his 2018 state-of-the-nation address, he claimed it would have an unlimited range, allowing it to circle the globe undetected by missile defense systems.

Many observers argue such a missile could be difficult to handle and pose an environmental threat. The U.S. and the Soviet Union worked on nuclear-powered missiles during the Cold War, but they eventually shelved the projects, considering them too hazardous.

The Burevestnik reportedly suffered an explosion in August 2019 during tests at a navy range on the White Sea, killing five nuclear engineers and two service members and resulting in a brief spike in radioactivity that fueled fears in a nearby city.

Russian officials never identified the weapon involved, but the U.S. said it was the Burevestnik.

"We need to determine the possible uses and begin preparing the infrastructure for deploying these weapons to our armed forces," Putin told Gerasimov.

The Russian leader also claimed it was invulnerable to current and future missile defenses, due to its almost unlimited range and unpredictable flight path.

Kirill Dmitriev, a top Putin aide who was in the U.S. as the video surfaced, said his delegation informed U.S. colleagues of the "successful testing" of the Burevestnik, which he said was an "absolutely new class" of weapon.

Earlier this week, Putin directed drills of Russia's strategic nuclear forces that featured practice missile launches. The exercise came as his planned summit on Ukraine with U.S. President Donald Trump was put on hold.

The Kremlin said that the maneuvers involved all parts of Moscow's nuclear triad, including intercontinental ballistic missiles that were test-fired from launch facilities in northwestern Russia and a submarine in the Barents Sea. The drills also involved Tu-95 strategic bombers firing long-range cruise missiles.

The exercise tested the skills of military command structures, the Kremlin said in a statement Wednesday.

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## Kamala Harris leaves door open for 2028 presidential run

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kamala Harris isn't ruling out another run for the White House.

In an interview with the BBC posted Saturday, Harris said she expects a woman will be president in the coming years, and it could "possibly" be her.

"I am not done," she said.

The former vice president said she hasn't decided whether to mount a 2028 presidential campaign. But she dismissed the suggestion that she'd face long odds.

"I have lived my entire career a life of service and it's in my bones. And there are many ways to serve," she said. "I've never listened to polls."

She's recently given a series of interviews following the September release of her book, "107 Days." It looks back on her experience replacing then-President Joe Biden as the 2024 Democratic presidential nominee after he dropped out of the race.

She ultimately lost to Republican President Donald Trump.

In an interview with The Associated Press last week, Harris, 61, also made clear that running again in 2028 is still on the table. She said she sees herself as a leader of the party, including in pushing back against Trump and preparing for the 2026 midterms.

Asked in an Oct. 17 interview with AP whether she had plans for a 2028 bid, Harris said, "I haven't decided. Sincerely. I have not decided. I may or I may not. I have not decided."

Asked specifically whether she still wanted to do the job itself, she used the past tense, saying, "It's a job I wanted to do." But she noted that the only way to do it "is to run" and win.

Meanwhile, political jockeying among Democrats for the 2028 presidential contest appears to be playing out even earlier than usual.

Several potential candidates are already taking steps to get to know voters in key states, including California Gov. Gavin Newsom, term-limited Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear and California Rep. Ro Khanna. Upward of 30 high-profile Democrats could ultimately enter the primary.

## The East Wing of the White House is gone. Here's a look at some of the history made there

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Betty Ford reportedly said that if the White House West Wing is the "mind" of the nation, then the East Wing — the traditional power center for first ladies — is the "heart."

That "heart" beat for more than 100 years as first ladies and their teams worked from their East Wing offices on everything from stopping drug abuse and boosting literacy to beautifying and preserving the White House itself. It's where they planned White House state dinners and brainstormed the elaborate themes that are a feature of the U.S. holiday season.

That history came to an end after wrecking crews tore down the wing's two stories of offices and reception rooms last week. Gone is an in-house movie theater, and a covered walkway to the White House captured in so many photos over the years. An East Wing garden that was dedicated to Jacqueline Kennedy was also uprooted, photographs show.

Republican President Donald Trump ordered the demolition as part of his still-to-be approved plan to build a \$300 million ballroom.

The former real estate developer has long been fixated on building a big White House ballroom. In 2010, he called a top adviser to Democratic President Barack Obama and offered to build one. Trump made no secret of his distaste for the practice of hosting elegant White House state dinners underneath tents on the South Lawn. The offer was not followed up on.

Now Trump, in his second term, is moving quickly to see his wish for what he calls a "great legacy project" become reality. He has tried to justify the East Wing tear-down and his ballroom plans by noting that some of his predecessors also added to the White House over the years.

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First ladies and their staffs witnessed history in the East Wing, a “place of purpose and service,” said Anita McBride, who worked there as chief of staff to first lady Laura Bush.

“Tearing down those walls doesn’t diminish the significance of the work we accomplished there,” McBride told The Associated Press.

McBride said she supports a ballroom addition because the “large and expensive tent option” that has been used when guest lists stretched longer than could be comfortably accommodated inside the White House “was not sustainable.” Tents damage the lawn and require additional infrastructure to be brought in, such as outdoor bathrooms and trolleys to move people around, especially in bad weather, she said.

Others feel differently.

Krish O’Mara Vignarajah, who was policy director for first lady Michelle Obama, said the demolition was a “symbolic blow” to the East Wing’s legacy as a place where women made history.

“The East Wing was this physical space that had seen the role of the first lady evolve from a social hostess into a powerful advocate on a range of issues,” she said in an interview.

Here’s a look at some of the history that came out of the East Wing and the first ladies who spent time there:

Rosalynn Carter

She was the first first lady to have her own office in the East Wing. Most first ladies before Carter had worked out of the private living quarters on the second or third floor of the residence. Carter wanted a place where she could separate work and home.

“I always need a place to go that is private, where I don’t have to dress and don’t have to put on makeup,” she wrote in her memoir. “The offices of the staff of the first lady were always in the East Wing, and it seemed a perfect place for my office too.”

In her memoir, Carter wrote about her favorite route to her office in winter months. She walked through the basement, past laundry rooms and workshops and the bomb shelter kept for the president and his staff. The thermostats in the residence above had been turned down low because of President Jimmy Carter’s energy conservation program, making the East Wing so cold that she was forced to wear long underwear.

The subterranean passageway shown to her by a residence staffer provided some relief. “With Jimmy’s energy conservation program, it was the only really warm place in the White House, with large steam pipes running overhead,” the first lady wrote.

Nancy Reagan

Photos from the East Wing in the early 1980s show the first lady meeting with staff, including her press secretary, Sheila Tate. For a generation of Americans, Nancy Reagan was most closely associated with a single phrase, “Just Say No,” for the anti-drug abuse program she made a hallmark of her White House tenure.

As Reagan once recalled, the idea for the campaign emerged during a 1982 visit with schoolchildren in Oakland, California. “A little girl raised her hand and said, ‘Mrs. Reagan, what do you do if somebody offers you drugs?’ And I said, ‘Well, you just say no.’ And there it was born.”

Hillary Clinton

Clinton bucked history by becoming the first first lady to insist that her office be in the West Wing, not the East Wing. In her memoir, Clinton wrote that wanted her staff to be “integrated physically” with the president’s team. The first lady’s office relocated to what is now the Eisenhower Executive Office Building while Clinton was assigned an office on the second floor of the West Wing.

“This was another unprecedented event in White House history and quickly became fodder for late night comedians and political pundits,” Clinton later wrote.

Laura Bush

Bush wrote in her memoir about what it was like at the White House after the Sept. 11 attacks. Most of her staff members, then in their 20s, “kicked off their high heels and fled from the East Wing” after they were told to “run for their lives” when reports suggested the White House was a target.

“Now they were being asked to come back to work in a building that everyone considered a target and

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for a presidency and a country that would be at war," she wrote.

Michelle Obama

Obama was the first Black woman to serve as first lady, becoming a global role model and style icon who advocated for improved child nutrition through her "Let's Move" initiative. She and her staff in the East Wing also worked to support military families and promote higher education for girls in developing countries.

Photos from the time show Obama typing on a laptop during an online chat about school nutrition and the White House garden she created.

Melania Trump

Trump pushed the boundaries of serving as first lady by not living at the White House during the opening months of Donald Trump's first term. She stayed in New York with their then-school-age son, Barron, so he wouldn't have to switch schools midyear. When she eventually moved to the White House, she and her East Wing aides launched an initiative named, "Be Best," to focus on child well-being, opioid abuse and online safety.

Jill Biden

Biden was the first first lady to continue a career outside the White House. The longtime community college English professor taught twice a week while serving as first lady. But in her East Wing work, she was an advocate for military families; her late father and her late son Beau served in the military. Biden also advocated for research into a cure for cancer and secured millions of dollars in federal funding for research into women's health.

## Trump's redistricting push hits roadblocks in Indiana and Kansas as Republican lawmakers resist

By ISABELLA VOLMERT and JOHN HANNA Associated Press

For most of President Donald Trump's second term, Republicans have bent to his will. But in two Midwestern states, Trump's plan to maintain control of the U.S. House in next year's election by having Republicans redraw congressional districts has hit a roadblock.

Despite weeks of campaigning by the White House, Republicans in Indiana and Kansas say their party doesn't have enough votes to pass new, more GOP-friendly maps. It's made the two states outliers in the rush to redistrict — places where Republican-majority legislatures are unwilling or unable to heed Trump's call and help preserve the party's control on Capitol Hill.

Lawmakers in the two states still may be persuaded, and the White House push, which has included an Oval Office meeting for Indiana lawmakers and two trips to Indianapolis by Vice President JD Vance, is expected to continue. But for now, it's a rare setback for the president and his efforts to maintain a compliant GOP-held Congress after the 2026 midterms.

Typically, states redraw the boundaries of their congressional districts every 10 years, based on census data. But because midterm elections typically tend to favor the party not in power, Trump is pressuring Republicans to devise new maps that favor the GOP.

Democrats only need to gain three seats to flip House control, and the fight has become a bruising back-and-forth.

With new maps of their own, multiple Democratic states are moving to counter any gains made by Republicans. The latest, Virginia, is expected to take up the issue in a special session starting Monday.

Hoosier state hesitates

Indiana, whose House delegation has seven Republicans and two Democrats, was one of the first states on which the Trump administration focused its redistricting efforts this summer.

But a spokesperson for state Senate Leader Rodric Bray's office said Thursday that the chamber lacks the votes to redistrict. With only 10 Democrats in the 50-member Senate, that means more than a dozen of the 40 Republicans oppose the idea.

Bray's office did not respond to multiple requests for an interview.



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The holdouts may come from a few schools of thought. New political lines, if poorly executed, could make solidly Republican districts more competitive. Others believe it is simply wrong to stack the deck.

"We are being asked to create a new culture in which it would be normal for a political party to select new voters, not once a decade — but any time it fears the consequences of an approaching election," state Sen. Spencer Deery, a Republican, said in a statement in August.

Deery's office did not respond to a request for an interview and said the statement stands.

A common argument in favor of new maps is that Democratic-run states such as Massachusetts have no Republican representatives while Illinois has used redistricting for partisan advantage — a process known as gerrymandering.

"For decades, Democrat states have gerrymandered in the dark of the night," Republican state Sen. Chris Garten said on social media. "We can no longer sit idly by as our country is stolen from us."

Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith, who would vote to break a tie in the state Senate if needed, recently called on lawmakers to forge ahead with redistricting and criticized then for not being sufficiently conservative.

"For years, it has been said accurately that the Indiana Senate is where conservative ideas from the House go to die," Beckwith said in a social media post.

Indiana is staunchly conservative, but its Republicans tend to foster a deliberate temperance.

"Hoosiers, it's very tough to to predict us, other than to say we're very cautious," former GOP state lawmaker Mike Murphy said. "We're not into trends."

The squeamishness reflects a certain independent streak held by voters in both states and a willingness by some to push back.

Writing in The Washington Post last week, former Gov. Mitch Daniels, a Republican, urged Indiana lawmakers to resist the push to redistrict. "Someone has to lead in climbing out of the mudhole," he said.

"Hoosiers, like most Americans, place a high value on fairness and react badly to its naked violation," he wrote.

In Kansas, Republicans also struggle to find votes

In Kansas, Republican legislative leaders are trying to bypass the Democratic governor and force a special session for only the second time in the state's 164-year history. Gov. Laura Kelly opposes mid-decade redistricting and has suggested it could be unconstitutional.

The Kansas Constitution allows GOP lawmakers to force a special session with a petition signed by two-thirds of both chambers — also the supermajorities needed to override Kelly's expected veto of a new map. Republicans hold four more seats than the two-thirds majority in both the state Senate and House. In either, a defection of five Republicans would sink the effort.

Weeks after state Senate President Ty Masterson announced the push for a special session, GOP leaders were struggling to get the last few signatures needed.

Among the holdouts is Rep. Mark Schreiber, who represents a district southwest of Topeka,. He told The Associated Press that "did not sign a petition to call a special session, and I have no plans to sign one." Schreiber said he believes redistricting should be used only to reflect shifts in population after the once-every-10-year census.

"Redistricting by either party in midcycle should not be done," he said.

Republicans would likely target U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids, the Democrat representing the mostly Kansas City area 3rd Congressional District, which includes Johnson County, the state's most populous. The suburban county accounts for more than 85% of the vote and has trended to the left since 2016.

Kansas has a sizable number of moderate Republicans, and 29% of the state's 2 million voters are registered as politically unaffiliated. Both groups are prominent in Johnson County.

Republican legislators previously tried to hurt Davids' chances of reelection when redrawing the district, but she won in 2022 and 2024 by more than 10 percentage points.

"They tried it once and couldn't get it done," said Jack Shearer, an 82-year-old registered Republican from suburban Kansas City.

But a mid-decade redistricting has support among some Republicans in the county. State Sen. Doug Shane, whose district includes part of the county, said he believes his constituents would be amenable

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to splitting it.

"Splitting counties is not unprecedented and occurs in a number of congressional districts around the country," he said in an email.

## Today in History: October 27 11 killed in Pittsburgh synagogue shooting

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Oct. 27, the 300th day of 2025. There are 65 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 27, 2018, a gunman shot and killed 11 congregants and wounded six others at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue in the deadliest domestic attack on Jews in U.S. history; authorities said the suspect, Robert Bowers, raged against Jews during and after the rampage. (Bowers was convicted and sentenced to death in 2023.)

Also on this date:

In 1787, the first of the Federalist Papers, a series of essays calling for ratification of the United States Constitution, was published.

In 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a U-2 reconnaissance aircraft was shot down while flying over Cuba, killing the pilot, U.S. Air Force Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr.

In 1995, a sniper killed one soldier and wounded 18 others during an outdoor physical training session at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (Paratrooper William J. Kreutzer was convicted in the shootings and condemned to death; the sentence was later commuted to life in prison.)

In 1998, powerful Hurricane Mitch cut through the western Caribbean, pummeling coastal Honduras and Belize; the storm caused several thousand deaths in Central America before eventually making U.S. landfall in southwest Florida as a tropical storm.

In 2004, the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918, sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in four games.

In 2019, Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi died by detonating a suicide vest as U.S. special forces raided his compound in northwest Syria. He once commanded tens of thousands of fighters who had carved out a territorial caliphate for a time in parts of Syria and Iraq and carried out a wave of atrocities.

In 2023, Israel knocked out communications and created a near-blackout of information with stepped-up bombardment and artillery fire in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military said it was expanding ground operations in the territory ahead of a planned invasion as it sought to crush the ruling Hamas militant group after its Oct. 7, 2023, surprise attack and hostage-taking in southern Israel.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian John Cleese is 86. Author Maxine Hong Kingston is 85. Country singer Lee Greenwood is 83. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is 80. Author Fran Lebowitz is 75. Actor-director Roberto Benigni is 73. Golf Hall of Famer Patty Sheehan is 69. Singer Simon Le Bon (Duran Duran) is 67. Internet news editor Matt Drudge is 59. Author Anthony Doerr is 52. Violinist Vanessa-Mae is 47. TV personality Kelly Osbourne is 41.