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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.

Death Notice: Stanley Monson

Stanley Monson, 80, of Groton passed away October 30, 2025 at Avera St. Lukes in Aberdeen. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

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

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1440

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

Prince Andrew Loses Title

King Charles III has stripped his younger brother, Prince Andrew, of all titles and honors and is evicting him from his royal residence, Buckingham Palace revealed yesterday. Prince Andrew—now referred to as Andrew Mountbatten Windsor—will move from Royal Lodge to the family's private, 20,000-acre Sandringham Estate in Norfolk.

The announcement comes amid renewed scrutiny over Andrew's relationship with late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and resurfaced allegations of abuse. Earlier this month, the estate of Virginia Giuffre published her memoir in which she accused Andrew of having sex with her three times while underage. Emails from 2011 also reemerged, indicating Andrew's relationship with Epstein continued after he claimed it had ended. The palace's statement said the king's sympathies were with "victims and survivors of any and all forms of abuse."

The last royal to be stripped of a prince or princess title was Ernest Augustus in 1919, after siding with the Germans in World War I.

SNAP Funding Status

A federal judge yesterday suggested she will order the Agriculture Department to tap emergency funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Funding for the program, colloquially referred to as food stamps, is poised to lapse tomorrow for the first time since its creation in 1964 amid the federal government shutdown.

Democratic officials from 25 states and Washington, DC, sued the Agriculture Department Tuesday for refusing to tap into a roughly \$5B contingency fund to sustain SNAP. The Trump administration says the fund is intended for specific emergencies, such as natural disasters, and is insufficient to deliver full November benefits. SNAP costs roughly \$8B per month, providing about \$190 average monthly payments to nearly 42 million people. During previous government shutdowns, administrations have issued grace periods and special funding transfers to ensure uninterrupted benefits.

Republican and Democratic governors have announced initiatives to support SNAP recipients.

Tricks, Treats, and Trends

An estimated 41 million children will flood neighborhoods across America tonight in search of tricks or treats. With nearly three-quarters of households participating, spending is expected to reach \$13.1B, up 13% from last year, as families spend an average of \$114 each on costumes, decorations, and candy, totaling \$4.3B, \$4.2B, and \$3.9B, respectively.

The spooky celebration traces back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which marked the end of summer and the start of winter. Irish immigrants brought those traditions to America in the 19th century, blending pagan rituals with All Saints' Day customs to create today's Halloween.

About 36% of Americans say Halloween is their favorite holiday, with New York City ranking as the best place to celebrate. Top costumes this year include characters from "K-pop Demon Hunters," the "Minecraft" Chicken Jockey, and Labubu dolls.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Toronto Blue Jays lead Los Angeles Dodgers 3-2 with chance to win the World Series in Game 6 tonight at 8 pm ET.

Women's Basketball Hall of Fame announces 2026 class, featuring Candace Parker, Elena Delle Donne, and Cheryl Reeve.

Billboard Hot 100's Top 40 includes no rap songs, a first since 1990.

Universal Music Group settles copyright lawsuit against AI song generation platform Udio, partners with Stability AI to develop music creation tools.

Science & Technology

Google DeepMind AI model helped scientists predict Hurricane Melissa's intensity and sharp turn north-east, enabling earlier warnings for Jamaica, Cuba, and eastern Bahamas.

Researchers identify DNA-repairing protein in bowhead whales, providing insight into how the over-176,000-pound mammal can live up to 200 years.

Paleontologists determine tiny tyrannosaur fossils belong to distinct species, not teenage Tyrannosaurus rex, overturning long-held assumptions about dinosaur growth.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower (S&P 500 -1.0%, Dow -0.2%, Nasdaq -1.6%) as investors digest latest batch of earnings reports.

Apple posts record \$102.5B in Q4 sales due to iPhone 17 demand.

Metashares drop 11%, in worst one-day drop in three years, on higher AI spending.

Amazon shares rise 13% in after-hours trading after earnings top estimates.

Federal Reserve to cut banking oversight staff by 30% to roughly 350 people by end of 2026.

Politics & World Affairs

President Donald Trump ends his Asia tour after agreeing to de-escalate trade tensions with China; Trump agrees to reduce fentanyl-related tariffs, with China delaying rare earth export controls, among other agreements.

The White House caps refugee admissions for fiscal year 2026 at a record low of 7,500 people, and directs the administration to prioritize admissions of white South Africans known as Afrikaners.

French prosecutors arrest five more people in connection with the Louvre jewel heist investigation and say three of four suspected robbers are in custody; no gems have been recovered as of this writing (More)

Gov. Rhoden Secures Additional Funds to Keep Mount Rushmore Lights On Amidst Shutdown

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, Governor Larry Rhoden announced he secured additional funding to keep Mount Rushmore National Memorial illuminated amidst the ongoing government shutdown.

"Mount Rushmore is a beacon of freedom for our state, nation, and the world. Our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to defend American freedom and independence – the least we can do is shine a light on that freedom by keeping our great Memorial lit," said Governor Larry Rhoden. "I am grateful for the South Dakotans who have stepped up to financially support these efforts. Now, Senate Democrats need to get their act together and reopen the federal government."

Governor Rhoden previously announced that he and other state leaders began personally funding the evening lights at Mount Rushmore, including a week-long sponsorship by Governor Rhoden. As the shutdown continues to progress, the following individuals have pledged to cover additional days of illumination:

Oct. 30 and 31: Lieutenant Governor Tony Venhuizen;
Nov. 1: First Lady Sandy Rhoden;
Nov. 2: Former Senate Majority Leader Gary Cammack;
Nov. 3: Representative Terri Jorgenson;
Nov. 4: Attorney General Marty Jackley;
Nov. 5: Secretary of State Monae Johnson;
Nov. 6: State Auditor Rich Sattgast;
Nov. 7: State Treasurer Josh Haeder;
Nov. 8: School and Public Lands Commissioner Brock Greenfield;
Nov. 9: Public Utilities Commissioner Chris Nelson;
Nov. 10: Public Utilities Commissioner Kristie Fiegen;
Nov. 11: Public Utilities Commissioner Gary Hanson;
Nov. 12: Senator Ernie Otten;
Nov. 13: Senator Amber Hulse;
Nov. 14: Representative Liz May; and
Nov. 15: Representative Tina Mulally.

Governor Rhoden received many other pledges to support shining the lights should the shutdown continue longer.



Fact brief: Does SD have one of the lowest SNAP recipient rates?

By Michael Klinski • 30 Oct 2025

Yes.

South Dakota's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation rate of 8.1% is among the lowest in the nation.

As of 2024, the state was ranked 12th for percentage of people who receive food stamps. Utah (4.8%), Wyoming (4.9%) and New Hampshire (5.5%) are the lowest, while New Mexico (21.2%), Louisiana (18.4%) and Oregon (17.7%) have the highest rates.

About 75,000 South Dakota residents receive SNAP benefits. Households in the state receive an average of \$356 per month.

SNAP funds will not be available for more than 42 million Americans starting Saturday, Nov. 1, because of the federal government shutdown.

Attorneys general and governors from 25 states have sued the Trump administration, saying the government is legally required to use a \$5 billion contingency fund to pay for benefits during the shutdown. The funds would be enough to fund the program for a month and a half.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Mislabeled electrical wiring sparked two-day state network shutdown

Committee of lawmakers urge IT officials to map out better resiliency plans

BY: JOHN HULT-OCTOBER 30, 2025 4:49 PM

The network outage that downed a host of South Dakota state government systems in August was caused by mislabeled wiring in a room full of routers at the Department of Transportation building in Pierre, lawmakers learned Thursday.

The mislabeling ultimately led to the torching of a critical, \$80,000 network traffic controller switch and its backup. State computer systems, including those used by the courts, local registers of deeds, auditors and treasurers offices and, for a short time, the state radio system, were down for nearly two business days.

Two leaders of the team that manages the data center in Pierre told members of the Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee that the state plans to relabel the wiring correctly, update its redundancy plans and work with state agencies on backup power schemes for the most critical state services.

Given the disruptions this summer, lawmakers said, the state's citizens need to be sure that work will get done.

"On the farm, we always have extra fuses. We always have extra switches. We always have extra everything," said Rep. Julie Auch, R-Yankton. "Are you going to have extra switches on hand or extra parts on hand so this doesn't happen again?"

Overpowered switches

The mislabeled wiring issue came to light after the scheduled weekend replacement of a piece of equipment called an uninterrupted power supply, according to Darin Seeley, commissioner of Human Resources and Administration.

As the system was being brought back online, a main breaker tripped several times, which is "not uncommon," Seeley said.

The breaker's job is to modulate the power coming into the data center from a transformer, reducing it to the level needed to operate the equipment inside.

The breaker was damaged so badly, however, that it eventually gave out entirely, causing the initial network outage.

The electricians who replaced that breaker turned off the main power supply to the room, Seeley said. Or at least they thought they did. Assuming that doing so would cut off power to everything else, they got to work. Unbeknownst to them, Seeley said, the two critical network switches were connected to a different breaker.

That breaker was designed to be connected to the main breaker and was labeled to say so, Bureau of Information and Telecommunications Commissioner Mark Wixon said.

"Turning off the main breaker should have turned off the power," to the switches, Wickson said. "That wasn't the case."

As a result, the switches took on 10 times the power they're meant to and burned up, one after the other. It took a day to get a new switch from Louisville, Wixon said. Bureau staff picked it up at the airport in Pierre and had it installed around eight hours later.

Redundancies, disaster planning

Seeley told lawmakers that the building with the mislabeled wires had been "updated numerous times"

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over the past 50 years.

Rep. Karla Lems, R-Canton, asked Seeley what's been done "to make sure, 'OK, we got everything labeled correctly.'"

He said the intent is to "try and redraw all of the lines" to make sure everything's set up as designed, but that hasn't happened.

"It has to be done when everything's off, because we're talking about some pretty significant power," Seeley said, adding that such a scheduled outage needs to be done "planfully."

Auch wanted to know if the bureau had considered adding a third \$80,000 switch to its supply, given how impactful the situation was. But Wixon said such a move had never felt necessary.

"This is really kind of the first time this type of an event, where the routers were damaged, that's happened in over 50 years," Wixon said. "So we have high confidence that the lessons learned around this one are being applied."

The situation has also sparked "strategic" conversations on resilience, Wixon said.

Sen. Mark Lapka, R-Leola, wanted to know if that thinking involved the contemplation of "geo-redundancy, to have a backup in another location."

That's part of the discussion on disaster management, Wixon said. But building out a separate infrastructure to create what he called a "high availability level" doesn't come cheap.

"Going through that type of exercise really does drive to 'what is the cost of high availability?'" he said.

That expense leads most companies to prioritize which systems need to be highly available, he said, and which can survive "a three-day outage."

The bureau plans to work with other state agencies in the coming months to determine such a hierarchy. The bureau is already working with the Department of Public Safety on a cloud-based system to make sure state radio communications, which were impacted by the August incident for approximately five hours, are protected from an outage.

John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

Grants and fundraising soften SDPB layoffs, but several local programs remain impacted

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER-OCTOBER 30, 2025 4:02 PM

Private fundraising will help South Dakota Public Broadcasting save just under half of the employees originally selected for layoffs earlier this year, the organization said Thursday.

SDPB announced potential cuts in August after Congress and President Donald Trump canceled \$1.1 billion in previously approved nationwide funding for public media. That decision cost SDPB \$2.2 million, or about 20% of its budget. At the time, state funds accounted for a little more than half of SDPB's budget, while grants, private donations and other sources made up the rest.

The softened layoffs, down to seven from the 15 announced earlier, were made possible by a mixture of restructuring, donations and grants.

"This is a remarkable demonstration of what South Dakota can do when we pull together," Executive Director Julie Overgaard said in a news release.

Four journalists, two engineers and one marketing specialist were laid off, Overgaard confirmed with South Dakota Searchlight. Additionally, five open positions will remain unfilled. The open positions and layoffs will reduce the organization's staff from 63.5 full-time equivalent positions to 51.5.

"South Dakota Focus," an in-depth public affairs television program, will be eliminated and magazine-style TV program "Dakota Life" will reduce its output. Public affairs radio program "In The Moment" will be incorporated into breaks during the national "Morning Edition" show, with host Lori Walsh producing the segments. "In The Moment," which is currently an hour-long standalone show, will be shortened to

about 15 total minutes on air, with extra content shared in the program's podcast.

Friends of SDPB, the organization's nonprofit fundraising arm, did not share how much money was raised in its months-long donation drive. The organization's Bison Campaign, launched after the funding rescission, has a \$2 million goal. A message on the Friends of SDPB website as of Thursday said "we're already more than halfway there."

Overgaard said SDPB received "very generous" foundation grants to continue providing education resources for the next year. SDPB will have to determine a "strategic redirection" for its educational programming before the grant expires.

SDPB will retain live legislative audio and video feeds, high school fine arts and sports event broadcasts, and emergency communications.

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.

Legislative committee orders SD secretary of state to appear for election questions

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER-OCTOBER 30, 2025 2:02 PM

A legislative committee voted unanimously on Thursday to order South Dakota's secretary of state to answer questions about the state's election equipment contracts.

Secretary of State Monae Johnson was expected to attend Thursday's meeting, but canceled a couple of days beforehand, said Sen. Taffy Howard, R-Rapid City, the chair of the Government Operations and Audit Committee.

"We represent the entirety of the Legislature and we represent the citizens of this state," Howard said. "Essentially, when you disregard this committee, you are disregarding the citizens of this state."

The order to appear is known as a subpoena. The committee is using expanded oversight powers granted by the Legislature earlier this year to issue subpoenas, without an extra sign-off from the Legislature's Executive Board.

Tea Republican Sen. Ernie Otten said the committee was "being slighted" by Johnson's failure to appear, adding that lawmakers need to hear "the other side" of allegations against Johnson's office.

Members of the South Dakota Canvassing Group, which advocates for removing tabulation machines from elections and replacing them with hand counting, allege that the Secretary of State's Office allowed an election systems vendor to provide uncertified laptops to some counties for election use, and used some funds inappropriately to update the state's voter registration and election night reporting system. The group is also concerned about a vendor connected to a multi-state voter registration system that has come under scrutiny for privacy and security concerns.

Some of those concerns were raised by members of South Dakota Canvassing at the committee's May meeting, but lawmakers chose to have Johnson return at a later meeting to answer questions posed to her.

The South Dakota Secretary of State's Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment from South Dakota Searchlight. Johnson provided a statement to KELO News that said, "Safe elections are my top priority as secretary of state. I told the GOAC Committee that today wouldn't work for my testimony because of a county auditor training, and I sent a letter responding to their questions. I'll continue to work with them to transparently do my job for the people of South Dakota."

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COMMENTARY

The Trump administration's continuing desecration of Wounded Knee's legacy by RICK SNEDEKER

The genesis of the massacre began with a dance.

During the throes of a continuing drought on the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1890, the Lakota people living there were also contending with severely reduced rations from the U.S. government as it tried to pressure Indigenous residents into yielding valuable reservation land. These punitive restrictions caused widespread hunger and starvation, which turned many Lakota tribal members toward Wovoka, a Paiute prophet who "promised the disappearance of the white man and a return of native lands and buffalo if certain rites and dances were performed," according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

The central ritual of this hybrid Christian-Indigenous religious movement was the so-called "Ghost Dance," which struck non-Indigenous settlers in the area, then the U.S. government, with paranoid terror ("ghost shirts" sanctified in the dances supposedly could stop bullets).

U.S. soldiers were then dispatched to deal with the situation, just 14 years after Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and more than 200 of his 7th Cavalry troopers were ignominiously annihilated by a combined force of Lakota, Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho warriors at Montana's Little Bighorn River valley. Among Army units sent to Pine Ridge in 1890 was the 7th Cavalry.

Ominously, Lakota holy man Sitting Bull, one of the leaders at the Little Bighorn fight, had been killed two weeks before, as tribal police on the Standing Rock Reservation, northeast of Pine Ridge, tried to arrest him after the Ghost Dance rituals were subdued, further enflaming tensions. This prompted some of Sitting Bull's followers to join a group led by Miniconjou Lakota leader Sitanka, also known as Big Foot, who fled the Cheyenne River agency with a plan to join other leaders at Pine Ridge. Big Foot and his followers encountered 7th Cavalry troops on Dec. 28, 1890, and spent the night uneventfully at a campsite near Wounded Knee Creek.

Early the next morning, everything went south, as U.S. soldiers encircled the encampment and attempted to disarm the group. A shot rang out as soldiers wrestled with a warrior who refused to give up his weapon, followed immediately by a continuous, deadly volley of gunfire from soldiers. In the end, 200 to 300 Lakota men, women and children lay dead — some corpses were found a mile or two from the site — and another 100 were injured. As many as 40 soldiers also reportedly died in the mayhem.

The frozen Lakota dead (a frigid snowstorm had rolled in the next day), including Big Foot, were dumped unceremoniously into a mass grave several days later.

In 2025, the immediate issue is the insistence of Pete Hegseth, secretary of the newly minted U.S. Department of War, that U.S. history records this terrible tragedy as a "battle" and not what it objectively was, a massacre of many unarmed people, including women and children. To that end, Hegseth will not revoke Medals of Honor — it's America's highest military honor today but in 1890 was a less revered military decoration — that were granted to approximately 20 soldiers after the incident (the precise number is in debate, because records for some of the medals are incomplete or unclear). Members of Congress including Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Massachusetts, have made repeated attempts to revoke the medals legislatively, which South Dakota's congressional delegation has not supported.

"We cannot be a country that celebrates and rewards horrifying acts of violence," Warren said recently. "With this announcement, Secretary Hegseth is valorizing people who committed a massacre."

Deb Haaland, a candidate for governor in New Mexico and the first Native American to serve as Interior Department secretary, under President Joe Biden, said that Hegseth's rhetoric about the medals represented "cruelty, not justice."

In 2024, under Biden, then Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin convened a panel to review the actions of each soldier at Wounded Knee, and reconsider the medals' validity. But a report by the panel was never released and Austin did not make a final decision. Hegseth termed this "careless inaction," and stressed

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that the medals were deserved.

This year, South Dakota's U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson sponsored a bill — the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act — to preserve a section of land where the massacre took place. It passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate, where South Dakota's Mike Rounds and John Thune are sponsoring an identical bill.

In a press release issued by Johnson's House office, he stated: "In 2023, I visited the site of the Wounded Knee Massacre. I met with descendants of the survivors, and I saw the bloodstained floorboards of St. John's Church where the wounded were treated. It was a tragic day in America's history. My bill acknowledges our mistake and ensures this land will be sacred for generations to come."

Soldiers significantly outnumbered Native Americans that fateful day at Wounded Knee. The troops also fired four cannons from a hilltop at such a distance that, according to a 1980 journal article by Larry D. Roberts of South Dakota State University, neither the age nor gender of those targeted could be clearly distinguished.

Not much of a "battle."

Rick Snedeker, a retired journalist living in Mitchell, is the author of a 2020 memoir about growing up in a Saudi oil camp in the 1950s, "3,001 Arabian Days," and a 2022 historical overview of Christianity's coercive evolution in America, "Holy Smoke."

Native communities scramble to provide food with SNAP, WIC cutoffs looming

BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA-OCTOBER 30, 2025 4:55 PM

WASHINGTON — The near-certain freeze on key federal nutrition programs will put particular pressure on tribal communities, according to advocates and U.S. senators of both parties.

American Indian and Alaska Native communities are scrambling to fill anticipated gaps in food security and assistance created by the lack of funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as WIC, during the ongoing government shutdown.

Sarah Harris, the secretary of United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. and United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund, a nonprofit and an associated advocacy group for 33 federally recognized tribal nations from Texas to Maine, told the U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee during a Wednesday hearing that uncertainty over the availability of SNAP and WIC benefits is forcing tribal nations to cover the shortfall.

"Given the emergent nature of all of this crisis, tribes are scrambling, and so they're spending their own time and resources to provide the most basic of human needs — food — for their citizens," Harris said.

WASHINGTON — The near-certain freeze on key federal nutrition programs will put particular pressure on tribal communities, according to advocates and U.S. senators of both parties.

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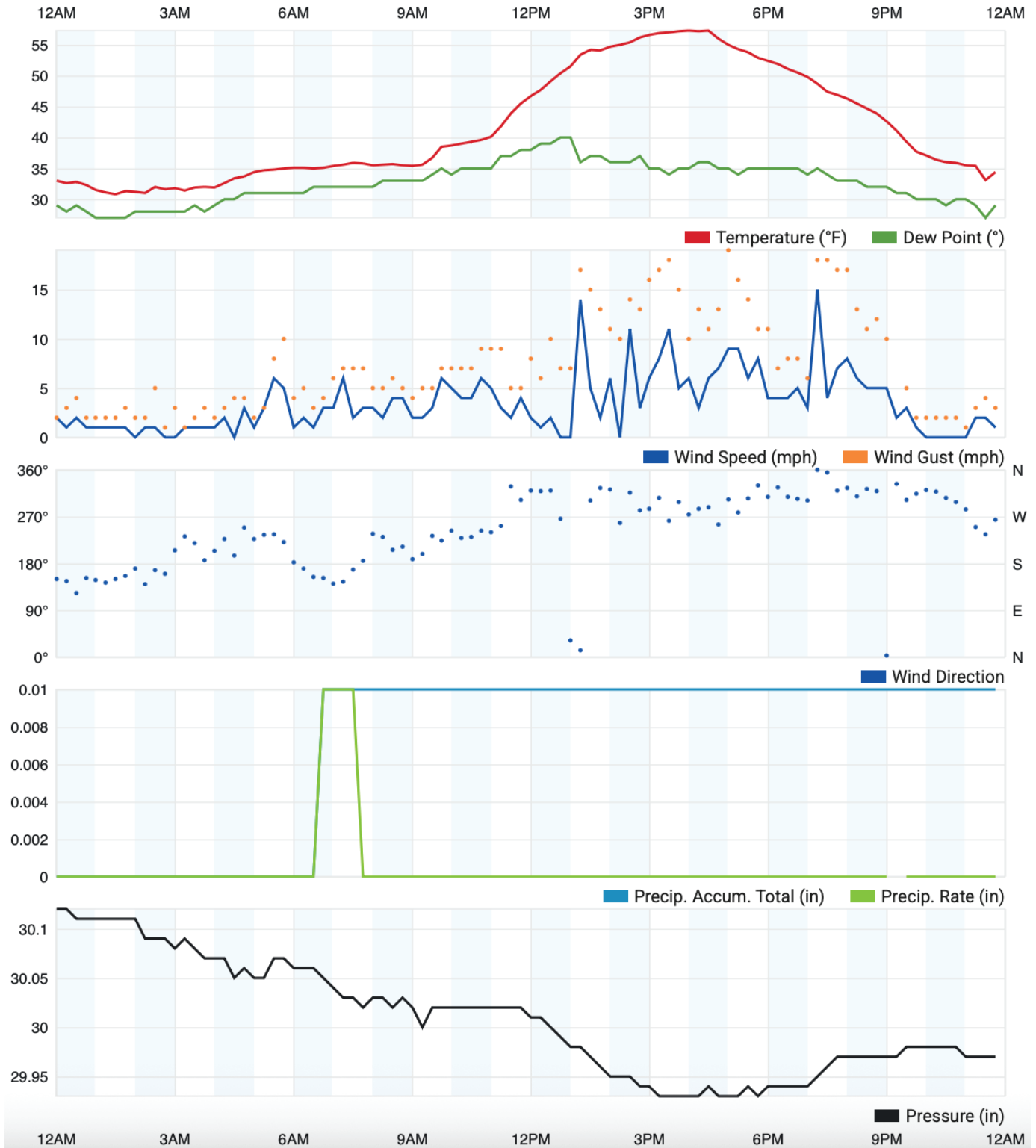
Shauneen Miranda is a reporter for States Newsroom's Washington bureau. An alumna of the University of Maryland, she previously covered breaking news for Axios.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

October 30, 2025



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Today

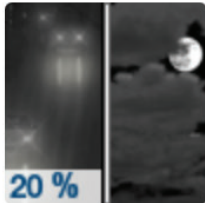


40%

High: 43 °F

Chance Rain

Tonight



20 %

Low: 28 °F

Slight Chance
Rain then
Mostly Cloudy

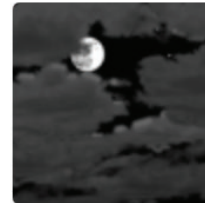
Saturday



High: 44 °F

Partly Sunny

Saturday Night



Low: 32 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Sunday



High: 61 °F

Partly Sunny



Halloween Light Snow Potential

October 30, 2025
3:09 PM

Key Messages



Light rain and **snow** to move in over portions of north central and northeastern SD into west central MN Friday morning through Friday evening.



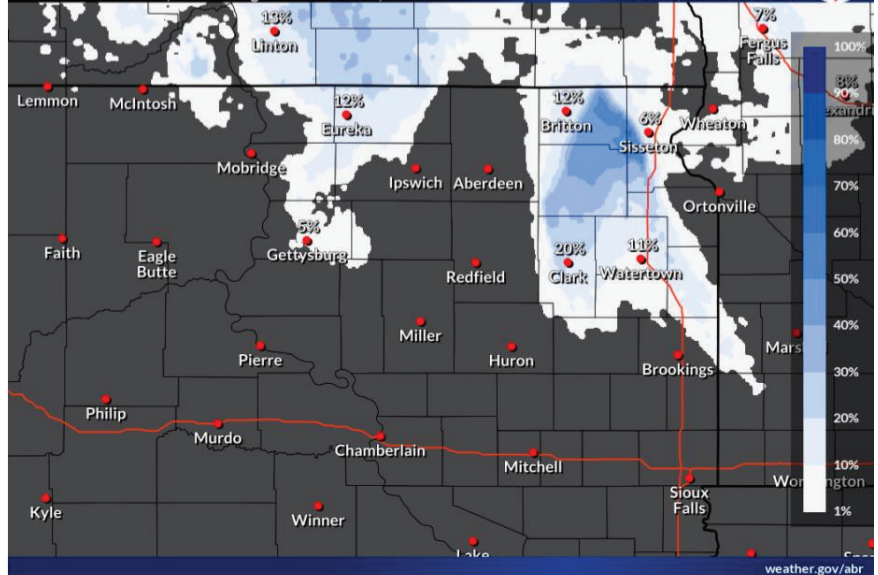
A **dusting to half inch** of snow is anticipated, primarily on grassy areas within the higher elevations of the Sisseton Hills and Leola Hills.



Percent Chance of 0.1" Snowfall or More

Valid 7 PM Thu Oct 30, 2025 through 7 PM Fri Oct 31, 2025

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued Oct 30, 2025 2:17 PM CDT



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Light rain and snow expected over parts of north central and NE SD into western MN Friday morning through Friday evening. A dusting to half inch of snow is anticipated, primarily on grassy areas within the higher elevations of the Sisseton Hills and Leola Hills.

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Here's the updated trick or treat forecast for the region. Winds have increased just slightly from the previous forecast, not expected to gust up to 30 mph and diminish to around 20 mph by 9 PM. Temperatures have also changed just slightly, starting off a bit warmer (around 40) and then dipping into the low 30s across northeastern SD to end the evening. If any precipitation falls, it looks to be before 7 PM.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 58 °F at 3:25 PM

Low Temp: 31 °F at 1:26 AM

Wind: 21 mph at 7:05 PM

Precip: : 0.01

Today's Info

Record High: 78 in 1933

Record Low: 8 in 2006

Average High: 51

Average Low: 26

Average Precip in Oct.: 2.14

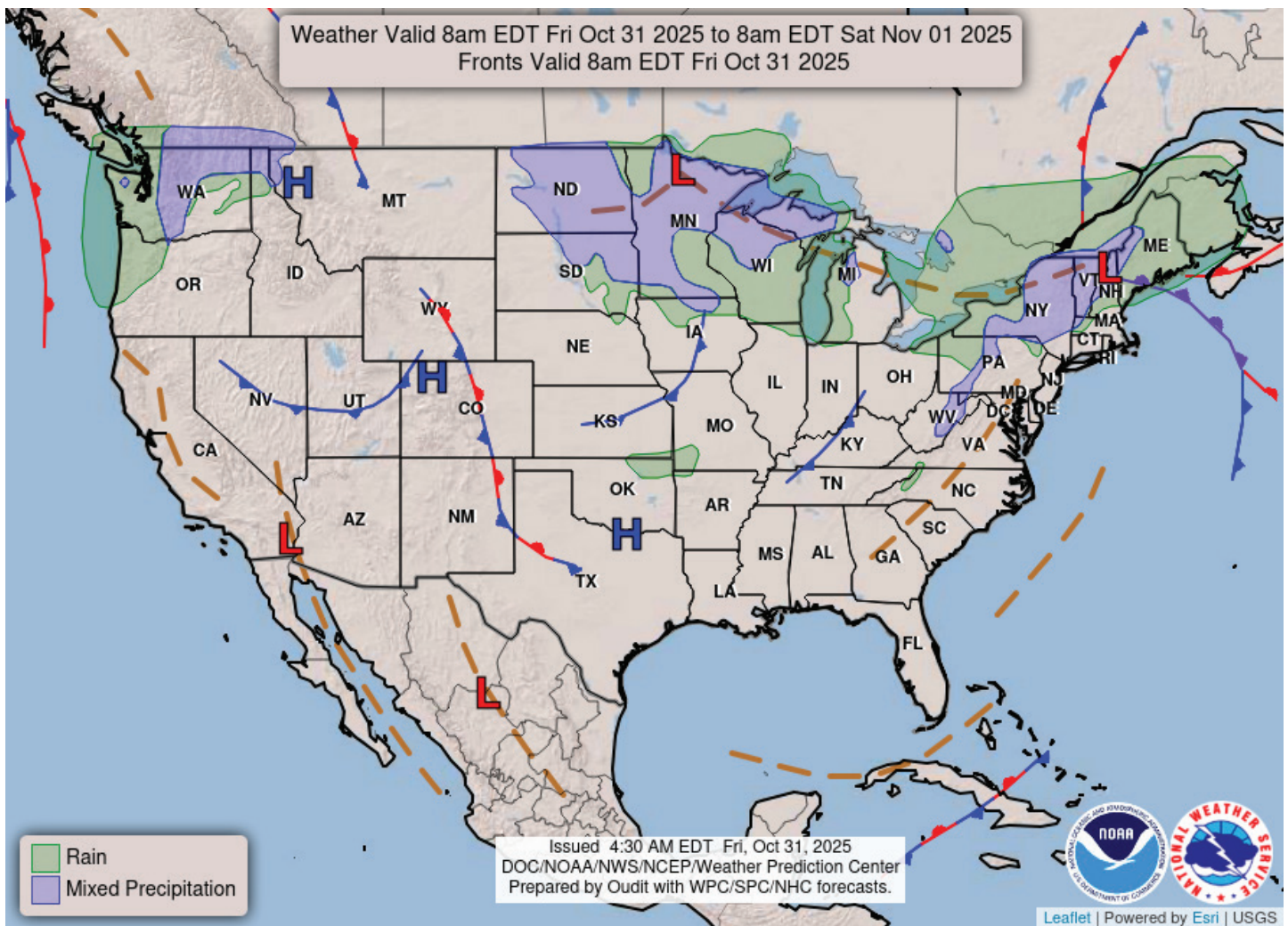
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.53

Average Precip to date: 20.47

Precip Year to Date: 23.45

Sunset Tonight: 6:22 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:10 am



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Today in Weather History

October 31, 1979 A narrow band of heavy wet snow developed around midnight from Winner to Leola and produced from three to six inches of snow before ending in the afternoon of 31st. The wet snow stuck to power poles and combined with 30 to 50 mph winds broke up to 600 poles. Estimated damage was around \$400,000 dollars. The counties affected were Tripp, Lyman, Buffalo, Hyde, Hand, Faulk, and Edmunds Counties.

October 31, 1991: A blizzard swept through southeastern South Dakota, dropping over 16 inches of snow in places. The snow combined with winds gusting to 60 mph at times, thus producing blizzard conditions. Interstates 29 and 90, as well as most other roads east and south of Sioux Falls were closed due to blowing and drifting snow. There were hundreds of traffic accidents in the Sioux Falls area alone. The hospital emergency rooms were swamped with victims of automobile accidents and injuries sustained while shoveling heavy snow. Two men died from heart problems while shoveling the snow.

1846 - Eighty-seven pioneers were trapped by early snows in the Sierra Nevada Mountains that piled five feet deep, with 30 to 40 foot drifts. Just 47 persons survived the "Donner Pass Tragedy". (The Weather Channel)

1876: The Great Backerganj, also known as the Bengal cyclone of 1876 struck Bangladesh, then part of the province of Bengal in British India on this day. A maximum wind speed of 137 mph along with a storm surge of 10 to 45 feet inundated the coastal region. This storm likely caused 200,000 casualties along with displacing thousands of other individuals.

1950 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the central U.S. for Halloween. The temperature soared to 83 degrees at Minneapolis MN, their warmest reading of record for so late in the season. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - Fort Lauderdale, FL, was deluged with 13.81 inches of rain, which brought their rainfall total for the month of October to an all-time record of 42.43 inches. (30th-31st) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Halloween was a wet one in the southwestern U.S. Heavy rain in southern California resulted in numerous mudslides. Weather-related auto accidents resulted in three deaths and twenty-five injuries. Mount Wilson CA received 3.14 inches of rain in 24 hours. Yakima WA reported measurable rainfall for the first time since the 18th of July. The 103 day long dry spell was their longest of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Twenty-two cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 19 degrees at Cleveland OH was a record for October, and morning lows of 21 degrees at Allentown PA and Bridgeport CT tied October records. Nine cities in the southwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Phoenix AZ with a reading of 96 degrees. Showers made Halloween a soggy one in the southeastern U.S. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Halloween night was a soggy one in New England. Showers in the northeastern U.S. produced more than an inch and a half of rain in six hours at some locations. An invasion of cold arctic air brought an abrupt end to a week of "Indian Summer" type weather in the Great Lakes Region, and brought snow and subzero wind chill readings to the Northern Plains. In Colorado, Alamosa was the cold spot in the nation with a record low of two degrees above zero, and a Halloween night storm brought 3 to 6 inches of snow to the Front Range, and 5 to 10 inches to the nearby foothills. Icy streets around Denver the next morning made for a rather spooky commute. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1991: A severe winter storm, dubbed the Great Halloween Mega Storm, struck the upper Midwest. Minnesota bore the brunt of this storm. Blizzard conditions occurred with winds gusting frequently to 40 and 50 mph. By the time it was all over on November 2nd, Duluth recorded 37 inches, Minneapolis 28 inches, International Falls 18 inches and 11.2 inches in 24-hours at Sioux Falls, SD, their earliest heavy snowfall of 6 inches or more and snowiest October on record. For Duluth and Minneapolis, the snow amounts set new all-time records for the greatest amount of snow in a single storm. The storm gave these two cities nearly half of their average seasonal snowfall.



Our Labor of Love

When God calls you, the Holy Spirit provides everything needed to accomplish His will.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5: 1 Paul, Silas[a] and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace and peace to you.

Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith

2 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

4 For we know, brothers and sisters[b] loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

The moment we place our trust in Jesus as our Savior, we become a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is an act of love by the heavenly Father—He gives us new life and adopts us into His family. He also has a plan for every believer, with specific work for each to accomplish.

Once we are saved, the rest of our days are to be spent fulfilling God's purposes. We are called to be Jesus' disciples—acting on His behalf and working zealously for God, as the Savior did. Although salvation is by grace—not grace-plus-works—deeds are God's will for us (Ephesians 2:10). The Holy Spirit carries out Jesus' agenda on earth through the works of His followers.

God has committed Himself to guiding and equipping believers. No matter what He calls us to do, His Holy Spirit will teach us all we need to know—such as effective ways of relating, pouring ourselves out on behalf of others, and sharing our faith. He expects us to make serving Him a priority, and to surrender our resources and abilities for His use.

While we are living on earth, our lifestyle is to be one of enthusiastic, committed service in the cause of Christ. Let your work for God be a true labor of love.

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:

10.28.25

2 19 33 53 61 14

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$754,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 16 Mins 34 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.29.25

21 33 40 42 50 5

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$5,870,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 31 Mins 34 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.30.25

1 10 23 29 34 16

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 46 Mins 34 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.29.25

1 16 20 25 27

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$66,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 46 Mins 34 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.29.25

7 12 24 38 67 26

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 15 Mins 34 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.29.25

4 24 49 60 65 1

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$400,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 15 Mins 34 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

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

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

SDHSAA Playoffs=

Class 11AAA=

Quarterfinal=

Brandon Valley 41, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 14

Harrisburg 17, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 3

Sioux Falls Jefferson 42, Sioux Falls Washington 12

Sioux Falls Lincoln 60, Rapid City Central 21

Class 11AA=

Quarterfinal=

Huron 7, Brookings 2

Sturgis Brown High School 28, Watertown 21

T F Riggs High School 41, Tea 7

Yankton 12, Spearfish 7

Class 11A=

Quarterfinal=

Dell Rapids 38, Milbank 13

Lennox 49, Tri-Valley 22

Sioux Falls Christian 54, Rapid City Christian 0

West Central 29, Madison 20

Class 11B=

Quarterfinal=

Clark-Willow Lake 30, Winner 12

Deuel 27, Wagner 12

Elk Point-Jefferson 49, Sioux Valley 14

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 31, St Thomas More 8

Class 9AA=

Quarterfinal=

Elkton-Lake Benton 44, Hanson 15

Freeman-Marion-FA 52, Kimball-White Lake 0

Hamlin 52, Hill City 14

Parkston 36, Bon Homme 7

Class 9A=

Quarterfinal=

Alcester-Hudson 24, Platte-Geddes 20

Howard 28, Warner 21

Philip 14, Ipswich 6

Wall 41, Castlewood 0

Class 9B=

Quarterfinal=

Avon 62, Sioux Falls Lutheran 30

Colman-Egan 24, Herreid-Selby 14

Dell Rapids St Mary's 56, Corsica/Stickney 6

Faulkton 32, Sully Buttes 22

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

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Sioux Falls Washington def. Mitchell, 25-21, 25-23, 25-12

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

Royal prerogative: King Charles III banishes Andrew to buttress the House of Windsor's foundations

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

No one is bigger than the monarchy. Not even the king's brother.

In the end, that reality spelled the end of Andrew's life as a prince of the realm.

As details of Andrew's links to the sex offender Jeffrey Epstein continued to dribble out and Parliament raised questions about his rent-free residence at a sprawling country house near Windsor Castle, King Charles III moved Thursday to shield the monarchy from any further revelations.

In a statement issued by Buckingham Palace, the king said he had taken steps to strip his brother of all his titles and honors, including the one he has held since birth — prince. From now on, the scandal-plagued British royal will be known simply as Andrew Mountbatten Windsor.

Andrew is also being forced to move out of Royal Lodge, the 30-room mansion near Windsor Castle where he has lived for more than 20 years.

"The monarchy needed to draw the thickest line they could between Andrew and the rest of the royal family," said Craig Prescott, an expert on constitutional law and the monarchy at Royal Holloway, University of London. "And he's precisely done that."

A clear statement

The king's decision came after the announcement earlier this month that Andrew had agreed to stop using the titles failed to staunch the flood of tawdry stories that threaten to weaken support for the monarchy. Far from ending the media frenzy, the earlier move spurred calls from some members of Parliament that Andrew be formally stripped of his titles and evicted from Royal Lodge.

That raised the prospect of a parliamentary debate on Andrew's conduct that would have subjected the royal family to even more unwanted publicity.

Andrew's disgrace comes as Charles, who is 76 and undergoing treatment for an undisclosed form of cancer, works to resolve stubborn problems and buttress the foundations of the monarchy before his elder son, Prince William, inherits.

"This, I think, was a very clear statement of what had to be done to get the house in order (now) and also going forward for the future," said George Gross, a royal expert at King's College London. "That makes life easier for Prince William ... I think that's also part of it. But it felt inevitable."

Andrew's problems aren't solved

While the king's decision may help shield the monarchy from the fallout from the scandal, it won't end Andrew's problems.

The latest round of stories about Andrew was triggered by the publication of a memoir written by Virginia Giuffre, who alleged that she was trafficked by Epstein and had sex with Andrew when she was 17. Giuffre, an American living in Australia, took her own life earlier this year.

Her brother, Sky Roberts, on Thursday lauded his sister's long fight to expose Epstein and Andrew, but continued to call for the king's brother to be prosecuted.

Andrew has repeatedly denied having sex with Giuffre or committing any crimes.

Historian Andrew Lownie, author of a recent biography of Andrew and his ex-wife, Sarah Ferguson, said he believes there are grounds to investigate allegations ranging from sex trafficking to misconduct in public office.

"I don't think it's the end of it, I think there are many more disclosures to come," author of "Entitled:

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The Rise and Fall of the House of York,” told Britain’s Press Association. “But at least they’re taking some decisive action.”

Andrew, 65, is the second son of the late Queen Elizabeth II. He spent more than 20 years as a Royal Navy officer before leaving to take up his royal duties in 2001.

He has been the subject of tabloid stories stretching back to at least 2007, when he sold a house near Windsor Castle for 20% over the 15 million pound asking price. The buyer was reported to be Timur Kulibayev, son-in-law of Nursultan Nazarbayev, then-president of Kazakhstan, raising concerns that the deal was an attempt to buy influence in Britain.

Those allegations, coupled with reported links to a son of former Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi, led to Andrew being stripped of his role as Britain’s special envoy for international trade and investment.

Queen Elizabeth II had a soft spot for Andrew

But royal experts believe Andrew was often shielded from the full weight of his scandals because of his position as the queen’s favorite child.

That became untenable in November 2019, after Andrew gave a disastrous interview to the BBC in an effort to counter media reports about his friendship with Epstein. He was widely criticized for failing to show empathy for Epstein’s victims and for offering unbelievable explanations for his friendship with the disgraced financier.

Soon after the interview aired, Andrew was forced to give up all of his public duties and charity roles.

Now Charles is severing his brother’s remaining ties to the institution of the monarchy. The Royal Lodge has been a particularly sore point, with Andrew until now rejecting the king’s entreaties to give up his 75-year lease on the property. He will now live at the king’s private estate at Sandringham in eastern England.

A monarchy in transition

Prescott, the constitutional expert, said Andrew’s banishment should be seen as part of a transition in the monarchy that began after Elizabeth’s death in 2022.

As long as the queen was alive, people were reluctant to criticize the monarchy because it was seen as personally criticizing the queen, who became a revered figure during her 70-year reign.

Charles has never had that same status and he recognizes that the crown has to be accountable to the people and their representatives in Parliament, Prescott said.

“This is part of the transition of the monarchy becoming more like a typical public institution, capable of being scrutinized by Parliament in one way or another,” he said.

“There was public demand and parliamentary demand for the king to do something,” Prescott added. “And he’s done it.”

Palestinian militants hand over remains of two more hostages to Red Cross in Gaza

By JULIA FRANKEL and WAFAA SHURAFI Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Hospital officials in Gaza say that Israel has handed over the bodies of 30 Palestinians. Friday’s handover comes a day after Palestinian militants in Gaza turned over the remains of two hostages to Israel.

Israel’s military said Thursday that Palestinian militants handed over the remains of two more hostages, in the latest indication that the fragile ceasefire agreement is moving forward despite Israeli strikes on Gaza this week.

The two sets of remains were given to the Red Cross in Gaza, then transported into Israel by troops and taken to the National Institute of Forensic Medicine for identification, the Israeli military said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office said late Thursday that the remains had been confirmed as those of Sahar Baruch and Amiram Cooper, both taken hostage during the Oct. 7, 2023, attack by Hamas that set off the war.

Hamas has now returned the remains of 17 hostages since the start of the ceasefire, with 11 others still in Gaza and set to be turned over under the terms of the agreement.

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In return, Israel has returned the bodies of 195 Palestinians to authorities in Gaza without providing details on their identities. It is unclear if they were killed in Israel during the Oct. 7 attack, died in Israeli custody as detainees or were recovered from Gaza by troops during the war. Health officials in Gaza have struggled to identify the bodies without access to DNA kits.

Baruch was readying to pursue an electrical engineering degree when he was taken hostage from Kibbutz Be'eri. His brother, Idan, was killed in the attack. Three months into Sahar's captivity, the Israeli military said he was killed during an attempted rescue mission. He was 25.

Cooper was an economist and one of the founders of Kibbutz Nir Oz. He was captured along with his wife, Nurit, who was released after 17 days. In June 2024 Israeli officials confirmed that he had been killed in Gaza. He was 84.

Overnight strikes injure 40

Officials in southern Gaza said Thursday that at least 40 people had been injured in overnight strikes, after Israel declared the ceasefire was back on Wednesday morning.

Mohammad Saar, head of the nursing department at Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza, said it received 40 people wounded in overnight strikes on Khan Younis.

The Israeli army said it carried out strikes on "terrorist infrastructure that posed a threat to the troops" in Khan Younis. The area in southern Gaza is under the control of the Israeli military.

After strikes earlier this week killed more than 100 people, Israel said it was retaliating for the shooting and killing of one of its soldiers in Rafah, the southernmost city in Gaza. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also said that Hamas had violated provisions in the deal concerning the handover of remains of hostages.

Hamas denied any involvement in the deadly shooting and, in turn, accused Israel of violating the ceasefire deal.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony for military commanders in southern Israel Thursday, Netanyahu warned, "If Hamas continues to blatantly violate the ceasefire, it will experience powerful strikes, as it did the day before yesterday and yesterday."

He said Israel would "act as needed" to remove "immediate danger" to its forces.

"At the end of the day, Hamas will be disarmed and Gaza will be demilitarized. If foreign forces do this, all the better. And if they don't, we will do it."

The guarantors of the fragile Gaza ceasefire deal have told Hamas that Israel will resume, and they will not object to, military strikes on targets within the Israeli-occupied zone of the Palestinian territory after a deadline for militants to leave the area expired Thursday.

A senior U.S. official said that in messages passed to Hamas by Egypt and Qatar on Wednesday the group was told its remaining fighters in the yellow zone had 24 hours to leave or face Israeli strikes. That deadline expired Thursday, after which the official said "Israel will enforce the ceasefire and engage Hamas targets behind the yellow line."

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private diplomatic conversations.

The ceasefire, which began Oct. 10, is aimed at winding down a war that is by far the deadliest and most destructive of those ever fought between Israel and Hamas.

The war was triggered by the October 2023 attack on Israel by Hamas-led militants, who killed about 1,200 people and took 251 others hostage.

In the two years since, Israel's military offensive has killed more than 68,600 Palestinians in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants. The ministry, which is part of the Hamas-run government and is staffed by medical professionals, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by independent experts. Israel, which some international critics have accused of committing genocide in Gaza, has disputed those figures without providing a contradicting toll.

US defense chief vows to 'stoutly defend' Indo-Pacific interests in talks with China

By EILEEN NG Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — The U.S. Secretary of Defense said Friday he told his Chinese counterpart during talks in Malaysia that Washington would "stoutly defend" its interests in the Indo-Pacific. He also signed a new agreement aimed at strengthening security ties with India.

Pete Hegseth described as "good and constructive" his meeting with Chinese Admiral Dong Jun, held on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations defense ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur. He said he raised U.S. concerns over Chinese activities in the South China Sea, around Taiwan and toward U.S. allies and partners in the region.

"I highlighted the importance of maintaining a balance of power in the Indo-Pacific," Hegseth wrote on social media platform X. "United States does not seek conflict (but) it will continue to stoutly defend its interests and ensure it has the capabilities in the region to do so."

China's defense ministry issued a cautious response, emphasizing its longstanding positions. Dong Jun stressed the reunification of China and Taiwan is an "unstoppable historical trend" and urged the U.S. to be cautious in its words and actions on the Taiwan issue, the statement said.

"We hope the U.S. will translate its statements of not containing China and not seeking conflict into action, and work with China to inject positive energy into regional and global peace and security," according to the statement.

Their meeting follows a Sept. 9 video call between Hegseth and Dong and reflects ongoing efforts to manage tensions in the Indo-Pacific even as strategic differences, particularly over Taiwan and freedom of navigation, remain pronounced.

Hegseth also met with India's Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, and they signed a 10-year defense framework aimed at expanding military and technological cooperation.

Washington has long sought to develop a deeper partnership with New Delhi, which is seen as a bulwark against China. India is a major defense partner of the U.S and has in recent years embedded advanced American jets, helicopters, missiles and military gear into its armed forces.

"This advances our defense partnership, a cornerstone for regional stability and deterrence," Hegseth wrote on X. "Our defense ties have never been stronger."

Singh said the U.S.-India partnership is crucial for ensuring a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific region. "It is a signal of our growing strategic convergence and will herald a new decade of partnership," he said on X.

The framework agreement comes amid renewed strains in bilateral ties after President Donald Trump imposed a 50% import tariff on Indian goods in August and criticized New Delhi for continued purchase of discounted Russian oil. India is the second biggest buyer of Russian oil after China.

Hegseth also held talks with his Malaysian and Philippines counterparts.. He reaffirmed commitment to maritime security in the South China Sea and said the U.S. would "work relentlessly to reestablish deterrence in the South China Sea."

Malaysia has previously protested the encroachment of Chinese vessels into its waters but usually prefers quiet diplomacy. That's in contrast to the neighboring Philippines, which has had major confrontations with China at sea in recent years. China claims virtually the entire South China Sea, overlapping claims made by countries including Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan.

Asked to comment about U.S. President Donald Trump's plans to restart nuclear weapon testing for the first time in three decades, Malaysian Defense Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin told a news conference later Friday that ASEAN is a nuclear weapon free zone area and "we try to avoid anything that can bring great calamity to humankind." He didn't elaborate.

ASEAN secretary-general Kao Kim Hourn separately said some ASEAN members may seek more details from Hegseth about U.S. nuclear testing at a planned ASEAN-U.S. meeting on Saturday.

"For the security and safety of the world, I think it's important ... to bear in mind that the world should

never see the use of another nuclear weapon," he said.

Trump made the comments Thursday on social media, saying it would be on an "equal basis" with Russia and China. There was no signs the U.S. would start detonating warheads, but Trump offered few details in what seemed to be a significant shift in U.S. policy.

ASEAN defense ministers will continue talks Saturday with dialogue partners including the United States, China, Japan, India, Australia, South Korea and Russia.

China's Xi promises to protect free trade at APEC as Trump snubs major summit

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, KIM TONG-HYUNG and HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

GYEONGJU, South Korea (AP) — Chinese leader Xi Jinping told Asia-Pacific leaders on Friday that his country would help to defend global free trade at an annual economic regional forum snubbed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Xi took center stage at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit that began Friday in the South Korean city of Gyeongju, as Trump left the country a day earlier after reaching deals with Xi meant to ease their escalating trade war.

This year's two-day APEC summit has been heavily overshadowed by the Trump-Xi meeting that was arranged on the sidelines.

Trump described his Thursday meeting with Xi as a roaring success, saying he would cut tariffs on China, while Beijing had agreed to allow the export of rare earth elements and start buying American soybeans. Their deals were a relief to a world economy rattled by trade tensions between the world's two largest economies.

Trump's decision to skip APEC fits with his well-known disdain for big, multi-nation forums that have been traditionally used to address global problems. But his blunt dismissal of APEC risks worsening America's reputation at a forum that represents nearly 40% of the world's population and more than half of global goods trade.

Xi defends multilateralism

"The more turbulent the times, the more we must work together," Xi said during APEC's opening session. "The world is undergoing a period of rapid change, with the international situation becoming increasingly complex and volatile."

Xi called for maintaining supply chain stability, in a riposte to U.S. efforts to decouple its supply chains from China.

Xi also expressed hopes to work with other countries to expand cooperation in green industries and clean energy. Chinese exports of its solar panels, electric vehicles and other green tech have been criticized for creating oversupplies and undercutting the domestic industries of countries it exports to.

It's Xi's first visit to South Korea in 11 years. On the sidelines of the summit, Xi had bilateral meetings with new Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul on Friday. Xi is to meet South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Saturday for a meeting expected to discuss North Korea's nuclear program.

U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent, who attended the summit on Trump's behalf, said a U.S. move to rebalance its trade relationships would ensure that "each country operates on fair and reciprocal terms." He added that the U.S. is "investing with its trading partners to build resilient production networks that reduce dependence on vulnerable sectors."

APEC faces challenges

Established in 1989 during a period of increased globalization, APEC champions free and open trade and investment to accelerate regional economic integration. But the APEC region now faces challenges like strategic competitions between the U.S. and China, supply chain vulnerabilities, aging populations and the impact of AI on jobs. The U.S. strategy has been shifted to economic competitions with China rather than cooperation, with Trump's tariff hikes and "America first" agenda shaking markets and threatening

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decades of globalization and multinationalism.

Leaders and other representatives from 21 Asia-Pacific Rim economies are attending the APEC meeting to discuss how to promote economic cooperation and tackle shared challenges. Opening the summit as chair, Lee called for greater cooperation and solidarity to overcome new challenges.

"It's obvious that we can't always stand on the same side, as our national interests are at stake. But we can join together for the ultimate goal of shared prosperity," Lee said. "I hope we will have candid and constructive discussions on how we can achieve APEC's vision in the face of the new challenge of a rapidly changing international economic environment."

Carney reiterated his government's plan to double its non-U.S. exports in the next decade, as he said that "our world is undergoing one of the most profound shifts since the fall of the Berlin Wall."

Despite Trump's optimism after a 100-minute meeting with Xi, there continues to be the potential for major tensions between the countries, with both seeking dominant places in manufacturing and developing emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

"It is certainly a contribution to bring the leaders of the two largest economies together for a meeting where they agreed to withdraw their most extreme tariff and export control threats. As a result, worst-case outcomes for global trade were averted," said Leif-Eric Easley, professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul.

"However, APEC is meant to be more than a venue for a trade war truce," Easley said. "Greater multi-lateral efforts are needed to address the region's most pressing economic challenges, including resisting costly and destabilizing protectionism, harmonizing regulations for sustainable trade, and coordinating standards for digital innovation."

Host South Korea pushes for joint statement

South Korean officials said they've been communicating with other countries to prod all 21 members to adopt a joint statement at the end of the summit so as not to repeat the failure to issue one in 2018 in Papua New Guinea due to U.S.-China discord over trade.

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said last week that issuing a joint statement strongly endorsing free trade would be unlikely because of differing positions among APEC members. He instead anticipated a broader declaration emphasizing peace and prosperity in the region.

As host nation, South Korea places a priority on discussing AI cooperation and demographic challenges such as aging population and low birth rates, under the theme "Building a Sustainable Tomorrow: Connect, Innovate, Prosper." South Korean officials say APEC members will share exemplary cases of responses to AI and demographic issues, explore common steps and formulate new growth strategies during this week's summit.

Louvre heist highlights thorny issue for museums: How to secure art without becoming fortresses

By R.J. RICO and JOCELYN NOVECK Associated Press

The day after the stunning jewelry heist at the Louvre in Paris, officials from across Washington's world-famous museums were already talking, assessing and planning how to bolster their own security.

"We went over a review of the incident," said Doug Beaver, security specialist at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, who said he participated in Zoom talks with nearby institutions including the Smithsonian and the National Gallery of Art. "Then we developed a game plan on that second day out, and started putting things in place on Days 3, 4 and 5."

Similar conversations were of course happening at museums across the globe, as those tasked with securing art asked: "Could that happen here?" At the same time, many were acknowledging the inherent, even painful tension in their task: Museums are meant to help people engage with art — not to distance them from it.

"The biggest thing in museums is the visitor experience," Beaver said. "We want visitors to come back. We don't want them to feel as though they're in a fortress or a restrictive environment."

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It's an issue many are grappling with — most of all, of course, the Louvre, whose director, Laurence des Cars, has acknowledged "a terrible failure" of security measures, as have French police and legislators.

It was crystallized in a letter of support for the Louvre and its beleaguered leader, from 57 museums across the globe. "Museums are places of transmission and wonder," said the letter, which appeared in *Le Monde*. "Museums are not strongholds nor are they secret vaults." It said the very essence of museums "lies in their openness and accessibility."

The Louvre wasn't built to be a museum

A number of museums declined to comment on the Louvre heist when contacted by The Associated Press, to avoid not only discussing security but also criticizing the Louvre at a sensitive time.

French police have acknowledged major security gaps: Paris Police Chief Patrice Faure told Senate lawmakers Wednesday that aging systems had left the museum weakened.

François Chatillon, France's chief architect of historical monuments, noted nonetheless that many museums, especially in Europe, are in historic buildings that were not constructed with the goal of securing art. The Louvre, after all, was a royal palace — a medieval one at that.

"Faced with the intrusion of criminals, we must find solutions, but not in a hasty manner," Chatillon told *Le Monde*. "We're not going to put armored doors and windows everywhere because there was this burglary."

The architect added that demands on museums come from many places. "Security, conservation, adaptation to climate change — they are all legitimate."

Museums have been focusing on a different kind of danger

Even within security, there are competing priorities, noted attorney Nicholas O'Donnell, an expert in global art law and editor of the *Art Law Report*, a blog on legal issues in the museum and arts communities.

"You're always fighting the last war in security," said O'Donnell. For example, he noted museums have lately been focusing security measures on "the very frequent and regrettable trend of people attacking the art itself to draw attention to themselves."

O'Donnell also noted that the initial response of Louvre security guards was to protect visitors from possible violence. "That's an appropriate first priority, because you don't know who these people are."

But perhaps the greatest battle, O'Donnell said, is to find a balance between security and enjoyment. "You want people interacting with the art," he said. "Look at the Mona Lisa right around the corner (from the jewels). It's not a terribly satisfying experience anymore. You can't get very close to it, the glass ... reflects back at you, and you can barely see it."

O'Donnell says he's certain that museums everywhere are reevaluating security, fearing copycat crimes. Indeed, the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, which oversees Berlin's state museums and was hit hard by a brazen robbery in 2017, said it was using the Louvre heist "as an opportunity to review the security architecture of our institutions." It called for international cooperation, and investments in technology and personnel.

It's about creating a balance between security and accessibility

Beaver, in Washington, predicts the Paris heist will spur museums to implement new measures. One area he's focused on, and has discussed with other museums, is managing the access of construction teams, which he says has often been loose. The Louvre thieves dressed as workers, in bright yellow vests.

It's all about creating a "necessary balance" between security and accessibility, Beaver says. "Our goal isn't to eliminate risk, it's to really manage it intelligently."

Soon after he took the security post in 2014, Beaver said he refashioned the museum's security and notably added a weapons detection system. He also limited what visitors could carry in, banning bottles of liquid.

He said, though, that reaction from visitors had been mixed — some wanting more security, and others feeling it was too restrictive.

Robert Carotenuto, who worked in security for about 15 years at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art running the command center, says museums have become increasingly diligent at screening visitors, as they try to thwart protesters. But that approach alone doesn't resolve risks on the perimeter — the Paris thieves were able to park their truck right outside the museum.

"If you're just going to focus on one risk, like protesters ... your security system is going to have a lapse somewhere," he said. "You can stop the protesters ... but then you're not going to pay attention to people who are phony workers breaking into the side of your building."

Preserving the magic of museums

Patrick Bringley also worked at the Met, as a security guard from 2008 to 2019 — an experience that led to a book and an off-Broadway show, "All the Beauty in the World."

"Museums are wonderful because they are accessible," he said. "They're these places that will put things that are thousands of years old and incomprehensibly beautiful in front of visitors — sometimes even without a pane of glass. That's really special."

The tragedy of the Louvre heist, Bringley said, is that such events make it harder for museums to display all their beauty in a welcoming way.

"Art should be inviting," Bringley said. "But when people break that public trust, the Louvre is going to have to step up their procedures, and it will just become a little less magical in the museum."

Ramen instead of Reese's? Looming SNAP cuts change what's on offer for Halloween trick-or-treaters

By HALLIE GOLDEN Associated Press

When KC Neufeld announced on her Denver neighborhood's Facebook page that her family would be handing out ramen and packs of macaroni and cheese in addition to candy this Halloween, she wasn't expecting much of a response.

The mother of twin 4-year-olds was just hoping to make a small difference in her working-class neighborhood as food aid funding for tens of millions of vulnerable Americans is expected to end Friday due to the government shutdown.

Within two days, nearly 3,000 people had reacted to Neufeld's post, some thanking her and others announcing they would follow suit.

"This post blew up way more than I ever anticipated and I'm severely unprepared," said Neufeld, 33, explaining that she is heading back to the store to get more food despite her family hitting their grocery budget for the week.

"I wish I could just buy out this whole aisle of Costco," she added. "I can't. But I'll do what I can."

Neufeld is one of many people across the U.S. preparing to give out shelf-stable foods to trick-or-treaters this year to help fill the void left by looming cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which helps about one in eight Americans buy groceries.

A flurry of widely shared posts have popped up over the last several days as many people look for ways to help offset the surge in need. Some posts suggest foods to give out while others show recently acquired stocks of cheese sticks, mini cereals, canned soup or even diapers ready for trick-or-treaters.

Posts are often followed by a string of comments from people announcing similar plans, along with plenty of reminders not to forget the candy.

Emily Archambault, 29, and her sister-in-law Taylor Martin, 29, in La Porte, Indiana, will be putting out pasta and sauce, peanut butter and jelly, cereal and other foods, along with diapers and wipes on Halloween. They're also collecting donations from members of their church.

Their plan is to set everything out on a table away from where they're giving out candy, so families can take what they need without worrying about judgement.

"It kind of takes a little bit of pressure off of the parents," said Martin. "You're out and about trick or treating and it's there and your kids probably won't even notice you're taking it."

Archambault said she relied on the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as WIC, after her son's medical complications forced her to stop working temporarily. Losing that assistance would have meant turning to food pantries. And while she said there are great ones in her area, she expects them to be overrun.

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"We have to band together," she said. "I am grateful to have received benefits, and I am even more grateful to be able to give back now."

Erika Dutka, who depends on SNAP to feed herself and her three children in Archbald, Pennsylvania, went to a "trunk or treat" Sunday with people giving out candy from the trunks of cars. She said she was relieved to get packs of ramen, oatmeal, juice, pretzels and fruit snacks in addition to sweet treats.

The 36-year-old — who works two jobs and goes to school fulltime — said the food means she'll have plenty of school snacks for her children the rest of the week and can save her last \$100 of SNAP funds.

"It buys me more time," she said. "Maybe things will change. Maybe it'll get turned back on."

Neufeld, the Denver mom stock-piling shelf-stable items for trick-or-treaters, said she relied on a food bank at her college to get through school. She said most people would never have known she was really struggling. And now, with SNAP drying up, she wants people to remember not to assume anything about others.

"You truly don't know what other people are going through," she said. "So even if they don't 'look like they need help,' it's still important to just give when you can because it can make a huge difference."

Trump says Senate should scrap the filibuster to end the government shutdown

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is calling on the Senate to scrap the filibuster, so that the Republican majority can bypass Democrats and reopen the federal government.

"THE CHOICE IS CLEAR — INITIATE THE 'NUCLEAR OPTION,' GET RID OF THE FILIBUSTER," Trump posted Thursday night on his social media site, Truth Social.

The filibuster is a long-standing tactic in the Senate to delay or block votes on legislation by keeping the debate running. It requires 60 votes in a full Senate to overcome a filibuster, giving Democrats a check on the 53-seat Republican majority that led to the start of the Oct. 1 shutdown when the new fiscal year began.

Trump's call to terminate the filibuster could alter the ways the Senate and congressional dealmaking operate, with the president saying in his post that he gave a "great deal" of thought to the choice on his flight back from Asia on Thursday.

Trump spent the past week with foreign leaders in Malaysia, Japan and South Korea, finishing his tour by meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

The president declared the trip a success because of a trade truce with China and foreign investment planned for American industries, but he said one question kept coming up during his time there about why did "powerful Republicans allow" the Democrats to shut down parts of the government.

His call to end the filibuster came at a moment when certain senators and House Speaker Mike Johnson believed it was time for the government shutdown to come to an end. It's unclear if lawmakers will follow Trump's lead, rather than finding ways to negotiate with Democrats.

From coast to coast, fallout from the dysfunction of a shuttered federal government is hitting home: Alaskans are stockpiling moose, caribou and fish for winter, even before SNAP food aid is scheduled to shut off. Mainers are filling up their home-heating oil tanks, but waiting on the federal subsidies that are nowhere in sight.

Flights are being delayed with holiday travel around the corner. Workers are going without paychecks. And Americans are getting a first glimpse of the skyrocketing health care insurance costs that are at the center of the stalemate on Capitol Hill.

"People are stressing," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, as food options in her state grow scarce.

"We are well past time to have this behind us."

While quiet talks are underway, particularly among bipartisan senators, the shutdown is not expected to end before Saturday's deadline when Americans' deep food insecurity — one in eight people depend on the government to have enough to eat — could become starkly apparent if federal SNAP funds run dry.

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Money for military, but not food aid

The White House has moved money around to ensure the military is paid, but refuses to tap funds for food aid. In fact, Trump's "big, beautiful bill" signed into law this summer, delivered the most substantial cut ever to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, projected to result in some 2.4 million people off the program.

At the same time, many Americans who purchase their own health insurance through the federal and state marketplaces, with open enrollment also beginning Saturday, are experiencing sticker shock as premium prices jump.

"We are holding food over the heads of poor people so that we can take away their health care," said Rev. Ryan Stoess, during a prayer with religious leaders at the U.S. Capitol.

"God help us," he said, "when the cruelty is the point."

Deadlines shift to next week

The House remains closed down under Johnson for the past month. Senators are preparing to depart Thursday for the long weekend. Trump returns late Thursday after a whirlwind tour of Asia.

That means the shutdown, in its 30th day, appears likely to stretch into another week if the filibuster remains. If the shutdown continues, it could become the longest in history, surpassing the 35-day lapse that ended in 2019, during Trump's first term, over his demands to build the U.S.-Mexico border wall.

The next inflection point comes after Tuesday's off-year elections — the New York City mayor's race, as well as elections in Virginia and New Jersey that will determine those states' governors. Many expect that once those winners and losers are declared, and the Democrats and Republicans assess their political standing with the voters, they might be ready to hunker down for a deal.

"I hope that it frees people up to move forward with opening the government," said Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D.

GOP cut SNAP in Trump's big bill

The Republicans, who have majority control of Congress, find themselves in an unusual position, defending the furloughed federal workers and shuttered programs they have long sought to cut — including most recently with nearly \$1 trillion in reductions in Trump's big tax breaks and spending bill.

Medicaid, the health care program, and SNAP food aid, suffered sizable blows this summer, in part by imposing new work requirements. For SNAP recipients, many of whom were already required to work, the new requirements extend to older Americans up to age 64 and parents of older school-age children.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said Republicans now "have the nerve" to suggest it's a political strategy to withhold food aid.

"We are trying to lift up the quality of life for the American people," Jeffries of New York said about his party.

"The American people understand that there's a Republican health care crisis," he said. "The American people understand Republicans enacted the largest cut to nutritional assistance in American history when they cut \$186 billion from their one, big, ugly bill."

During the summer debate over Trump's big bill, Johnson and other Republicans railed against what they characterized as lazy Americans, riding what the House speaker calls the "grave train" of government benefits.

The speaker spoke about able-bodied young men playing video games while receiving Medicaid health care benefits and insisted the new work requirements for the aid programs would weed out what they called "waste, fraud and abuse."

"What we're talking about, again, is able-bodied workers, many of whom are refusing to work because they're gaming the system," Johnson said in spring on CBS' "Face the Nation."

"And when we make them work, it'll be better for everybody, a win-win-win for all," he said.

What remains out of reach, for now, is any relief from the new health care prices, posted this week, that are expected to put insurance out of reach for many Americans when federal subsidies that help offset those costs are set to expire at the end of the year.

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Democrats have been holding out for negotiations with Trump and the Republicans to keep those subsidies in place. Republicans say they can address the issue later, once the government reopens.

Haiti, Jamaica and Cuba pick up the pieces after Melissa's destruction

By ARIEL FERNÁNDEZ, ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ and JOHN MYERS JR. Associated Press

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Cuba (AP) — The rumble of large machinery, whine of chain saws and chopping of machetes echoed through communities across the northern Caribbean on Thursday as they dug out from the destruction of Hurricane Melissa and surveyed the damage left behind.

In Jamaica, government workers and residents began clearing roads in a push to reach dozens of isolated communities in the island's southeast that sustained a direct hit from one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes on record.

Stunned residents wandered about, some staring at their roofless homes and waterlogged belongings strewn around them.

"I don't have a house now," said Sylvester Guthrie, a resident of Lacovia in the southern parish of St. Elizabeth, as he held onto his bicycle, the only possession of value left after the storm.

Emergency relief flights were landing at Jamaica's main international airport as crews distributed water, medicine and other basic supplies. Helicopters dropped food as they thrummed above communities where the storm flattened homes, wiped out roads and destroyed bridges, cutting them off from assistance.

"The entire Jamaica is really broken because of what has happened," Education Minister Dana Morris Dixon said.

Officials said at least 19 people have died in Jamaica, including a child, and they expected the death toll to keep rising. In one isolated community, residents pleaded with officials to remove the body of one victim tangled in a tree. On Thursday, dozens of U.S. search-and-rescue experts landed in Jamaica along with their dogs.

More than 13,000 people remained crowded into shelters, with 72% of the island without power and only 35% of mobile phone sites in operation, officials said. People clutched cash as they formed long lines at the few gas stations and supermarkets open in affected areas.

"We understand the frustration, we understand your anxiety, but we ask for your patience," said Daryl Vaz, Jamaica's telecommunications and energy minister.

Water trucks have been mobilized to serve many of Jamaica's rural communities that are not connected to the government's utility system, Water Minister Matthew Samuda said.

Slow recovery in Cuba

In Cuba, heavy equipment began to clear blocked roads and highways and the military helped rescue people trapped in isolated communities and at risk from landslides.

No deaths were reported after the Civil Defense evacuated more than 735,000 people across eastern Cuba ahead of the storm. Residents were slowly starting to return home Thursday.

The town of El Cobre in the eastern province of Santiago de Cuba was one of the hardest hit. Home to some 7,000 people, it is also the site of the Basilica of Our Lady of Charity, the patron saint of Cuba who is deeply venerated by Catholics and practitioners of Santería, an Afro-Cuban religion.

"We went through this very badly. So much wind, so much wind. Zinc roofs were torn off. Some houses completely collapsed. It was a disaster," said Odalys Ojeda, a 61-year-old retiree, as she looked up at the sky from her living room where the roof and other parts of the house were torn away.

Even the basilica wasn't spared.

"Here at the sanctuary, the carpentry, stained glass and even the masonry suffered extensive damage," Father Rogelio Dean Puerta said.

A televised Civil Defense meeting chaired by President Miguel Díaz-Canel did not provide an official estimate of the damage. However, officials from the affected provinces — Santiago, Granma, Holguín, Guantánamo, and Las Tunas — reported losses of roofs, power lines and fiber optic telecommunications

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cables, as well as roads cut off, isolating communities, and heavy losses in banana, cassava and coffee plantations.

Many communities were still without electricity, internet and telephone service because of downed transformers and power lines.

In an unusual statement Thursday, the U.S. State Department said the United States was "ready to assist the Cuban people." It said the U.S. "is prepared to provide immediate humanitarian assistance directly and through local partners who can deliver it more effectively to those in need."

The statement did not specify how the cooperation would be coordinated or whether contact had been made with the Cuban government, with which it maintains a bitter conflict that includes six decades of economic and financial sanctions.

Death and flooding in Haiti

Melissa also unleashed catastrophic flooding in Haiti, where at least 30 people were reported killed and 20 others were missing, mostly in the country's southern region. Some 15,000 people also remained in shelters.

"It is a sad moment for the country," said Laurent Saint-Cyr, president of Haiti's transitional presidential council.

He said officials expect the death toll to rise and noted that the government was mobilizing resources to search for people and provide emergency relief.

Haiti's Civil Protection Agency said Hurricane Melissa killed at least 20 people, including 10 children, in Petit-Goâve, where more than 160 homes were damaged and 80 others destroyed.

Steven Guadard said Melissa killed his entire family in Petit-Goâve, including four children ranging in age from 1 month to 8 years.

Michelet Dégange, who has lived in Petit-Goâve for three years, said Melissa left him homeless.

"There is no place to rest the body; we are hungry," he said. "The authorities don't think about us. I haven't closed my eyes since the bad weather began."

When Melissa came ashore in Jamaica as a Category 5 hurricane with top winds of 185 mph (295 kph) on Tuesday, it tied strength records for Atlantic hurricanes making landfall, both in wind speed and barometric pressure.

Melissa was a Category 2 storm with top sustained winds near 105 mph (165 kph) Thursday night and was moving northeast at 32 mph (51 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami. The hurricane was centered about 260 miles (420 kilometers) west-southwest of Bermuda.

Melissa brushed past the southeast Bahamas on Wednesday, forcing officials to evacuate 1,400 people ahead of the storm.

Melissa was forecast to pass near or to the west of Bermuda late Thursday and may strengthen further before weakening Friday.

Bermuda's international airport was to close Thursday evening and reopen Friday at noon, while all schools on the wealthy British territory were ordered closed.

Justice Department investigating fraud allegations in Black Lives Matter movement, AP sources say

By AARON MORRISON and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is investigating whether leaders in the Black Lives Matter movement defrauded donors who contributed tens of millions of dollars during racial justice protests in 2020, according to multiple people familiar with the matter.

In recent weeks, federal law enforcement officials have issued subpoenas and served at least one search warrant as part of an investigation into the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation, Inc. and other Black-led organizations that helped spark a national reckoning on systemic racism, said the people, who were not authorized to discuss an ongoing criminal probe by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

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to The Associated Press.

It was not clear if the investigation would result in criminal charges, but its mere existence invites fresh scrutiny to a movement that in recent years has faced criticism about its public accounting of donations it has received. The recent burst of investigative activity is also unfolding at a time when civil rights organizations have raised concerns about the potential for the Trump administration to target a variety of progressive and left-leaning groups that have been critical of him, including those affiliated with BLM, the transgender rights movement and anti-ICE protesters.

Spokespeople for the Justice Department declined to comment on Thursday.

One of the people said the investigation had been initiated during the Biden administration but is getting renewed attention during the Trump administration. A second person confirmed that allegations were examined in the Biden administration.

The foundation said it took in over \$90 million in donations following the 2020 murder of George Floyd, a Black man whose last breaths under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer sparked protests across the U.S. and around the world.

Critics of the nonprofit foundation, and of the BLM movement broadly, accused organizers of not being transparent about how it was spending the donations. That criticism grew louder after BLM foundation leaders in 2022 confirmed they used donations to purchase a \$6 million Los Angeles-area property that includes a home with six bedrooms and bathrooms.

The leaders previously denied wrongdoing and publicly released tax documents. No prior investigations into the nonprofit's finances have yielded proof of impropriety.

Leaders of the foundation have received subpoenas. In a statement emailed to the AP on Thursday, the foundation said it "is not a target of any federal criminal investigation."

"We remain committed to full transparency, accountability, and the responsible stewardship of resources dedicated to building a better future for Black communities," the foundation said in the statement.

Several localized BLM chapters, which are not affiliates of the foundation, have previously been at odds with the nonprofit over its plans for donations. Those chapters operate and fundraise independently of the foundation.

The Black Lives Matter movement first emerged in 2013 after the acquittal of George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch volunteer who killed 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Florida. But it was the 2014 death of Michael Brown at the hands of police in Ferguson, Missouri, that made the slogan "Black lives matter" a rallying cry for progressives and a favorite target of derision for conservatives.

Movement founders and organizers pledged to build a decentralized organization governed by the consensus of BLM chapters. But as the movement's influence grew, so did the number of organizations that became affiliated with BLM. In 2020, a tidal wave of public contributions in the aftermath of protests over Floyd's murder came mainly to the BLM foundation, although other organizations were resourced from those funds.

Leaders of the foundation opened up about finances and organizational structure in 2022, revealing detailed accountings of expenditures. The latest Form 990 filing shows the BLM foundation had \$28 million in assets for the fiscal year ending June 2024.

The investigation is being run out of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California in Los Angeles.

The top prosecutor there, Bill Essayli, was determined by a federal judge this week to have stayed in his temporary acting U.S. attorney job longer than allowed by law. He was permitted to effectively remain the office's chief prosecutor but with a different title of First Assistant United States Attorney.

Essayli had previously served as a Republican assemblyman in California, where he took up conservative causes and criticized the state's COVID-19 restrictions. He has been outspoken against state policies to protect immigrants living in the country illegally, and he has aggressively prosecuted people who protest Trump's ramped up immigration enforcement across Southern California.

As a private practice attorney, he characterized BLM as a "radical organization" while defending a white

couple charged in 2020 with a hate crime after they were videotaped defacing a BLM mural in Martinez, California.

At the time, city-sanctioned BLM murals had been painted on roadways in cities throughout the U.S. in an expression of solidarity with the racial justice movement. Essayli was quoted as telling reporters that his clients were simply expressing their political viewpoints and that they disagreed with taxpayer funds being used to "sponsor" Black Lives Matter, which he described as a "radical" group.

At the height of the Floyd-sparked reckoning on racial injustice, some state officials vowed their own investigations in the foundation's finances, citing their responsibility to protect residents who may have donated to BLM. But most of those probes were resolved without official action.

In 2022, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita filed a lawsuit against the BLM foundation for failing to comply with an investigation into the organization's finances. Soon after, a representative of the foundation responded with the necessary information and documentation, a spokesperson for the attorney general's office said, and the lawsuit was dismissed.

Citing AP investigation, senators demand answers on use of full-body restraints during deportations

By JIM MUSTIAN and JASON DEAREN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A "near-total secrecy" surrounding deportation flights and the use of full-body restraints onboard is raising "serious human rights concerns," a group of 11 Democratic U.S. senators wrote in a letter Thursday to top immigration officials.

U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland called upon U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to provide a full accounting of its air operations and to stop using the black and yellow restraints known as the WRAP until the agency explains its policies for the device and resolves other questions about its use on immigration detainees.

"I think it's very problematic," Van Hollen told The Associated Press. "They want to keep the public in the dark."

The senators' letter cites an AP investigation this month that revealed several examples of ICE using the device on people — sometimes for hours — on deportation flights dating to 2020. Van Hollen was joined by U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Cory Booker of New Jersey, Alex Padilla of California, Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, and six others.

The WRAP is the subject of several federal lawsuits likening incorrect usage of the device to punishment and even torture. Advocates have expressed concern that ICE is not tracking the WRAP's use as required by federal law when officers use force, making it difficult to discern exactly how many people are being subjected to the restraints.

"When an organization like DHS doesn't want transparency, it's because they don't want people to know what they're doing," Van Hollen said, referring to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, ICE's parent agency.

In addition to the letter, U.S. Rep. Delia Ramirez, D-Ill., told AP in a statement that she is working on a bill to rein in the agency's use of the WRAP.

"ICE's use of full-body restraints to immobilize detained individuals raises serious concerns about the safety, dignity, and human rights of those under their jurisdiction," Ramirez said.

DHS has not answered detailed questions from the AP about the use of the WRAP and did not respond to a request for comment Thursday. DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin previously said that ICE's practices "align with those followed by other relevant authorities and is fully in line with established legal standards."

The manufacturer of the WRAP, Safe Restraints Inc., said in a statement to AP that the device "was specifically designed to prevent pain and injury."

"Our priority is preserving life and preventing harm," the company said. "We strongly oppose any misuse or untrained use of this equipment."

The AP found that DHS has paid Safe Restraints Inc. \$268,523 since it started purchasing the devices

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in late 2015, during the Obama administration. Government purchasing records show the two Trump administrations have been responsible for about 91% of that spending.

ICE would not provide AP with records documenting its use of the WRAP despite multiple requests, and it's not clear how frequently it has been used in the current and prior administrations.

In addition to reporting on ICE's use of the device, the AP identified a dozen fatal cases in the last decade where local police or jailers around the U.S. used the WRAP and autopsies determined "restraint" played a role in the death.

"The brutal, inhumane tactics of ICE continue to jeopardize people's lives across the country," Ramirez said. "ICE is acting outside of oversight or accountability. That can't go on."

'America First' Trump loved hanging out with the global elite during his Asia trip

By JOSH BOAK, CHRIS MEGERIAN and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — For an "America First" president, Donald Trump seemed to love his whirlwind five days skipping across Asia — a reflection of a White House that is increasingly focused on the rest of the world.

When Trump stepped off Air Force One on Sunday for his first stop in Malaysia, he danced with local performers who had greeted him on the red carpet. In Japan, he helicoptered to a mammoth aircraft carrier for a speech with the country's prime minister. And South Korea gave him a gold medal and crown as gifts.

Back home in Washington, the federal government was shut down as Trump's poll numbers remain low, and it's unclear how much Trump's trip will resonate with voters consumed by other concerns at home.

Yet on the last night of his trip, Trump was overheard at a state dinner talking about how much he enjoyed meetings with his foreign counterparts.

"That was a great meeting," Trump said. "They're all great meetings. This was a great meeting. We had a fantastic meeting."

Had a president who once used the term "globalist" as a slur suddenly found the fun in being a little bit globalist? He definitely likes the international deal making, the parties in his honor, the praise from other leaders and the possibility of leaving his mark on the wider world.

The president sees diplomacy as a way to fulfill his domestic agenda of returning manufacturing to America and creating factory jobs, said Carla Sands, who was the U.S. ambassador to Denmark during Trump's first term and is now chair of the foreign policy initiative at the America First Policy Institute, a pro-Trump think tank.

"President Trump is working as fast as possible to reindustrialize America, bring jobs back home, and secure better trade deals for the American people and businesses," Sands said.

The ebullience abroad also reflects the mood of a president who has struck economic deals and helped smooth relations between warring nations.

He helped to affirm a ceasefire between Cambodia and Thailand. There's a detailed list of nearly \$500 billion in investment commitments from Japan. And South Korea pledged \$150 billion to help revive American shipbuilding, including a project to acquire a nuclear-powered submarine — on top of \$200 billion in investments over a decade to the U.S.

"It's not globalism to go to other countries and stand up for America," said Hogan Gidley, a former White House aide who traveled to Asia and other foreign destinations with Trump in his first term. When Trump travels, he makes sure "the globe is fully aware that this president is going to stand up for the American people first," Gidley said, making it "the exact opposite of globalism."

As for the dancing?

"Look, when you're scoring touchdowns, it's OK to dance in the end zone," Gidley said. "And this president is scoring touchdowns and running up the score."

Foreign leaders are learning what makes Trump happy

Many Trump voters believed they were electing a president who would focus on them instead of distant countries. But Trump in his second term is increasingly finding it easier to sell the idea of America with

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jaunts to Asia and the Middle East.

The shift in tone reflects foreign governments' strenuous efforts to keep Trump happy, like stationing American-made vehicles near him in Tokyo and featuring U.S.-raised beef on the menu.

Trump is increasingly showing confidence that he can play on the global stage, instead of grinding metaphorical axes as he did during his first term by attacking NATO and finding ways to intimidate and frustrate allies such as Angela Merkel, then the chancellor of Germany.

"He appears to believe in his skills as a one-on-one negotiator with world leaders," said Jasen Castillo, a professor with a focus on national security at Texas A&M University. "All of this suggests that his foreign policy ventures are genuine."

Still, it's not always clear what Trump is trying to achieve, other than a chance to declare victory. Some of his trade talks have led to foreign countries promising investments, but not necessarily the careful negotiations on which durable coalitions are built.

"What can confuse observers is that he lacks a consistent, coherent world view," Castillo added.

'The best deals are deals that work for everybody'

The U.S. president in Asia was hardly the grimacing presence he's been at times in the Oval Office, where he's objected to the support Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has sought in the war against Russia and chastised post-apartheid South Africans on their treatment of white Afrikaners.

In Asia, it was a love fest. Trump said Southeast Asian nations had "spectacular leaders," the new Japanese prime minister was "a winner," and the South Korean president could "go down as the greatest of them all."

Rather than complaining about foreign countries ripping off America, he told business leaders that "the best deals are deals that work for everybody."

Trump was similarly effusive after sitting down on Thursday with Chinese leader Xi Jinping shortly before returning to Washington.

"I guess on the scale from 0 to 10, with 10 being the best, I would say the meeting was a 12," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One.

Diplomacy on his own terms

Trump seems to enjoy doing foreign policy on his own terms. He prizes bold shows of force, like attacking nuclear sites in Iran and boats allegedly carrying drugs in the Caribbean. He minimizes participation in lengthy multilateral meetings that can require more listening than talking.

Arriving at the summit for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Trump offered a spot in the armored presidential limousine to Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who was thrilled to join him in the vehicle nicknamed "The Beast."

"When the president arrives, he asked me to join him in the car," Anwar later recalled in a speech. "I said, 'That's against the security and protocol rules,' and he was delighted to break the rules."

The White House said that Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi planned to nominate him for the Nobel Peace Prize, with Takaichi telling him she was "so impressed and inspired" by Trump's commitment to world peace and stability.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung said Trump "will be recognized forever in the history of humanity" if he could bring his peacemaker skills to ending the military standoff with North Korea, before complimenting him for U.S. stock indexes hitting a record high.

Even the far more reserved Xi seemed to suggest that Trump's policies behind elevating America were also good for China.

"I always believe that China's development goes hand in hand with your vision to 'Make America Great Again,'" Xi said through a translator.

While the White House is trumpeting the results of Trump's trip back home, it's unclear how much his foreign policy actions mattered to a country worried about inflation staying high.

Going into the 2025 elections Tuesday with a mayoral race in New York City and governors' elections in Virginia and New Jersey, many Americans are harboring deep anxieties about Trump's leadership. The

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monthlong government shutdown is starting to cause pain with missed paychecks and government food aid no longer being available to millions of families.

About 6 in 10 U.S. adults disapprove of Trump's performance as president, according to an October poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Trump told his audiences in Kuala Lumpur, Tokyo and South Korea that America has never been better. "We're literally sort of an inspiration to a lot of other countries," Trump said.

Dictionary.com's word of the year is '6-7.' But is it even a word and what does it mean?

By JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

Go ahead and roll your eyes. Shrug your shoulders. Or maybe just juggle your hands in the air.

Dictionary.com's word of the year isn't even really a word. It's the viral term "6-7" that kids and teenagers can't stop repeating and laughing about and parents and teachers can't make any sense of.

The word — if you can call it that — exploded in popularity over the summer. It's more of an inside joke with an unclear meaning, driven by social media.

Dictionary.com says its annual selection is a linguistic time capsule reflecting social trends and events. But the site admitted it too is a bit confused by "6-7."

"Don't worry, because we're all still trying to figure out exactly what it means," the site said in its announcement this week.

How did '6-7' become a thing?

It all seems to trace back to rapper Skrilla's song from 2024 called "Doot Doot (6-7)."

That song started appearing in TikTok videos with basketball players, including the NBA's LaMelo Ball who stands 6-foot-7.

Then a boy, now known as "The 6-7 Kid," shouted the ubiquitous phrase while another kid next to him juggled his hands in a video that went viral this year.

That's all it took.

So what does '6-7' mean?

The real answer is no one knows.

And sometimes it depends on who's on the receiving end of "6-7."

Even how to write "6-7" is up for debate — is it "6 7" or "six seven?"

According to Dictionary.com, the phrase could mean "so-so," or "maybe this, maybe that" when combined with the juggling hands gesture.

Merriam-Webster calls it a "a nonsensical expression used especially by teens and tweens."

Some simply use it to frustrate adults when being questioned.

"It's meaningless, ubiquitous, and nonsensical. In other words, it has all the hallmarks of brainrot," Dictionary.com said. "Still, it remains meaningful to the people who use it because of the connection it fosters."

How has the rest of the world responded?

Parents and teachers have created their own videos trying to explain the sensation.

Some offer tips on how to stop their kids from repeating it all day long. Others suggest embracing it — even making "6-7" Halloween costumes — so it will become uncool.

Teachers have banned it. Influencers and child psychologists have tried to make sense of it.

It's even spilled over into the NFL as a way to celebrate big plays.

Why is it word of the year?

Dictionary.com says it looks for words that influence how we talk with each other and communicate online.

The site scoured search engines, headlines and social media trends in making its choice. Online searches for "6-7" took off dramatically over the summer, it said, and haven't slowed, growing by six times since June.

"The Word of the Year isn't just about popular usage; it reveals the stories we tell about ourselves and how we've changed over the year," the site said.

Trump appears to suggest the US will resume testing nuclear weapons for first time in 30 years

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

BUSAN, South Korea (AP) — President Donald Trump appeared to suggest the U.S. will resume testing nuclear weapons for the first time in three decades, saying it would be on an “equal basis” with Russia and China.

The Kremlin pointed out that a global ban on nuclear tests has remained in place, but warned that if any country resumes nuclear testing, Russia would follow suit.

There was no indication the U.S. would start detonating warheads, but Trump offered few details about what seemed to be a significant shift in U.S. policy.

He made the announcement on social media minutes before he met with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday in South Korea to discuss trade. He offered little clarity when he spoke to reporters later aboard Air Force One as he flew back to Washington.

The U.S. military already regularly tests its missiles that are capable of delivering a nuclear warhead, but it has not detonated the weapons since 1992. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which the U.S. signed but did not ratify, has been observed since its adoption by all countries possessing nuclear weapons, North Korea being the only exception.

Trump suggested, however, that changes were necessary because other countries were testing weapons. It was unclear what he was referring to, but it evoked Cold War-era escalations.

“Because of other countries’ testing programs, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis,” he said in a post on his Truth Social site. “That process will begin immediately.”

Kremlin warns that Russia will respond in kind if nuclear tests are resumed

Asked about Trump’s comments, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov reaffirmed an earlier warning from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who said Moscow would resume nuclear tests if others do so first.

“If someone abandons the moratorium, Russia will act accordingly,” Peskov said in a call with reporters.

The White House did not immediately respond to questions seeking more details.

When Trump spoke to reporters later, he appeared to be conflating the testing of missiles that deliver a nuclear warhead with the testing of the warheads.

Other countries, he said, “seem to all be nuclear testing,” but when it comes to the U.S., “We have more nuclear weapons than anybody. We don’t do testing.”

“I see them testing and I say, well, if they’re going to test, I guess we have to test,” Trump said as he continued speaking to reporters.

Trump was asked where the tests would occur and he said, “It’ll be announced. We have test sites.”

Pentagon officials didn’t immediately respond to questions about the announcement from Trump on the nuclear missile tests.

Vice Admiral Richard Correll, Trump’s nominee to lead the military command in charge of the nation’s nuclear arsenal, was pressed by U.S. senators at his confirmation hearing Thursday to try to interpret the president’s comments.

“I wouldn’t presume that the president’s words meant nuclear testing,” Correll said.

“Well, that’s what he said,” Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, said.

Correll pointed out that neither China nor Russia has conducted a nuclear explosive test, but then said, “I’m not reading anything into it or reading anything out of it.”

Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine later questioned whether Trump might have meant the testing of the weapons delivery systems, such as missiles, not the weapons themselves.

“I don’t have insight into the president’s intent,” Correll said. “I agree that that could be an interpretation.”

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday assailed Trump’s announcement, saying in a statement that “current nuclear risks are already alarmingly high.”

“We must never forget the disastrous legacy of over 2,000 nuclear weapons tests carried out over the

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last 80 years," Guterres said, according to his deputy spokesperson, Farhan Haqq.

Russia tests of new nuclear-powered weapons

Putin this week announced that Russia tested a new atomic-powered and nuclear-capable underwater drone and a new nuclear-powered cruise missile. Putin did not announce any tests of Russia's nuclear weapons, however, which last occurred in 1990.

Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, emphasized that Russia's recent tests of the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile and the Poseidon nuclear-powered underwater drone had nothing to do with the global ban on testing nuclear warheads.

"Regarding the tests of the Burevestnik and the Poseidon, we hope that President Trump was correctly informed about it," Peskov said. "There is no way it can be interpreted as nuclear testing."

Trump did not specifically mention the Russian tests in his post, but alluded to the nuclear stockpiles controlled by both Xi and Putin, saying, "Russia is second, and China is a distant third, but will be even within 5 years."

Putin in 2023 signed a bill revoking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test ban, which Moscow said was needed to put Russia on par with the U.S. The global test ban was signed by President Bill Clinton but never ratified by the Senate.

Earlier this year, Trump signaled he wanted to push his Russian and Chinese counterparts in the other direction, saying he wanted to resume nuclear arms control talks with both countries.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson called on the U.S. to refrain from carrying out nuclear tests.

"China hopes the U.S. will earnestly fulfill its obligations under the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and honor its commitment to suspend nuclear testing," Guo Jiakun said at a briefing in Beijing.

Despite his announcement that sounded like an escalation, Trump told reporters that he would like to see a "denuclearization" and "de-escalation."

"We are actually talking to Russia about that," Trump said, though he did not elaborate.

Arms control advocates worried

Daryl Kimball, the executive director of the Washington-based Arms Control Association, quickly criticized the president's announcement and said Trump was "misinformed and out of touch."

Kimball, in social media posts, said the U.S. has no reason to resume nuclear explosive testing and it would take at least 36 months to resume testing at the former test site in Nevada, where the last detonations occurred underground.

Nationals finalizing hire of 33-year-old Blake Butera as manager, AP source says

By NOAH TRISTER AP Baseball Writer

The Washington Nationals are finalizing a deal to hire 33-year-old Blake Butera as manager, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on Thursday on condition of anonymity because nothing had been announced. The Nationals fired Dave Martinez in July, and Miguel Cairo took over on an interim basis.

Butera would be the youngest manager since Minnesota's Frank Quilici in 1972, according to ESPN, which first reported Butera's hiring.

Washington has had six straight losing seasons since Martinez managed them to the 2019 World Series title. The Nationals went 66-96 this year.

Washington also fired president and general manager Mike Rizzo in July. Paul Toboni is the team's new president of baseball operations.

Butera was a senior director of player development in the Tampa Bay organization. He played two seasons in the Rays' minor league system after being drafted in the 35th round out of Boston College in 2015. It did not take him long to go into managing.

He was a bench coach for short-season Hudson Valley in 2017, then was promoted to manager the fol-

lowing year, becoming the youngest skipper in minor league baseball at 25. He managed Hudson Valley for two seasons and Class A Charleston (2021-22) for two more.

Butera's player development background may be even more intriguing for the Nationals, who broke up their championship core by trading Juan Soto, Trea Turner and Max Scherzer and have tried to rebuild around players like 23-year-old slugger James Wood. It's been slow going.

Toboni is just a couple years older than Butera, and now the Nationals move forward with those two leading the way after an extended stretch under Rizzo and Martinez. They'll certainly hope this new pairing can bring them to similar heights.

Washington has not spent much recently, and after a couple years attempting to sell the team, Mark Lerner and his family decided not to. But the young core still has potential. Wood hit 31 home runs this year in his first full season. The Nats also took shortstop Eli Wilkits with the No. 1 pick in last year's draft.

Atlanta, San Diego and Colorado remain uncertain about their managerial spots heading into the off-season. Texas hired Skip Schumaker, Baltimore went with Craig Albarnaz, San Francisco pulled Tony Vitello from the college ranks, the Angels picked Kurt Suzuki and Minnesota announced Thursday it had chosen Derek Shelton.

Judge questions the Trump administration's plan to suspend SNAP benefits for millions

By MICHAEL CASEY and GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A federal judge in Boston on Thursday seemed skeptical of the Trump's administration's argument that SNAP benefits could be suspended for the first time in the food aid program's history because of the government shutdown.

During a hearing over a request by 25 Democratic-led states to keep the funding flowing, U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani told lawyers that if the government can't afford to cover the cost, there's a process to follow rather than simply suspending all benefits. "The steps involve finding an equitable way of reducing benefits," said Talwani, who was nominated to the court by then-President Barack Obama.

Talwani said she expects to issue a ruling later Thursday and seemed to be leaning toward requiring the government to put billions of dollars in emergency funds toward SNAP. That, she said, is her interpretation of what Congress intended when an agency's funding runs out.

"If you don't have money, you tighten your belt," she said in court. "You are not going to make everyone drop dead because it's a political game someplace."

Talwani acknowledged that even ordering emergency funds to pay for SNAP might still be painful for some SNAP recipients because it could mean they get less money and that the money they do get could be delayed. "We are dealing with a reality that absent a 100% win for you, the benefits aren't going to be there on Nov. 1," she told the plaintiffs.

The hearing came two days before the U.S. Department of Agriculture planned to freeze payments to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program because it said it can't continue funding it due to the shutdown.

Other lawsuits have been filed over the program's suspension, including one filed Thursday in Rhode Island by a coalition of eight cities and community, business and union organizations.

SNAP, which costs about \$8 billion per month, serves about 1 in 8 Americans and is a major piece of the nation's social safety net. Word in October that it would be a Nov. 1 casualty of the shutdown sent states, food banks and SNAP recipients scrambling to figure out how to secure food. Some states said they would spend their own funds to keep versions of the program going.

President Donald Trump's administration said it wasn't allowed to use a contingency fund with about \$5 billion in it for the program, which reversed a USDA plan from before the shutdown that said that money would be tapped to keep SNAP running. The Democratic-led states argued that not only could that contingency money be used, it must be. They also said a separate fund with around \$23 billion could be tapped.

Although the states requested the funding continue only in their jurisdictions, the judge indicated that any ruling would apply nationwide, saying it wouldn't be fair to treat recipients differently depending on

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which state they live in. A ruling that would apply everywhere could defy the intentions of the U.S. Supreme Court, which has limited the use of nationwide injunctions, though it hasn't prohibited them.

Much of the hearing revolved around what Congress intended to do when the agency runs out of money for the program. Talwani pushed back against the Trump administration's argument that suspending the benefits was the best option, saying using emergency funds for benefits, albeit reduced, seemed to make the most sense.

"It's hard to me to understand that this is not an emergency, when there is no money and a lot of people are needing their SNAP benefits," she said.

Lawyers for the federal government argued that dispersing the full benefits would violate a law that bars the government from paying for programs without a congressional appropriation.

And in court papers, the government said partial payments would require complicated recalculations of benefits that could take weeks.

The plaintiffs argued in their lawsuit that failing to maintain the SNAP funding would hurt public health, make it harder for children to learn in school, drive up government health care expenditures and hurt the retailers that rely on SNAP payments.

To qualify for SNAP in 2025, a family of four's net income can't exceed the federal poverty line, which is about \$31,000 per year. Last year, SNAP provided assistance to 41 million people, nearly two-thirds of whom were families with children, according to the lawsuit.

Trump sets 7,500 annual limit for refugees entering US. It'll be mostly white South Africans

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is restricting the number of refugees admitted annually to the United States to 7,500 and they will mostly be white South Africans, a dramatic drop announced Thursday that effectively suspends America's traditional role as a haven for those fleeing war and persecution.

The move cements a major shift in policy toward refugees that aligns with the Republican administration's broader goals of keeping out foreigners whom it deems a risk to the nation's security or a threat to U.S. jobs. That shift has meant increased immigration enforcement, in cities and at borders and entry points, in what's become a vastly changed landscape in a country long seen as a beacon for migrants.

No reason was given for the new numbers, which were published in a notice on the Federal Register and are a steep decrease from last year's ceiling of 125,000 set under Democratic President Joe Biden. The Associated Press previously reported that the administration was considering admitting as few as 7,500 refugees and mostly white South Africans.

The notice said the admission of the 7,500 refugees during the 2026 budget year, which began Oct. 1, was "justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest." It made no mention of any other specific groups to be admitted besides the white South Africans, known also as Afrikaners.

"Other victims of illegal or unjust discrimination in their respective homelands" will be considered as refugees, according to the notice, which gave no specifics on who that could entail.

The lower cap represents another blow for the long-standing refugee program that until recently enjoyed bipartisan support.

Groups denounce the historically low cap

Groups that work to resettle refugees said the announcement was an abdication of the country's historic role in welcoming refugees from around the world.

"This decision doesn't just lower the refugee admissions ceiling. It lowers our moral standing," said Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, President and CEO of Global Refugee, one of the nationwide resettlement agencies. "To concentrate the vast majority of admissions on one group undermines the program's purpose as well as its credibility."

Trump suspended the refugee program on his first day in office and since then only a trickle have entered

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the country, mostly white South Africans. Some refugees have also been admitted as part of a court case seeking to allow entry to refugees who were overseas and in the process of coming to the U.S. when the program was suspended.

The International Refugee Assistance Project, which sued over the program's suspension, said in a statement that refugees waiting to be admitted to the U.S. have already gone through rigorous security checks and are stuck in dangerous conditions.

"By privileging Afrikaners while continuing to ban thousands of refugees who have already been vetted and approved, the administration is once again politicizing a humanitarian program," said the group's president, Sharif Aly.

Other nationalities, including Afghans, are left out

The administration announced the program for the Afrikaners in February, saying that white South African farmers faced discrimination and violence at home. The South African government strongly denied it.

Presidents have the authority to set the cap on refugee admissions as they see fit, often taking input from the State Department or consulting with the refugee resettlement agencies. This cap would set a historic low of refugees admitted to the U.S. since the program's inception in 1980.

During his first term, Trump progressively set the cap increasingly lower each year until it reach 15,000 in the last year of his administration.

The determinations usually lay out which regions of the world the refugees will come from over the upcoming year.

Left out from Thursday's notice were Afghans, many of whom have been trying to flee the Taliban after the U.S. withdrawal there in 2021.

A separate program for Afghans who worked closely with the U.S. government is still admitting Afghans into the country. But tens of thousands of others who also contributed to the U.S. mission there have been trying to emigrate to America via the refugee program and this year have been largely shut out.

Shawn VanDiver, president of #AfghanEvac, which advocates for resettling at-risk Afghans, described the decision Thursday as a "horrendous betrayal."

"I think we need to face facts. This means that the president and the White House ... are not going to allow Afghan refugees to come here," he said in a video posted on Instagram. "This is a really bad day."

What Israel's deadly strikes in Gaza, and Trump's response, reveal about the ceasefire

By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's intense bombardment of the Gaza Strip this week marked the most serious challenge yet for a fragile, U.S.-brokered ceasefire deal.

Over 100 Palestinians were killed, including dozens of civilians, according to Gaza health officials. One Israeli soldier was killed in an attack that helped prompt the fierce Israeli strikes. President Donald Trump defended Israel's actions but also made clear that the U.S. expects the broader truce, which began Oct. 10, to hold.

By early Wednesday, the ceasefire had been restored almost as quickly as it had unraveled. In another positive sign, Israel said Thursday that Hamas had returned the remains of two dead hostages.

The chain of events underscored the fragility of the deal between Israel and Hamas, but also showed how intent the U.S. is on keeping it going.

Here are some takeaways from a tense three days in the region.

Trump will allow Israel to bomb, but won't let deal collapse

Trump has staked his personal reputation on the success of this deal and poured diplomatic and military resources into making sure it succeeds.

Trump himself flew to the region to usher in the agreement, visiting Israel and then meeting with key Arab and other international leaders in Egypt.

Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and two senior advisers — White House envoy

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Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner — have all visited Israel in recent days, a sign of the deal's importance to the U.S.

The U.S. is also leading a new international effort meant to coordinate aid shipments into Gaza and to bolster the agreement.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Trump defended Israel's actions, saying it "should hit back" when its troops come under attack.

Yet he also signaled that he will keep Israel in check, saying he is confident the ceasefire will stick.

Vance also tried to play down the violence, saying Tuesday that "the ceasefire is holding."

"That doesn't mean there aren't going to be little skirmishes here and there," he said.

Despite ceasefire, Gaza civilians are paying a heavy price

The Israeli military has a long history of tough responses to enemy attacks, and Tuesday night's airstrikes were no exception.

Israel said it struck dozens of Hamas militants and military sites. Palestinian health officials said that scores of women and children, including a 1-year-old, were killed in the attacks.

After announcing the ceasefire was back on, the military said it carried out another airstrike in northern Gaza, targeting what it called a site where weapons were being stored for an imminent attack. Shifa Hospital in Gaza City said it received two bodies from the strike. Israel's military continued to strike militant infrastructure in Gaza overnight into Thursday, sending at least 40 injured people to Nasser Hospital in south Gaza, according to Mohammad Saar, head of the nursing department.

Israel's five wars against Hamas, along with recent conflicts with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group and Hamas, have all been characterized by lopsided death tolls with large numbers of civilian deaths.

During the 12-day war between Israel and Iran earlier this year, for instance, Iran said over 1,000 Iranians were killed. Israel's government said around 30 Israelis lost their lives in Iranian missile attacks.

Israel says it complies with international law and only strikes military targets, while accusing its enemies of using civilians as human shields. But human rights groups have repeatedly accused Israel of using disproportionate force.

Israel will hold Hamas responsible for any perceived truce violation

Since Hamas seized control of Gaza in 2007, Israel has said the Islamic militant group is responsible for all violence emanating from the territory, even when Hamas denies involvement.

That still appears to be the case: Hamas said it was not involved in Tuesday's shooting of the Israeli soldier in the southern Gaza city of Rafah.

Increasing the likelihood of further fighting, Netanyahu also faces intense pressure from hard-liners to issue a punishing response to any perceived violation of the truce.

With Israeli critics and media accusing Netanyahu of caving to American pressure, the Israeli leader also has been eager to assert his independence. Vance and other Israeli officials have rejected suggestions that they are controlling Israeli actions.

The ceasefire is stuck in its initial phase

Trump has presented a 20-point plan for the ceasefire, beginning with the exchange of hostages, both dead and alive, for living and deceased Palestinian prisoners.

The details of the next phase of the deal — disarming Hamas, installing a new government in Gaza and deploying an international security force -- are yet to be hammered out.

For now, the sides remain stuck in phase one.

Hamas' return of two sets of hostage remains Thursday restored faith in the hostage portion of the fragile ceasefire agreement, especially given that one of the triggers of the deadly Israeli airstrikes on Gaza was Hamas' handling of recent turnovers.

Prior to Thursday's return, Hamas had returned body parts belonging to a hostage whose remains had been recovered by Israel in late 2023, infuriating Israeli officials. Israeli officials also accused Hamas of staging the discovery of hostage remains on Monday, sharing a 14-minute, edited video from a military drone in Gaza.

With mistrust running deep, and the remains of dead hostages still in Gaza, the potential for additional bursts of violence appears to remain high.

5 more arrests as Louvre jewel heist probe deepens and key details emerge

By THOMAS ADAMSON and ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The dragnet tightened around the Louvre thieves on Thursday. Five more people were seized in the crown-jewels heist — including a suspect tied by DNA — the Paris prosecutor said, widening the sweep across the capital and its suburbs.

Authorities said three of the four alleged members of the “commando” team, as French media have dubbed the robbers, are now in custody.

The late-night operations in Paris and nearby Seine-Saint-Denis lift the total arrested to seven. Prosecutor Laure Beccau told RTL that one detainee is suspected of belonging to the brazen quartet that burst into the Apollo Gallery in broad daylight on Oct. 19; others held “may be able to inform us about how the events unfolded.”

Beccau called the response an “exceptional mobilization” — about 100 investigators, seven days a week, with roughly 150 forensic samples analyzed and 189 items sealed as evidence.

Even so, she said the latest arrests did not uncover the loot — a trove valued around \$102 million that includes a diamond-and-emerald necklace Napoleon gave to Empress Marie-Louise as a wedding gift, jewels tied to 19th-century Queens Marie-Amélie and Hortense, and Empress Eugénie’s pearl-and-diamond tiara.

Only one relic has surfaced so far — Eugénie’s crown, damaged but salvageable, dropped in the escape. Beccau renewed her appeal: “These jewels are now, of course, unsellable... There’s still time to give them back.”

Experts warn the gold could be melted and the stones re-cut to erase their past.

From Louvres to the Louvre: Planning a 4-minute crime

Key planning details have snapped into focus. Nine days before the raid, a mover who owns a truck-mounted lift — the kind movers use to hoist furniture through Parisian windows — was mysteriously booked for a “moving job” on the French classifieds site Leboncoin, a site similar to Craigslist, Beccau said Wednesday.

When he arrived in the town of Louvres, north of Paris, around 10 a.m. on Oct. 10, two men ambushed him and stole the lift truck.

On the day of the heist itself, that same vehicle idled beneath the Paris museum’s riverside façade.

Online observers have noted a remarkable coincidence: How a plot that began in Louvres ended at the Louvre.

At 9:30 a.m. the basket lift rose to the Apollo Gallery window; at 9:34 the glass gave way; by 9:38 the crew was gone — a four-minute strike. Only the “near-simultaneous” arrival of police and museum security stopped the thieves from torching the lift and preserved crucial traces, the prosecutor said.

Security footage shows at least four men forcing a window, cutting into two display cases with power tools and fleeing on two scooters toward eastern Paris. Investigators say there is no sign of insider help for now, though they are not ruling out a wider network beyond the four on camera.

The reckoning over security

French police have acknowledged major gaps in the Louvre’s defenses, turning an audacious theft — carried out as visitors walked the corridors — into a national reckoning over how France protects its treasures.

Paris police chief Patrice Faure told senators the first alert to police came not from the Louvre’s security systems but from a cyclist outside who dialed the emergency line after seeing helmeted men with a basket lift. He acknowledged that aging, partly analog cameras and slow fixes left seams; \$93 million of CCTV cabling work won’t finish before 2029–30, and the Louvre’s camera authorization even lapsed in July. Officers arrived fast, he said, but the delay came earlier in the chain.

Speaking to AP, former bank robber David Desclos characterized the heist as textbook and said he

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had warned the Louvre of glaring vulnerabilities in the layout of the Apollo Gallery. The Louvre has not responded to the claim.

Who's charged already

Two earlier suspects, men aged 34 and 39 from Aubervilliers, north of Paris, were charged Wednesday with theft by an organized gang and criminal conspiracy after nearly 96 hours in custody. Beccau said both gave "minimalist" statements and "partially admitted" their involvement.

One was stopped at Charles-de-Gaulle Airport with a one-way ticket to Algeria; his DNA matched a scooter used in the getaway.

French law normally keeps active investigations under a shroud of secrecy to protect police work and victims' privacy. Only the prosecutor may speak publicly, though in high-profile cases police unions have occasionally shared partial details.

The brazen smash-and-grab inside the world's most-visited museum stunned the heritage world. Four men, a lift truck and a stopwatch turned the Apollo Gallery's blaze of gold and light into a crime scene — and a test of how France guards what it holds most dear.

Neck-and-neck finish in Dutch election as Wilders' far-right party and centrist D66 tie

By MIKE CORDER and MOLLY QUELL Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders' far-right Party for Freedom and the centrist D66 were tied with nearly all votes counted Thursday in the Dutch general election in an unprecedented neck-and-neck race to become the biggest party.

The near-total count tallied and published by Dutch national news agency ANP and cited by Dutch media showed each party winning 26 seats in Wednesday's election.

The nail-biting finish is expected to lead to delays in starting the process of forming a new coalition. No Dutch election has previously ended with two parties tied for the lead.

When D66 reached its previous record of 24 seats in in 2021, the leader at the time, Sigrid Kaag, danced for joy on a table at a party meeting.

This time, current D66 leader Rob Jetten cut cake for the party faithful gathered at Parliament.

"This is the best result for D66 ever," the 38-year old told a crowd party insiders and media on Thursday morning after he'd been welcomed with chants of the party's optimistic election slogan "Het kan wel," or "It is possible."

Wilders' Party for Freedom is forecast to lose 11 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives, while D66 gains 17, according to the vote count.

Wilders insisted early Thursday that his party, known by its Dutch acronym PVV, should play a leading role in coalition talks if it is the largest.

"As long as there's no 100% clarity on this, no D66 scout can get started. We will do everything we can to prevent this," he said. A scout is an official appointed by the winning party to look into possible coalitions.

Wilders faces an uphill battle to return to government, however. Mainstream parties including D66 have ruled out forming a coalition with the PVV, arguing that Wilders' decision to torpedo the outgoing four-party coalition in June in a dispute over migration underscored that he is an untrustworthy partner.

As a result, which party ultimately gets the largest number of seats is "completely and utterly irrelevant," political scientist Henk van der Kolk told The Associated Press.

Van der Kolk sees a possible path forward with a centrist coalition of D66, the center-left bloc of the Labor Party and Green Left, the center-right Christian Democrats and the right-wing People's Party for Freedom and Democracy.

In fallout from the vote, former European Commission vice president Frans Timmermans said he was quitting Dutch politics after the center-left bloc he led lost seats in an election it had hoped to win.

The election is "unlikely to mark the end of populism in the Netherlands," said Armida van Rij, senior research fellow at the Centre for European Reform think tank. She noted that another right-wing party,

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JA21, which she described as a "PVV-light party with equally undemocratic ideas," made big gains. The party had one seat in the last parliament and is forecast to rise to nine seats.

The vote came against a backdrop of deep polarization in the Netherlands, a nation once famed as a beacon of tolerance. Violence erupted at a recent anti-immigration rally in The Hague — when rioters smashed the windows of the D66 headquarters — and protests against new asylum-seeker centers have been seen in municipalities around the country.

In the splintered Dutch political landscape, forming a coalition is likely to take weeks or months.

While party leaders were handing out cake to their members, thousands of volunteers were trying to finalize the ballot count.

The ballots of some 135,000 Dutch nationals who voted by mail are also outstanding. The Electoral College will certify the count next week.

Counting was halted in the southern town of Venray, a Wilders stronghold, after a fuse box caught fire and volunteers were evacuated. No one was injured but it was not clear when work will resume.

What to know about the white South Africans Trump is prioritizing in reduced US refugee quota

By GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump is prioritizing white South Africans in a dramatically decreased quota of refugees allowed into the United States this fiscal year.

The Trump administration is cutting the number of refugee places to as few as 7,500 from a limit of 125,000 last year under the Biden administration, with the places mostly going to members of the Afrikaner white minority from South Africa.

The figure is for the fiscal year that started Oct. 1, and the administration published the news Thursday in a notice on the Federal Registry. It said the reduction for 2026 was "justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest."

Since Trump took office, the U.S. has said that Afrikaners should be resettled because they are being discriminated against by their Black-led government, are the victims of race-based violence and are having their land seized.

The South African government strongly denies those claims, calling them "completely false" and the result of misinformation.

Arrivals to U.S.

The Trump administration had already announced a new program earlier this year to fast-track the relocation of Afrikaner farmers to the U.S. while suspending the refugee program from other parts of the world.

Around 70 white South Africans were relocated to the U.S. in two groups in May and June in what U.S. officials described as the start of the program. Around 400 white South Africans in total have reportedly been moved to the U.S. already.

Colonial settler descendants

Afrikaners are the descendants of mainly Dutch and French colonial settlers who first arrived in South Africa in the 17th century. They are just one of South Africa's white minorities, which also include South Africans of British descent.

Afrikaners speak Afrikaans, a language derived from Dutch that is widely spoken and recognized as one of South Africa's 11 official languages.

Afrikaners were at the heart of the apartheid system of racial segregation in South Africa that lasted from 1948 until 1994, when Nelson Mandela was elected as the country's first Black president in the first democratic, all-race elections. Their leading role in apartheid has led to some lingering racial tensions, but Afrikaners have generally embraced their country's new multiracial democracy just like most other South Africans.

There are now around 2.7 million Afrikaners in South Africa's population of 62 million, which is more than 80% Black. They are represented in every facet of South African life and are successful business leaders,

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some of the country's best-known athletes, and also serve in government.

Claims of persecution

Conservative commentators in the U.S. have in recent years amplified complaints by some Afrikaner lobby groups in South Africa that they are being persecuted by their Black-led government. South African-born billionaire Elon Musk has backed those claims and accused the South African government of being racist against whites.

The lobby groups cited South Africa's long-standing affirmative action laws, which seek to advance opportunities for Black South Africans who were oppressed under apartheid. The groups have also claimed that a small number of violent attacks on white farmers are racially motivated. They say a new law passed by the government allowing it to expropriate land without compensation is further evidence that it wants to remove whites from their land.

South Africa's government denied the claims, saying farm attacks account for a tiny percentage of the country's overall high violent crime rates, and that all South Africans are impacted by crime. The government said that the new expropriation law is aimed at redistributing land that isn't being put to use to poor Black South Africans.

The issue of white South Africans was at the center of a tense meeting between Trump and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at the White House in May, when Trump confronted his counterpart in the Oval Office with baseless claims of widespread violence against white farmers.

Claims of persecution aren't unanimous among the Afrikaner group, and many Afrikaners in South Africa have also refuted the Trump administration's claims.

Trump's executive order

Trump issued an executive order in February — around two weeks after he took office — accusing the South African government of "egregious actions" and rights violations against the Afrikaner minority.

The executive order instructed U.S. agencies, including the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security, to prioritize humanitarian relief and the relocation of Afrikaners to the U.S. under the United States Refugee Admissions Program.

It's not clear how many South Africans have applied for refugee status, and the Afrikaner lobby groups critical of the South African government have called for Afrikaners to stay in their country. The South African government has refused to recognize them as refugees, saying they aren't being persecuted but it also won't stop them from leaving.

The U.S. Embassy in South Africa said in September that there was a "sizable volume of submissions" to work through, without saying exactly how many.

Young T. rex or a new dinosaur? New bones add to the debate

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists have long puzzled over the origins of a mysterious dinosaur excavated in the 1940s: Was it a young T. rex or another type of dinosaur?

At first, researchers had only a tyrannosaur skull to go by, making it hard to tell if it belonged to a child or adult. Another skull and skeleton nicknamed Jane added to the debate, but didn't settle the controversy.

Now a research team said there's new evidence that resolves the case. The latest clue comes from a complete skeleton — first uncovered in 2006 in Montana — that scientists say identifies the mystery reptile as its own species and not a juvenile *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

The discovery "rewrites decades of research on Earth's most famous predator," said study co-author Lindsay Zanno with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and North Carolina State University.

Growth rings within the bones found in Montana's Hell Creek Formation told scientists the new dinosaur was an adult about half the size of a fully-fledged T. rex. From growth comparisons to other reptiles like crocodiles, they also found that the major differences between the creature's skull and an adult T. rex's — changes in bone structure, nerve patterns and sinuses — were unlikely to form from simply going through puberty.

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Signs pointed to a dinosaur that's a distant T. rex cousin known as Nanotyrannus lancensis, the researchers reported in a study published Thursday in the journal Nature.

There's now "more support and evidence than there ever has been" that this T. rex relative could exist, said Holly Woodward, a fossil bone expert from Oklahoma State University who had no role in the new study. But she's not yet convinced that the other mystery skeletons like Jane are something new.

Other independent scientists also said the debate isn't over. The new skeleton is indeed an adult, but it could be a sister species to T. rex and not a distant relative, said vertebrate paleontologist Thomas Carr of Carthage College.

There are similarities between the shape of T. rex's skull and the mystery specimens that keep him from switching camps.

"I don't think this study settles everything," he said.

Resolving this case of mistaken identity is important to understanding how T. rex grew up, said study co-author James Napoli with Stony Brook University. Another big question is whether T. rex was the main predator prowling toward the end of the age of dinosaurs 67 million years ago — or whether a tinier, but still mighty predator also roamed.

The new skeleton is dubbed "Dueling Dinosaurs" because it was found intertwined with the bones of a Triceratops, and is currently on display at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

Last-minute scramble over pay takes a toll on military families during the shutdown

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government shutdown is exacting a heavy mental toll on the nation's military families, leaving them not knowing from week to week whether their paychecks will arrive.

Alicia Blevins, whose husband is a Marine, said she's going to see a therapist in large part because of the grinding uncertainty.

"I don't feel like I have the tools to deal with this," said Blevins, 33, who lives at Camp Lejeune, a Marine base near North Carolina's coast. "I don't want to dump all this on my husband. He's got men that he's in charge of. He's got enough to deal with."

Even though the Trump administration has found ways to pay the troops twice since the shutdown began on Oct. 1, the process has been fraught with anxiety for many Americans in uniform and their loved ones. Both times, they were left hanging until the last minute.

Four days before paychecks were supposed to go out on Oct. 15, President Donald Trump directed the Pentagon to use "all available funds" to ensure U.S. troops were paid. With the next payday approaching Friday, the White House confirmed Wednesday that it had found the money.

The Trump administration plans to move around \$5.3 billion from various accounts, with about \$2.5 billion coming from Trump's big tax and spending cuts bill that was signed into law this summer.

But the scrounging in Washington for troop pay can only last for so long.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the government will soon run out of ways to compensate the military and that by Nov. 15, the troops "aren't going to be able to get paid."

'We're not being thought of at all'

The uncertainty has been fueling resentment among families of the roughly 2 million active duty service members, National Guard members and reservists. There's a common refrain that the troops are being used as pawns.

But Jennifer Bittner, whose husband is an Army officer, said that gives Congress too much credit.

"You have to be thought of to be used as a pawn," said Bittner, 43, of Austin, Texas. "And we're not being thought of at all."

Bittner's 6-year-old daughter is using three inhalers right now because she has high-risk asthma, a chronic lung condition and a cold. Each device requires a \$38 copay at the pharmacy. Bittner's severely autistic

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son requires diapers that cost \$200 a month, while she sometimes has to haggle with military insurance to cover the expense.

She worries about those costs as well as the mortgage and groceries for their family of five.

"It is mentally and sometimes physically exhausting stressing about it," Bittner said of her husband possibly missing a paycheck, while noting that members of Congress are still getting paid.

Many active duty troops live paycheck to paycheck and survive on only one income. Even when they get paid, the shutdown is deepening the financial strain that many families face, said Delia Johnson, chief operating officer for the nonprofit Military Family Advisory Network.

The Oct. 15 paychecks arrived days after they usually do for many people with early direct deposit to their bank accounts, disrupting their ability to pay bills on time and forcing some to pay late fees or rack up debt, Johnson said. Active duty troops also may be dealing with the added expense of moving from one base to another, which she said occurs for roughly 400,000 military households each year.

And many military spouses lose their jobs because of the move or are underemployed from frequent relocations, Johnson said. Reimbursements for moving costs are paused for many during the shutdown, while not all expenses are being repaid.

Reservists are losing weekend drill pay

Monthly weekend drills for many reservists also have been canceled, eliminating a chunk of pay that can be several hundred dollars each month, military advocates said. Besides helping with mortgages and other bills, the drill money is used by some reservists to cover premiums for military health insurance, said John Hashem, executive director of the Reserve Organization of America, an advocacy group.

"People rely on that money," Hashem said of the drill pay. "The way that this is stretching out right now, it's almost like the service is taken for granted."

The reserve organization, along with other groups, urged leaders in Congress in a letter Tuesday to pass a measure to pay National Guard members and reservists.

The financial strain exacerbated by the shutdown prompted the Military Family Advisory Network to set up an emergency grocery support program this month. The nonprofit said 50,000 military families signed up within 72 hours.

The food boxes were assembled in a Houston warehouse by the grocery and logistics company Umoja Health, said chief marketing officer Missy Hunter, and contained everything from noodles and spaghetti sauce to pancake mix and syrup.

Blevins said she and her husband received a box, which provided some peace of mind. In the meantime, she said, her husband is still working, coming home exhausted and with a "long gaze" in his eyes.

The couple moved to North Carolina from Camp Pendleton in California in September, drawing down their savings. They're still waiting for roughly \$9,000 in reimbursement.

"We're constantly checking the news," Blevins said. "And my Facebook feed is nothing but, 'It's the Democrats' fault. It's the Republicans' fault.' And I'm just like, can't we just get off the blame game and get this taken care of?"

How tiny drones inspired by bats could save lives in dark and stormy conditions

By HOLLY RAMER Associated Press

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP) — Don't be fooled by the fog machine, spooky lights and fake bats: the robotics lab at Worcester Polytechnic Institute lab isn't hosting a Halloween party.

Instead, it's a testing ground for tiny drones that can be deployed in search and rescue missions even in dark, smoky or stormy conditions.

"We all know that when there's an earthquake or a tsunami, the first thing that goes down is power lines. A lot of times, it's at night, and you're not going to wait until the next morning to go and rescue survivors," said Nitin Sanket, assistant professor of robotics engineering. "So we started looking at nature. Is there a creature in the world which can actually do this?"

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Sanket and his students found their answer in bats and the winged mammal's highly sophisticated ability to echolocate, or navigate via reflected sound. With a National Science Foundation grant, they're developing small, inexpensive and energy-efficient aerial robots that can be flown where and when current drones can't operate.

Last month, emergency workers in Pakistan used drones to find people stranded on rooftops by massive floods. In August, a rescue team used a drone to find a California man who got trapped for two days behind a waterfall. And in July, drones helped find a stable route to three mine workers who spent more than 60 hours trapped underground in Canada.

But while drones are becoming more common in search and rescue, Sanket and researchers elsewhere want to move beyond the manually operated individual robots being used today. A key next step is developing aerial robots that can be deployed in swarms and make their own decisions about where to search, said Ryan Williams, an associate professor at Virginia Tech.

"That type of deployment — autonomous drones — that is effectively nil," he said.

Williams tackled that problem with a recent project that involved programming drones to choose search trajectories in coordination with human searchers. Among other things, his team used historical data from thousands of missing person cases to create a model predicting how someone would behave if lost in the woods.

"And then we used that model to better localize our drones, to search in locations with higher chances of finding someone," he said.

At WPI, Sanket's project addresses other limitations of current drones, including their size and perception capabilities.

"Current robots are big, bulky, expensive and cannot work in all sorts of scenarios," he said.

By contrast, his drone fits in the palm of his hand, is made mostly from inexpensive hobby-grade materials and can operate in the dark. A small ultrasonic sensor, not unlike those used in automatic faucets in public restrooms, mimics bat behavior, sending out a pulse of high-frequency sound and using the echo to detect obstacles in its path.

During a recent demonstration, a student used a remote control to launch the drone in a brightly lit room and then again after turning off all but a faintly glowing red light. As it approached a clear, Plexiglas wall, the drone repeatedly halted and backed away, even with the lights off and with fog and fake snow swirling through the air.

"Currently, search and rescue robots are mainly operational in broad daylight," Sanket said. "The problem is that search and rescues are dull, dangerous and dirty jobs that happen a lot of times in darkness."

But development didn't go completely smoothly. The researchers realized that the noise of the bat robot's propellers interfered with the ultrasound, requiring 3D printed shells to minimize the interference. They also used artificial intelligence to teach the drone how to filter and interpret sound signals.

Still, there's a long way to go to match bats, which can contract and compress their muscles to listen only to certain echoes and can detect something as small as a human hair from several meters away.

"Bats are amazing," Sanket said. "We are nowhere close to what nature has achieved. But the goal is that one day in the future, we will be there and these will be useful for deployment in the wild."

Trump cuts tariffs on China after meeting Xi in South Korea

By JOSH BOAK, CHRIS MEGERIAN and MARK SCHIEFELBEIN Associated Press

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE (AP) — President Donald Trump described his face-to-face with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday as a roaring success, saying he would cut tariffs on China, while Beijing had agreed to allow the export of rare earth elements and start buying American soybeans.

The president told reporters aboard Air Force One that the U.S. would lower tariffs implemented earlier this year as punishment on China for its selling of chemicals used to make fentanyl from 20% to 10%. That brings the total combined tariff rate on China down from 57% to 47%.

"I guess on the scale from 0 to 10, with ten being the best, I would say the meeting was a 12," Trump

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said. "I think it was a 12."

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said China agreed to purchase 25 million metric tons of U.S. soybeans annually for the next three years, starting with 12 million metric tons from now to January. U.S. soybean exports to China, a huge market for them, had come to a standstill in the trade dispute.

"So you know, our great soybean farmers, who the Chinese used as political pawns, that's off the table, and they should prosper in the years to come," Bessent told Fox Business Network's "Mornings with Maria."

Trump said that he would go to China in April and Xi would come to the U.S. "some time after that." The president said they also discussed the export of more advanced computer chips to China, saying that Nvidia would be in talks with Chinese officials.

Trump said he could sign a trade deal with China "pretty soon."

Xi said Washington and Beijing would work to finalize their agreements to provide "peace of mind" to both countries and the rest of the world, according to a report on the meeting distributed by state media.

"Both sides should take the long-term perspective into account, focusing on the benefits of cooperation rather than falling into a vicious cycle of mutual retaliation," he said.

Sources of tension remain

Despite Trump's optimism after a 100-minute meeting with Xi in South Korea, there continues to be the potential for major tensions between the world's two largest economies. Both nations are seeking dominant places in manufacturing, developing emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, and shaping world affairs like Russia's war in Ukraine.

Trump's aggressive use of tariffs since returning to the White House for a second term, combined with China's retaliatory limits on exports of rare earth elements, gave the meeting newfound urgency. There is a mutual recognition that neither side wants to risk blowing up the world economy in ways that could jeopardize their own country's fortunes.

When the two were seated at the start of the meeting, Xi read prepared remarks that stressed a willingness to work together despite differences.

"Given our different national conditions, we do not always see eye to eye with each other," he said through a translator. "It is normal for the two leading economies of the world to have frictions now and then."

There was a slight difference in translation as China's Xinhua News Agency reported Xi as telling Trump that having some differences is inevitable.

Finding ways to lower the temperature

The leaders met in Busan, South Korea, a port city about 76 kilometers (47 miles) south from Gyeongju, the main venue for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

In the days leading up to the meeting, U.S. officials signaled that Trump did not intend to make good on a recent threat to impose an additional 100% import tax on Chinese goods, and China showed signs it was willing to relax its export controls on rare earths and also buy soybeans from America.

Officials from both countries met earlier this week in Kuala Lumpur to lay the groundwork for their leaders. Afterward, China's top trade negotiator Li Chenggang said they had reached a "preliminary consensus," a statement affirmed by U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent who said there was "a very successful framework."

Shortly before the meeting on Thursday, Trump posted on Truth Social that the meeting would be the "G2," a recognition of America and China's status as the world's biggest economies. The Group of Seven and Group of 20 are other forums of industrialized nations.

But while those summits often happen at luxury spaces, this meeting took place in humbler surroundings: Trump and Xi met in a small gray building with a blue roof on a military base adjacent to Busan's international airport.

The anticipated detente has given investors and businesses caught between the two nations a sense of relief. The U.S. stock market has climbed on the hopes of a trade framework coming out of the meeting.

Pressure points remain for both US and China

Trump has outward confidence that the grounds for a deal are in place, but previous negotiations with

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China this year in Geneva, Switzerland and London had a start-stop quality to them. The initial promise of progress has repeatedly given way to both countries seeking a better position against the other.

"The proposed deal on the table fits the pattern we've seen all year: short-term stabilization dressed up as strategic progress," said Craig Singleton, senior director of the China program at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. "Both sides are managing volatility, calibrating just enough cooperation to avert crisis while the deeper rivalry endures."

The U.S. and China have each shown they believe they have levers to pressure the other, and the past year has demonstrated that tentative steps forward can be short-lived.

For Trump, that pressure comes from tariffs.

China had faced new tariffs this year totaling 30%, of which 20% were tied to its role in fentanyl production. But the tariff rates have been volatile. In April, he announced plans to jack the rate on Chinese goods to 145%, only to abandon those plans as markets recoiled.

Then, on Oct. 10, Trump threatened a 100% import tax because of China's rare earth restrictions. That figure, including past tariffs, would now be 47% "effective immediately," Trump told reporters on Thursday.

Xi has his own chokehold on the world economy because China is the top producer and processor of the rare earth minerals needed to make fighter jets, robots, electric vehicles and other high-tech products.

China had tightened export restrictions on Oct. 9, repeating a cycle in which each nation jockey for an edge only to back down after more trade talks.

What might also matter is what happens directly after their talks. Trump plans to return to Washington, while Xi plans to stay on in South Korea to meet with regional leaders during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, which officially begins on Friday.

"Xi sees an opportunity to position China as a reliable partner and bolster bilateral and multilateral relations with countries frustrated by the U.S. administration's tariff policy," said Jay Truesdale, a former State Department official who is CEO of TD International, a risk and intelligence advisory firm.

Mistake-filled legal briefs show the limits of relying on AI tools at work

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Judges around the world are dealing with a growing problem: legal briefs that were generated with the help of artificial intelligence and submitted with errors such as citations to cases that don't exist, according to attorneys and court documents.

The trend serves as a cautionary tale for people who are learning to use AI tools at work. Many employers want to hire workers who can use the technology to help with tasks such as conducting research and drafting reports. As teachers, accountants and marketing professionals begin engaging with AI chatbots and assistants to generate ideas and improve productivity, they're also discovering the programs can make mistakes.

A French data scientist and lawyer, Damien Charlotin, has catalogued at least 490 court filings in the past six months that contained "hallucinations," which are AI responses that contain false or misleading information. The pace is accelerating as more people use AI, he said.

"Even the more sophisticated player can have an issue with this," Charlotin said. "AI can be a boon. It's wonderful, but also there are these pitfalls."

Charlotin, a senior research fellow at HEC Paris, a business school located just outside France's capital city, created a database to track cases in which a judge ruled that generative AI produced hallucinated content such as fabricated case law and false quotes. The majority of rulings are from U.S. cases in which plaintiffs represented themselves without an attorney, he said. While most judges issued warnings about the errors, some levied fines.

But even high-profile companies have submitted problematic legal documents. A federal judge in Colorado ruled that a lawyer for MyPillow Inc., filed a brief containing nearly 30 defective citations as part of

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a defamation case against the company and founder Michael Lindell.

The legal profession isn't the only one wrestling with AI's foibles. The AI overviews that appear at the top of web search result pages frequently contain errors.

And AI tools also raise privacy concerns. Workers in all industries need to be cautious about the details they upload or put into prompts to ensure they're safeguarding the confidential information of employers and clients.

Legal and workplace experts share their experiences with AI's mistakes and describe perils to avoid.

Think of AI as an assistant

Don't trust AI to make big decisions for you. Some AI users treat the tool as an intern to whom you assign tasks and whose completed work you expect to check.

"Think about AI as augmenting your workflow," said Maria Flynn, CEO of Jobs for the Future, a non-profit focused on workforce development. It can act as an assistant for tasks such as drafting an email or researching a travel itinerary, but don't think of it as a substitute that can do all of the work, she said.

When preparing for a meeting, Flynn experimented with an in-house AI tool, asking it to suggest discussion questions based on an article she shared with the team.

"Some of the questions it proposed weren't the right context really for our organization, so I was able to give it some of that feedback ... and it came back with five very thoughtful questions," she said.

Check for accuracy

Flynn also has found problems in the output of the AI tool, which still is in a pilot stage. She once asked it to compile information on work her organization had done in various states. But the AI tool was treating completed work and funding proposals as the same thing.

"In that case, our AI tool was not able to identify the difference between something that had been proposed and something that had been completed," Flynn said.

Luckily, she had the institutional knowledge to recognize the errors. "If you're new in an organization, ask coworkers if the results look accurate to them," Flynn suggested.

While AI can help with brainstorming, relying on it to provide factual information is risky. Take the time to check the accuracy of what AI generates, even if it's tempting to skip that step.

"People are making an assumption because it sounds so plausible that it's right, and it's convenient," Justin Daniels, an Atlanta-based attorney and shareholder with the law firm Baker Donelson, said. "Having to go back and check all the cites, or when I look at a contract that AI has summarized, I have to go back and read what the contract says, that's a little inconvenient and time-consuming, but that's what you have to do. As much as you think the AI can substitute for that, it can't."

Be careful with notetakers

It can be tempting to use AI to record and take notes during meetings. Some tools generate useful summaries and outline action steps based on what was said.

But many jurisdictions require the consent of participants prior to recording conversations. Before using AI to take notes, pause and consider whether the conversation should be kept privileged and confidential, said Danielle Kays, a Chicago-based partner at law firm Fisher Phillips.

Consult with colleagues in the legal or human resources departments before deploying a notetaker in high-risk situations such as investigations, performance reviews or legal strategy discussions, she suggested.

"People are claiming that with use of AI there should be various levels of consent, and that is something that is working its way through the courts," Kays said. "That is an issue that I would say companies should continue to watch as it is litigated."

Protecting confidential information

If you're using free AI tools to draft a memo or marketing campaign, don't tell it identifying information or corporate secrets. Once you've uploaded that information, it's possible others using the same tool might find it.

That's because when other people ask an AI tool questions, it will search available information, including details you revealed, as it builds its answer, Flynn said. "It doesn't discern whether something is public or private," she added.

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Seek schooling

If your employer doesn't offer AI training, try experimenting with free tools such as ChatGPT or Microsoft Copilot. Some universities and tech companies offer classes that can help you develop your understanding of how AI works and ways it can be useful.

A course that teaches people how to construct the best AI prompts or hands-on courses that provide opportunities to practice are valuable, Flynn said.

Despite potential problems with the tools, learning how they work can be beneficial at a time when they're ubiquitous.

"The largest potential pitfall in learning to use AI is not learning to use it at all," Flynn said. "We're all going to need to become fluent in AI, and taking the early steps of building your familiarity, your literacy, your comfort with the tool is going to be critically important."

China agrees to purchase 25 million metric tons of U.S. soybeans annually, treasury secretary says

WASHINGTON (AP) — China has agreed to purchase 25 million metric tons of U.S. soybeans annually as part of an agreement reached by its leaders, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Thursday.

Bessent said China will start by purchasing 12 million metric tons of soybeans from the U.S. between now and January.

"So you know, our great soybean farmers, who the Chinese used as political pawns, that's off the table, and they should prosper in the years to come," Bessent said in an interview on Fox Business Network's "Mornings with Maria." He said the agreement lasts for three years.

Senate hearing for Trump's surgeon general pick is postponed after she goes into labor

By ALI SWENSON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Senate hearing for President Donald Trump's surgeon general pick, Dr. Casey Means, has been postponed because she went into labor, a spokesperson for the Senate health committee said Thursday.

The news came just hours before the 38-year-old Means, who has been pregnant with her first child, was set to appear virtually with the committee for her confirmation hearing. It was not immediately clear when the hearing would be rescheduled.

"Everyone's happy for Dr. Means and her family," said Emily Hilliard, deputy press secretary for the Health and Human Services Department. "This is one of the few times in life it's easy to ask to move a Senate hearing."

Means, a Stanford-educated physician who rose to popularity as a wellness influencer after becoming disillusioned with traditional medicine, was expected to share a vision for ending chronic disease by targeting its root causes, an idea that aligns with the Make America Healthy Again message of her close ally, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

The author and entrepreneur was also expected to defend her credibility amid concerns surfaced about her qualifications and potential conflicts.

As the nation's doctor, the surgeon general is a leader for Americans and health officials on public health issues. If confirmed, Means will represent an administration that has already transformed the public health landscape by calling for increased scrutiny of vaccines, the nation's food supply, pesticides and prescription drugs.

Means has no government experience, and her license to practice as a physician is inactive. Though she went to medical school at Stanford University, she dropped out of her surgical residency program at Oregon Health and Science University in 2018. She later cited her belief that the health care system was broken and exploitative as the reason for her withdrawal.

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Means then turned to alternative approaches to address what she has described as widespread metabolic dysfunction driven largely by poor nutrition and an overabundance of ultra-processed foods. She co-founded Levels, a nutrition, sleep and exercise-tracking app that can also give users insights from blood tests and continuous glucose monitors.

Financial disclosures show she has made hundreds of thousands of dollars promoting health and wellness products, including specialty basil seed supplements, teas and elixirs, probiotic products and a prepared meal delivery service.

An Associated Press investigation found that while recommending these products, she at times failed to disclose that she could profit or benefit from the sales.

In an ethics filing, Means said that if she is confirmed for the post by the full Senate, she will resign from her position with Levels and forfeit or divest stock options and stock in the company. She also pledged to stop working for Rupa, a specialty lab work company for which she developed an online course. While she may continue receiving royalty payments from her book "Good Energy," she will not promote it, the filing said.

The filing also noted she will "not acquire any direct financial interest in entities listed on the Food and Drug Administration's prohibited holdings list."

As surgeon general, Means would oversee 6,000 U.S. Public Health Service Corps members and could issue advisories that warn of public health threats.

She would be tasked with helping promote Kennedy's sprawling MAHA agenda, which calls for removing thousands of additives and chemicals from U.S. foods, rooting out conflicts of interest at federal agencies and incentivizing healthier foods in school lunches and other nutrition programs.

She'd also be free to use the office to advocate on issues related to vaccination — though she would have no role in creating or implementing vaccine policy. Means has mostly steered clear of Kennedy's controversial and debunked views on vaccines, but she has called for more investigations into their safety.

The nomination for President Donald Trump's first pick for surgeon general, former Fox News medical contributor Janette Nesheiwat, was withdrawn after she came under criticism from the Republican president's allies.

Erika Kirk's words spotlight forgiveness in a divided nation

By DEEPA BHARATH Associated Press

"That man, that young man — I forgive him."

Erika Kirk softly spoke those words about the gunman accused of assassinating her husband, conservative activist Charlie Kirk, as she struggled to hold back tears last month during his memorial service.

Her public declaration inspired another. Hollywood actor Tim Allen said he was so moved by her words that he was forgiving the drunken driver who caused his father's death 60 years ago. Barely two weeks after Charlie Kirk's death, members of a Michigan congregation made public that they too were forgiving a gunman, the one who had just attacked their church, killing four people and injuring eight others.

Their high-profile acts of forgiveness are all the more remarkable given the politically charged and highly polarizing climate gripping the U.S. It has pushed people of faith to contemplate what forgiveness means, particularly in the face of violence, trauma and unspeakable grief, and whether it could shift public consciousness toward compassion.

While some see a glimmer of hope in this moment, others are skeptical. Miroslav Volf, professor of theology at Yale Divinity School, said he views President Donald Trump's response to Erika Kirk's words — that he hates his opponents — as the more typical sentiment.

"Erika Kirk's gesture is the outlier," he said. "It was an extraordinary act of courage. But it was also telling that (Trump's) response got the bigger reaction from the crowd at the memorial. You have to wonder about these two very different responses. How do we find space for grace when we are so at odds that we cannot recognize humanity on the other side of the divide?"

Forgiveness, a mandate for Christians

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California pastor Jack Hibbs, who leads Calvary Chapel Chino Hills and is a friend of the Kirks, called her words an “incredibly powerful” message of hope for the shooter, and in keeping with the family’s deep commitment to the Gospel, which commands Christians to forgive even their enemies.

“The Bible warns us that bitterness, when left alone, can grow up in and destroy your heart,” Hibbs said. “So forgiveness was given to us by God to set us free from what’s been done to us.”

The Rev. Thomas Berg, visiting professor at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame, said he hopes Erika Kirk’s gesture “ignites some kind of meaningful national conversation about forgiveness.”

He said forgiveness is not a one-time event, but a process that takes time and work. Berg, who counsels victims of sex abuse in the Catholic Church, warns that it should never be coerced but authentically given — an act that he says has the power to heal the deepest wounds.

He would like to see more public expressions of forgiveness, which could serve as a balm for the country.

“I hope this is not a passing moment,” he said. “The dynamic of forgiveness throws a wrench into the dysfunction of our partisan divides and our inability to have a reasonable exchange of ideas.”

Dave Butler, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and science fiction writer based in Utah, believes forgiveness is a mandate for all Christians, as his church teaches. He started a crowdfunding initiative for the family of the Michigan shooter who opened fire on the Latter-day Saints congregation, which as of this week, had raised a little over \$388,000.

Butler said he started it because — in addition to the grieving church members who had lost loved ones in this mass shooting — there was the family of the gunman that was also traumatized.

“They also did not choose this,” he said. “Nevertheless, they are now short a husband and a father. If we’re not really thoughtful, we might be inclined to see them more as antagonists rather than victims. More than 10,000 people have contributed and they understand what they’re doing is an act of forgiveness.”

Forgiveness from the perspective of Anabaptists

An often-cited modern example of forgiveness is the response of the Amish community around Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania, after a gunman killed five Amish schoolgirls and wounded five more in 2006 before taking his own life. Local Amish immediately expressed forgiveness for the killer and supported his widow.

Amish are part of the wider Anabaptist movement, which puts heavy emphasis on Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, containing some of his most radical and counter-cultural sayings — to love enemies, live simply, bless persecutors, turn the other cheek and to endure sufferings joyfully. In it, Jesus says God will only forgive those who forgive others.

While many outside the Anabaptists’ world have endorsed their beliefs about forgiveness — which they also voiced for Haitian kidnappers of Anabaptist missionaries in 2021 — others say the picture is more complex. Advocates for victims of sexual abuse in Anabaptist communities say victims and their families are often forced to reconcile with abusers after the latter make a confession and undergo a brief period of discipline.

A complicated journey for trauma survivors

The Jewish perspective on forgiveness is different in that it requires the perpetrator to seek forgiveness from the person who has been wronged, said Rabbi Jeffrey Myers. He heads Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh where 11 people from three congregations were killed after a gunman attacked it during Shabbat services on Oct. 27, 2018.

“For me, it’s complicated because there are 11 dead people who cannot be sought for forgiveness,” Myers said, adding that he cannot offer forgiveness because the perpetrator — who faces execution — did not show remorse.

“While the perpetrator has received a measure of justice as outlined by the judicial process, it didn’t give me closure because those 11 people are gone,” Myers said. “There is nothing that makes that pain go away.”

What gives him some comfort is being able to help other congregations that are going through similar trauma. Myers said he was grateful to have received that support from the Rev. Eric Manning, pastor of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, a historically Black church where a self-

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proclaimed white supremacist shot and killed nine congregants on June 17, 2015 — including the church's pastor at the time.

"Today, as someone who belongs to that club no one should belong to, I view it as my sacred obligation to help," Myers said. "Even if I can help one person, that's gratifying, that feels healing."

Peg Durachko, whose husband Dr. Richard Gottfried, a dentist, was one of the victims in the synagogue shooting, said that as a Catholic, she looked to Pope John Paul II for inspiration as she read about how he visited the imprisoned man who shot him and offered forgiveness.

"I recognize (the gunman) as a child of God who made bad choices to lead him in that direction," she said. "I'm not his judge, God is. I want him to have eternal life. I don't harbor hate or ill wishes to anyone, including him. I don't want to carry this baggage of hate."

Today in History: October 31, Indira Gandhi assassinated

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Friday, Oct. 31, the 304th day of 2025. There are 61 days left in the year. This is Halloween.

Today in history:

On Oct. 31, 1984, Indira Gandhi, India's Prime Minister for more than 15 years, was assassinated by two of her own security guards.

Also on this date:

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation making Nevada the 36th state, eight days before the presidential election.

In 1913, the Lincoln Highway, the first automobile highway across the United States, was dedicated.

In 1941, work was completed on the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota, begun in 1927.

In 1950, Earl Lloyd of the Washington Capitols became the first African-American to play in an NBA game; Lloyd would go on to play for nine seasons, winning an NBA championship in 1955 with the Syracuse Nationals.

In 1961, the body of Josef Stalin was removed from Lenin's Tomb as part of the Soviet Union's "de-Stalinization" drive.

In 1999, EgyptAir Flight 990, bound from New York to Cairo, crashed off the Massachusetts coast, killing all 217 people aboard.

In 2005, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court.

In 2011, the United Nations estimated that world population had reached seven billion people (world population is greater than eight billion today).

Today's Birthdays: Former CBS anchorman Dan Rather is 94. Actor Stephen Rea is 79. Olympic gold medal marathoner Frank Shorter is 78. TV host Jane Pauley is 75. Football coach Nick Saban is 74. Film director Peter Jackson is 64. Rock drummer Larry Mullen Jr. (U2) is 64. Rock musician Johnny Marr is 62. Baseball Hall of Famer Fred McGriff is 62. Actor Rob Schneider is 62. Actor Dermot Mulroney is 62. Country singer Darryl Worley is 61. Actor-comedian Mike O'Malley is 59. Rapper and guitarist Adam Horovitz (Beastie Boys) is 59. Rapper Vanilla Ice is 58. Actor Leticia Wright is 32. Singer Willow Smith is 25.