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DAYLIGHT
SAVING TIME INFO
Fall Back

SET YOUR CLOCK BACK ONE HOUR

2 NOVEMBER, 2025

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.

Grand Egyptian Museum Reopens

Egypt will host dozens of world leaders today for the grand opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum, a roughly \$1B tribute to ancient Egypt two decades in the making. Spanning over 5 million square feet and displaying more than 50,000 artifacts, GEM is the world's largest museum dedicated to a single civilization.

Construction began in 2005 on the site just over a mile from the Pyramids of Giza, but halted following the 2011 Arab Spring uprising. Upon taking office in 2014, President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi made massive investments in the project with the aim of revitalizing tourism. Today's ceremony includes the unveiling of two halls dedicated to over 5,300 pieces from King Tutankhamun's tomb, marking the first time all his treasures have been displayed together since their discovery in 1922.

The grand opening was slated for July but postponed following Israel and Iran's airstrike exchange in June. The museum, which partially opened last October, is scheduled to fully open to the public Tuesday.

Judges order Trump administration to continue funding SNAP.

Two federal judges separately ordered the Agriculture Department to use a roughly \$5B contingency fund to keep the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program running this month. The program, which helps about one in eight Americans buy groceries, was set to lapse today due to the government shutdown. The rulings allow the administration to decide whether it will tap additional funds to fully cover the program's roughly \$8B monthly cost.

LA Dodgers push World Series into Game 7.

After losing to the Toronto Blue Jays 6-1 Wednesday, the LA Dodgers won 3-1 last night, tying the best-of-seven World Series 3-3. The champion will be determined in Game 7 tonight at 8 pm ET. Toronto, which hasn't won the World Series since 1993, will host at Rogers Centre. LA won the 2024 World Series 4-1 against the New York Yankees.

UN human rights chief orders investigation into US military strikes in Caribbean.

The UN high commissioner for human rights yesterday called for the US military to halt strikes on alleged drug-trafficking boats in the Caribbean and Pacific. His spokesperson said he believes the strikes violate international law. This public censure from the UN came after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Wednesday announced the 14th strike since September, bringing the death toll to at least 61.

Ohio approves congressional map with two more Republican seats.

Ohio's redistricting commission adopted new US House districts with two additional GOP-leaning districts. The map secured bipartisan support this week after shifting a third in-limbo district in Democrats' favor. The state will maintain 10 Republican-leaning districts and two Democratic-leaning districts. Unlike map revisions in Texas, Missouri, and North Carolina, Ohio's was required by the state constitution. Meanwhile, Virginia's Democratic-led General Assembly advanced a proposed amendment that could enable districts to be redrawn in Democrats' favor.

Researchers design targeted particles to attack ovarian tumors.

Nanoparticles delivering immune-simulating molecules directly to ovarian tumors eliminated metastatic tumors in more than 80% of mice when administered alongside immunotherapy drugs. The combination treatment also trained mice's immune cells to fight new tumor proteins. The advance is significant because ovarian cancer has not historically responded well to immunotherapy drugs alone.

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FBI makes arrests on suspicion of plotting Halloween attack.

FBI agents reportedly arrested two teenagers outside Detroit who were allegedly planning a terrorist attack over Halloween weekend. A law enforcement source said the FBI discovered the teens in an online ISIS chat room and others are being questioned in connection with the plot. Authorities did not provide additional information as of this writing but have said there is no current threat.

Getty Images enters partnership with Perplexity AI.

The visual media company inked a multiyear licensing deal with Perplexity AI Friday, enabling the tech startup's AI tools to use Getty's content. Perplexity will include image credits as part of the deal; financial terms were not disclosed. Getty shares surged 19% on the announcement Friday morning, before closing down 6.5%. Earlier this year, Getty dropped a copyright lawsuit against startup Stability AI. Perplexity faces similar suits from Reddit, Dow Jones, and Merriam-Webster, among others.

Humankind(ness)

Today, we're sharing a story from reader Mike W. in Hilton Head Island, SC.

"My brother found his long lost high school class ring in the mail one day with a nice note attached. It seems the lady found it on a beach in Florida and from the initials in the band she did some digging. She contacted the school and asked if they could match the initials with the student who graduated in 1972. They did, and she then tracked him down at his current address and returned the ring. My brother said they had a nice chat in a call to thank her."

Service Notice: Stanley Monson

Funeral services for Stanley Monson, 80, of Groton will be 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 4th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Pastor Lexy Carson will officiate. Burial with military honors will follow in Bath Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Monday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Stan passed away October 30, 2025 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.

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Base Kamp Lodge had many young and old visitors during the Groton Main Street Halloween Trick or Treat on Friday, 4-6pm. The cool and wet weather did not deter the fun!



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Groton Area Students Selected for 2025 All-State Chorus and Orchestra

Several Groton Area students have been selected to perform at the 2025 South Dakota High School Activities Association All-State Chorus and Orchestra Concert. The event is being held at the Denny Sanford PREMIER Center - Sioux Falls.

Back row: Carlee Johnson (orchestra), Kira Clocksene, Logan Clocksene, Bradyn Wipf, and Mya Feser.

Front row: Aspen Beto, Novalea Warrington, Natalia Warrington, and Tenley Frost.

Students earned the honor through a competitive audition process that recognizes outstanding vocal and instrumental talent from across South Dakota.

The All-State Chorus and Orchestra concert will be streamed on SDPB on Saturday, November 1, at 7 p.m. CST.

For viewing information, visit [SDPB.org](https://www.sdpb.org). (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Trump administration blocked from cutting off SNAP benefits as two judges issue orders

BY: JACOB FISCHLER, ARIANA FIGUEROA AND SHAUNEEN MIRANDA-OCTOBER 31, 2025

WASHINGTON — A federal judge in Boston ruled Friday that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's plan to pause a food assistance program for 42 million people was illegal — but gave the Trump administration until Monday to respond to her finding before she decides on a motion to force the benefits be paid despite the ongoing government shutdown.

At nearly the same time Friday, a Rhode Island federal judge in a similar case brought by cities and non-profit groups ordered USDA to continue payments and granted a request for a temporary restraining order.

However, experts and a key member of Congress said that some SNAP recipients still may see delays in their benefits because changes in administration from the federal government to states to vendors take time.

There was also no immediate word from USDA on how it will implement the judicial orders, while the administration sought guidance from the courts.

In a social media post late Friday, President Donald Trump said administration lawyers believed the funds could not legally be paid and that he needed clarification about how to legally distribute SNAP benefits.

In Massachusetts, in a Friday afternoon order, District Court of Massachusetts Judge Indira Talwani said she would continue to take "under advisement" a coalition of Democratic states' request to force the release of funds from a contingency account holding about \$6 billion.

Her ruling came a day before a cutoff of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits to low-income households.

Because Congress is locked in a stalemate over a stopgap spending bill and did not appropriate money for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, administration officials say the program cannot provide federal funds beginning Saturday. In states, SNAP benefits are loaded onto cards on varying dates, but the cutoff would be effective for November benefits.

Talwani, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama, called the administration's conclusion it can't provide SNAP funding "erroneous," and said the reserve fund was sufficient for SNAP benefits to flow to states and the vendors that add money to debit-like cards issued to the program's beneficiaries that are used to purchase groceries.

The law creating the program mandated that benefits continue, she said.

"Defendants are statutorily mandated to use the previously appropriated SNAP contingency reserve when necessary and also have discretion to use other previously appropriated funds," Talwani wrote.

Talwani ordered the administration to say by Monday whether it would provide at least partial benefits for November.

Trump seeks clarification

Trump on social media said that he would be happy to see the funding go out and blamed Democrats for the monthlong shutdown.

"I have instructed our lawyers to ask the Court to clarify how we can legally fund SNAP as soon as possible," Trump wrote. "It is already delayed enough due to the Democrats keeping the Government closed through the monthly payment date and, even if we get immediate guidance, it will unfortunately be delayed while States get the money out."

The government filed a brief in the Rhode Island case asking the judge in that case to clarify how his

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order could legally be carried out.

Earlier Friday, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins was noncommittal when asked if the department would comply with an order to resume benefits, according to CNN.

Spokespeople for the Department of Justice, which is representing the administration in the case, did not return messages seeking comment Friday.

The 25 states that sued were Massachusetts, California, Arizona, Minnesota, Connecticut, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington state, Wisconsin, Kansas, Kentucky and Pennsylvania. The District of Columbia also sued.

Contingency fund can't flow in shutdown, USDA chief says

At a press conference with U.S. House Republicans earlier Friday, Rollins said it was "a lie" that the contingency fund could be used to provide benefits.

"There is a contingency fund at USDA, but that contingency fund, by the way, doesn't even cover, I think, half of the \$9.2 billion that would be required for November SNAP," she said. "But it is only allowed to flow if the underlying program is funded. It's called a contingency fund, and by law, a contingency fund can only flow when the underlying fund is flowing."

The judges authoring Friday's court orders disagreed with Rollins' argument, which was also at odds with a shutdown plan her own department published on Sept. 30 before quietly deleting it sometime in October. The plan called for SNAP benefits to continue during a shutdown because the contingency fund existed.

"Congressional intent is evident that SNAP's operations should continue since the program has been provided with multi-year contingency funds," the Sept. 30 plan said.

U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, a Connecticut Democrat who is the ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee, said benefit payments "will likely be delayed by several days or more" and blamed the situation on the administration's refusal to spend from the contingency fund.

"The administration has chosen to hold hungry families hostage in their partisan political games," she said in a statement. "It is cruel. It is shameful. And as federal judges in two states have now affirmed, it is illegal."

Rhode Island case

In Rhode Island, where the judge granted a temporary restraining order, the advocacy group Democracy Forward, which was among those bringing the suit, praised the move.

"A federal court today granted a temporary restraining order blocking the Trump-Vance administration's unlawful effort to halt the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) during the ongoing government shutdown," the group said. "The decision ensures that millions of children, seniors, veterans, and families will continue to receive essential food assistance while the case proceeds."

The judge in that case, John James McConnell Jr., said the administration's actions violated a key federal administrative law against arbitrary and capricious executive action and federal spending laws "by disregarding Congress's direction that SNAP must continue operating," Democracy Forward said.

McConnell also was appointed by Obama.

Delays in benefits likely

Friday's orders will likely not stop some SNAP benefits from at least being delayed, according to Lauren Kallins, a senior legislative director for state-federal affairs at the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Even if the Trump administration immediately complied with McConnell's order that benefits must be released, the process of moving money from the U.S. Treasury to states to vendors to beneficiaries takes time.

"Under the best of circumstances... it's not a switch that can be flipped on once USDA decides to release funds," Kallins, whose organization coordinates and advocates for bipartisan state lawmakers in every state, said.

States generally release SNAP funds to beneficiaries on a staggered basis, meaning that different beneficiaries receive their allotments on different days of the month.

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With the situation unresolved a day before the new benefits month begins, some are certain to see at least delays in benefits, Kallins said.

"For people who get their allotments in the beginning of the month, there's definitely going to... be a delay here," she said.

Additionally, if USDA were to release money only from the contingency fund, it could take states time to determine how to distribute prorated benefits.

Congress no closer to resolution

On Capitol Hill, the parties appeared no closer Friday to reaching an agreement as the government shutdown stretched into its second month.

House Republicans continued to blame Democrats for the standstill, urging Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer to get his caucus behind the House-passed GOP measure to reopen the government at last fiscal year's spending levels.

"Republicans have done our part to end the Democrat shutdown, and now it's time for Democrats to do theirs," House Speaker Mike Johnson said Friday morning.

"The path forward is simple — please, please, every American who is concerned about this, every American that is feeling the harm, you should call the Senate Democrats and tell them to stop the nonsense, echo the voices of the unions, of the airlines, of hardworking people everywhere, and tell them to stop doing this and open the government."

Democrats have voted against the GOP measure, saying congressional Republicans must negotiate an extension of tax subsidies for those who buy health insurance on the Affordable Care Act marketplace.

Those subsidies are set to expire at the end of the year, leaving millions to see their premiums skyrocket when they get premium notices beginning Saturday.

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

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

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.

Government shutdown slows flu shot delivery for South Dakota prison inmates

BY: JOHN HULT-OCTOBER 31, 2025 11:35 AM

Flu shots aren't hard to come by in South Dakota in 2025.

Unless you're in prison.

The South Dakota Department of Corrections has been rationing its supply of flu vaccines this month in response to a federal government shutdown-related shortage.

The department offers the vaccines at no cost to the 3,800 inmates scattered across the state's six prison campuses. Last year, spokesman Michael Winder told South Dakota Searchlight, the department administered 1,225 flu shots.

At this point, he wrote in an email the department is "prioritizing high-risk offenders to receive the vaccines."

Flu shots are not in short supply for the general public, according to spokespersons for Avera and Sanford Health, South Dakota's two largest health care providers. But the department doesn't get its shots through them.

Instead, its supplies come from the federal Centers for Disease Control. The shots first come to the state Department of Health, which then distributes them to the Department of Corrections. As of Monday,

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Health Department spokeswoman Tia Kafka said, the state hadn't received its entire correctional supply. The Health Department doesn't distribute flu vaccines to any other state facilities, Kafka said. Just corrections.

"Some delays have occurred due to the federal government shutdown, and we are monitoring the situation closely," Kafka wrote in an email.

She said the department expects to get the rest of its correctional supply soon, but she didn't know when.

Kafka's department also distributes COVID boosters for inmates, which are supplied, like the flu shots, by the CDC. There isn't a shortage there, though.

The Corrections Department has been impacted in at least one other way by the federal government shutdown, Winder wrote. Correctional officers are typically able to take a National Incident Management System training through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Those web-based courses are paused.

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.

South Dakota budget commissioner warns of another difficult year as revenue lags projections

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR-OCTOBER 31, 2025 10:43 AM

South Dakota's top state government budget official warned Thursday that the current budget cycle "is playing out to be another belt-tightening year."

Bureau of Finance and Management Commissioner Jim Terwilliger spoke during a Governor's Council of Economic Advisors meeting.

"We probably just have to take a cautious approach as we move forward, given some of the circumstances that we're in right now," Terwilliger said.

Through September, the state's general fund revenue was 2.5% below the budgeted projection, which meant revenue was \$17.4 million less than expected. Derek Johnson, the bureau's state economist, said the bureau is anxiously awaiting October tax collection reports. Sales taxes were \$6.1 million below estimates through September.

Johnson pointed to numbers indicating slower spending despite rising personal income, and cited weak consumer sentiment — a measure of consumers' attitude and confidence about the economy and their personal finances — and higher prices as part of the explanation.

The farm sector is another drag on state revenue. Taxable sales of farm machinery fell 21% in fiscal year 2025 and were down about 20% in the first three months of the state's fiscal year 2026, which began in July. Corn, soybeans and wheat prices are all lower than last year, although cattle prices are up.

Council members from around the state reported uneven conditions. Sioux Falls City Finance Director Shawn Pritchett said the city will miss its sales tax revenue estimate and has already cut \$6 million in ongoing expenses, with fee hikes on the table to help account for the remaining \$4 million shortfall. He said the city is seeing softer restaurant traffic, ticket sales and hotel occupancy.

Rapid City is benefitting from a boom tied to the Ellsworth Air Force Base expansion (construction is underway to accommodate the impending arrival of new B-21 bomber planes) and continued migration into the Black Hills. City sales tax collections are up just over 3% this calendar year. However, "that number just tracks with inflation," said Marnie Herrmann, chief banking officer at Security First Bank in Rapid City.

Retailers are bracing for a lean holiday season. Kevin Nyberg of Nyberg's Ace Hardware, which has locations in Sioux Falls and Watertown, said national surveys suggest the average household plans to spend about \$1,600 less on Christmas gifts this year. He hopes discounts, rewards and rebate programs will drive traffic.

"Call it a gimmick, call it a marketing ploy — either way, it works," he said.

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Carla Gatzke of Daktronics, an electronic display manufacturer based in Brookings, flagged tariff impacts, child care cost and eligibility, and workforce shortages as key issues in the Brookings regional economy. South Dakota's unemployment rate sits at 1.9% — the lowest in the nation — with roughly three job openings per unemployed worker.

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

Effects of government shutdown spread on day 31, from health costs to food to flights

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA AND SHAUNEEN MIRANDA-OCTOBER 31, 2025 3:32 PM

WASHINGTON — By Saturday, millions of Americans are expected to face a drastic spike in health care premium costs during open enrollment, though a hunger crisis may have been temporarily averted, both tied to the ongoing government shutdown.

A federal judge in Massachusetts Friday afternoon found that the U.S. Department of Agriculture acted unlawfully in deciding to withhold billions in emergency funding for 42 million people who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, amid a government shutdown.

But while the ruling does not order USDA to immediately tap into its roughly \$6 billion contingency fund, a separate ruling from a federal judge in Rhode Island ordered the agency to continue the payments after a coalition of religious and advocacy groups sued.

Prior to both rulings, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins defended USDA's decision to not use the contingency fund during a Friday press conference at the U.S. Capitol with House Speaker Mike Johnson on day 31 of the government shutdown.

"We are here today because SNAP benefits run dry tomorrow, so the truth has finally revealed itself, hasn't it?" Rollins said. "Democrats' support for programs like SNAP is now reduced to cynical control over people's lives."

It was not yet clear midday Friday how the two court rulings would be carried out by the administration.

The move to cut off SNAP would leave millions hungry, nearly 40% of them children, and is an effort by the Trump administration to put pressure on Senate Democrats to accept the House-passed GOP stopgap spending bill to fund the government until Nov. 21.

Senate Democrats have held out demanding action on tax credits that will expire at the end of the year for people who buy their health insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace, hugely driving up costs.

They have tried to spark negotiations, but Republicans have maintained that talks on health care subsidies will only begin after the government is funded.

Flight delays, filibuster fate

As the government shutdown continues, millions of federal workers are furloughed, or have continued to work without pay, including air traffic controllers.

Flight delays and cancellations are starting to mount, with 3,739 delays within, into or out of the United States and 364 cancellations within the United States by midday Friday, according to the FlightAware delays tracker.

Another shutdown complication emerged when President Donald Trump, who has spent most of the week abroad in Asia meeting with foreign leaders over trade and tariff talks, Thursday night urged Republicans to eliminate the Senate filibuster, which requires a 60-vote threshold.

"Get rid of the Filibuster, and get rid of it, NOW!" Trump wrote on his social media platform. Senate Republicans have been lukewarm on the idea, since Democrats then could do the same if they regain control of the chamber now held by the GOP with 53 seats.

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Lacking 60 votes, the Senate has failed 13 times to pass the House-passed stopgap spending measure and left Capitol Hill Thursday night. Democrat Sen. Jacky Rosen from Nevada tried to keep the Senate in session, but was overruled by Republicans.

Another critical deadline approaching Friday was pay for active duty military members. Vice President JD Vance said the Trump administration would shuffle funds to ensure pay, but did not detail those plans. According to Axios, the Defense Department pulled billions from several accounts to ensure the troops could be paid.

Rollins defends USDA refusal to pay benefits

Congress failed to fund SNAP and nearly every other discretionary federal program for the 2026 fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

In order to receive SNAP benefits, a household's gross monthly income must be at or below 130% of the federal poverty guidelines. A family of four would receive a SNAP maximum monthly allotment of \$994, according to USDA.

Rollins sought to justify her agency's refusal to shuffle the contingency funds to pay for SNAP, saying that money "is only allowed to flow if the underlying program is funded," and "by law, a contingency fund can only flow when the underlying fund is flowing."

The Agriculture secretary said that "even if it could flow, it doesn't even cover half of the month of November."

USDA said in a memo earlier in October that it would not tap into the contingency fund to keep the program afloat in November, despite its since-deleted Sept. 30 shutdown plan saying it would tap into this reserve.

The memo said the contingency fund "is a source of funds for contingencies, such as the Disaster SNAP program, which provides food purchasing benefits for individuals in disaster areas, including natural disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods, that can come on quickly and without notice."

Democrats have objected. Friday's decision from a federal judge in Boston stems from a lawsuit brought by 25 states and the District of Columbia against the Trump administration to force USDA to use the contingency fund.

USDA secretary recounts conversation with waiter

At the Capitol press conference, Rollins also recalled a recent encounter she had at a Louisiana restaurant with a "wonderful" waiter named Joe, who she said took on that job after being furloughed as a federal government employee due to the shutdown.

"He didn't know who I was. And I said, 'Well, Joe, I can appreciate that. You know, I'm sort of in that world as well.' And I said, 'Where do you work?' And he said, 'Well, I work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in their New Orleans office as part of the financial team.'"

Rollins said that encounter "just really brought home for me ... to echo what Mike (Johnson) said, just thanking so many thousands of federal workers who are showing up, who are still doing their job, who aren't getting paid, those that are now concerned about putting food on the table and making their mortgages and paying their rent."

Rollins, along with the rest of the president's Cabinet, is still getting paid.

Health premiums skyrocket

As open enrollment begins Saturday, those enrollees in the Affordable Care Act marketplace who currently receive a tax credit are likely to see their monthly premium payments more than double to about 114% on average, according to an analysis by KFF.

For the last month, Democrats have warned of this, as the tax credits that help pay for individual health insurance are set to expire at the end of the year.

The top Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Rep. Frank Pallone of New Jersey, said in a statement that many families will see an increase in their premiums on Nov. 1.

"The sticker shock many families will face when they shop for health coverage is unacceptable, and it's why Congress must act," Pallone said.

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The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that if Congress does not extend the tax credits, insurers expect healthy, younger people to drop their marketplace coverage plans, which will lead to increased premium costs.

Anxiety over WIC program

Meanwhile, USDA's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC, a program separate from SNAP, got a \$300 million infusion from the agency, using tariff revenue, to keep the program running through October.

The program provides nearly 7 million women, infants and children with healthy foods, breastfeeding support, nutrition education and other resources.

Advocates are calling on the administration to supply additional emergency funds for WIC.

Led by the National WIC Association, more than three dozen national organizations signed on to an Oct. 24 letter to the White House urging the administration to provide an additional \$300 million in emergency funding.

Head Start affected

The consequences of the shutdown are also hitting Head Start — a federal program that provides early childhood education, nutritious meals, health screenings and other support services to low-income families and served more than 790,000 children in the 2023-2024 program year.

The National Head Start Association estimates that 140 programs across 41 states and Puerto Rico serving more than 65,000 children will not receive their operational funding if the shutdown continues past Nov. 1 — a reality that appears certain.

Six of those programs serving more than 6,500 children did not receive this funding on Oct. 1 and have had to look to outside resources and local funds to keep their programs afloat.

SNAP, WIC and Native communities

American Indian and Alaska Native communities are also scrambling to fill the anticipated gaps in food security and assistance due to funding uncertainties for SNAP and WIC.

Advocates and U.S. senators across the aisle say these funding uncertainties for the key federal nutrition programs are putting particular pressure on Native communities.

At an Oct. 29 Senate Indian Affairs Committee hearing on the shutdown's impacts on tribal communities, Minnesota Democratic Sen. Tina Smith said she is hearing from tribal nations in her state about people switching from SNAP to the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or FDIPIR, a separate USDA initiative.

FDPIR is an alternative to SNAP and, per USDA, provides foods "to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations, and to American Indian households residing in approved areas near reservations and in Oklahoma."

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

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.

Dozens of states tackle high prescription drug costs

**So far this year, at least 31 states have enacted
nearly 70 laws designed to lower drug costs**

BY: SHALINA CHATLANI-OCTOBER 31, 2025 8:00 AM

In the absence of much federal action, states have enacted dozens of laws this year to lower prescription drug costs for their residents — and many more are considering following suit.

States cannot lower drug prices directly, but they can go after different parts of the drug supply chain to try to lower patients' out-of-pocket costs and reduce excessive spending in state-run health plans.

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Nearly two-thirds of the new state laws are aimed at pharmacy benefit managers — the drug middlemen who negotiate deals among the manufacturers that make the drugs, the insurers that allow the drugs to be prescribed, and the pharmacies that sell them.

Several states are considering drug affordability review boards. Others have passed laws to hold manufacturers and PBMs to higher transparency standards.

"So a lot of states went into looking at drug costs — trying to understand and follow the dollar," said Maureen Hensley-Quinn, a senior program director at the National Academy for State Health Policy, a nonpartisan group that works on health policy issues. "Is it the price that manufacturers are setting? Is it the supply chain where there are different entities?"

Advocates of these laws say it's up to states to take the lead as the federal government lags in compelling drug companies and insurers to lower prices for patients. But critics say some state interventions could lead to local pharmacies shuttering and may stifle innovation in the pharmaceutical industry, leading to fewer new drugs.

Laws targeting PBMs are wide-ranging in scope, requiring PBMs to pass discounts on to consumers or to be more transparent in their drug purchasing activities. Some states have created drug affordability review boards to assess manufacturers' prices. Some laws aim to place copay caps on critical medications like insulin.

So far this year, at least 31 states have enacted nearly 70 laws designed to lower drug costs, according to a state drug affordability law tracker from the National Academy for State Health Policy.

"States have no leverage, really, to put pressure on manufacturers to lower their prices, and that's why I think most of the legislation at the state level has been on the intermediaries, the supply chain," said Geoffrey Joyce, chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical and Health Economics at the University of Southern California.

Those interventions can go a long way in trying to reduce patients' expenses, he said.

"The concern [is] about, well, 'States really can't lower drug prices, per se,' but they can," Joyce said. "I think there's been evidence."

California Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom in October signed legislation to cap the cost of insulin for people covered by state-regulated health plans, including the state's Affordable Care Act marketplace, private health plans and its Medicaid program. The state also plans to start offering its own generic version of insulin, costing just \$11 a pen, in January.

Colorado's drug affordability review board capped the cost of a widely used rheumatoid arthritis medication.

And Maryland Democratic Gov. Wes Moore signed a law in May to expand the authority of the state's drug affordability review board to lower prescription drug prices for all residents, not just state employees.

Pointing fingers

The federal government has taken some steps to lower prescription drug prices. The Inflation Reduction Act under the Biden administration created annual caps on out-of-pocket drug costs and capped the cost of insulin at \$35 a month for patients with Medicare, the health care program that primarily serves people over 65. The law also gave the federal government more power to negotiate drug prices for Medicare patients.

President Donald Trump has promised to slash drug prices by percentages that some experts say are mathematically impossible. He threatened tariffs on manufacturers that import their drugs if they didn't lower their prices, which led to a deal with biopharmaceutical company Pfizer. And in May, he signed an executive order designed to ensure the U.S. government can secure drugs at prices on par with other nations.

Kush Desai, a spokesperson for the White House, said in a statement that the Trump administration's website, TrumpRx, which hasn't yet launched, will lower drug costs by allowing people to purchase drugs directly from the manufacturer.

But some states are going further.

In October, Colorado became the first state to cap the price of a prescription drug for all consumers.

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Starting in 2027, new insurers and patients will pay no more than \$31,000 a year for Enbrel, a drug that treats rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune diseases — a sharp decrease from the average insurance payment of \$53,049 in 2023. Nearly 2,600 Coloradans used Enbrel in 2022, according to state research.

Colorado Democratic state Sen. Julie Gonzales, who sponsored the bill creating the state's drug oversight board, said states have to deal with a lot of competing interests in the drug supply chain. When it comes to establishing who is setting high drug prices, she said, "everyone is pointing the finger at everyone else."

It took four years from the law's passage to set up the board and approve its first payment limit because there were so many special interests involved, she said. "We had to overcome a tremendous amount of angst and fear."

Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Oregon and Washington also have prescription drug affordability boards. New Hampshire created a board but dissolved it in July because of budget cuts.

In California, Newsom signed a bill this year to cap the consumer copay of insulin at \$35 per month for all state-regulated health plans, after vetoing similar legislation in 2023. More than two dozen other states had already opted to cap insulin for state health plans. He also signed a PBM regulation bill that, among other provisions, requires pharmacy benefit managers to pass drug discounts on to payers and patients.

California Democratic state Sen. Scott Wiener, who sponsored the PBM and insulin bills, said states have the power to lower patients' out-of-pocket expenses, even if they can't force manufacturers to lower drug prices.

"The federal government right now is a disaster zone when it comes to health care," Wiener said. "That's why it's more important for the states to step up."

Other states such as Illinois, Iowa and Louisiana enacted similar PBM laws this year, according to the National Academy for State Health Policy.

A complicated system

The system for developing, selling and distributing prescription drugs is complex.

Pharmaceutical companies determine the initial costs of drugs, but are often accused of setting prices too high. Pharmacy benefit managers say they exist to negotiate lower drug prices, but are often accused of pocketing discounts or engaging in predatory practices. Meanwhile, health insurers pay for the drugs and decide what copays patients may end up with, and are often accused of not reimbursing enough.

Experts note that three pharmacy benefit management companies — CVS Health, Cigna and United Health Group — dominate the PBM industry, which adds to concerns about their market power.

"There's also some truth to the fact that this industry is very concentrated, and there's not a lot of transparency around how much money they're making and how they make their money, and if that's being shared back with plans and with consumers," said Pragya Kakani, a health economist specializing in drug policy at the Weill Cornell Medical College.

The pharmaceutical industry typically opposes drug affordability boards.

In Colorado, Amgen Inc., the manufacturer of Enbrel, sued the state in 2024 over its drug affordability review board, alleging that a price cap would cause economic harm to the company. A federal district court dismissed the challenge in March.

"Instead of fixing the root causes of patient affordability concerns, the board has rushed into a reckless experiment," Reid Porter, senior director of state public affairs for PhRMA, a group that represents pharmaceutical companies, wrote in an email statement in regard to the board's upper payment limit. "Colorado is risking patient access and jeopardizing the development of new medicines."

Porter argued that PBMs and health insurers, not drugmakers, drive high costs.

But PBMs say their negotiations lower costs.

"Big Pharma sets the price — and the price is the problem when it comes to Americans facing difficulty affording their prescription drugs," Mike Baldyga, a spokesperson for the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association, which represents pharmacy benefit managers, wrote in an email statement. "PBMs are the only entity in the drug supply chain that lower prescription drug costs on behalf of patients, and there is no correlation between the rebates they negotiate and list prices."

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Hensley-Quinn, of the National Academy for State Health Policy, noted the challenge of making drugs affordable and accessible.

"There is no silver bullet for lowering drug costs," Hensley-Quinn said. "You have to balance being able to innovate and making sure that drugs are affordable so that what you have just created, which is life-changing, actually gets to the people that need it."

But this challenge is in some ways expected and more evidence that states must take action, said Priya Telang, communications manager at the nonprofit advocacy group Colorado Consumer Health Initiative.

"Manufacturers point the finger at PBMs, and PBMs point the finger at insurers. And so it's really hard to get a sense of who the actual bad players are all at the same time," she said.

"And so that's why it's critical for affordability boards to exist, because they get to see the data, they get to see behind closed doors what the root causes are and really work to bring affordability to consumers."

Drug affordability boards

When Mary Fowler Simmons, 54, was diagnosed with an advanced cancer three years ago, she had to give up her steady job as a state government worker in Virginia to go through months of expensive and painful treatment. Fowler Simmons survived and is cancer-free today, but is still reeling financially.

Fowler Simmons told Stateline that after being saddled with a hospital bill totaling over \$323,000 and depleting her savings, she and her husband continue to pay around \$300 a month — after insurance — for prescription medications to maintain her health.

Fowler Simmons, who also has Type 2 diabetes, says she wants her state and federal lawmakers to recognize that some Americans are having to choose between paying for their next meal or their necessary prescription drugs.

"They need to have more compassion for people. We're not in the position that we are making millions, that we can afford this. We're working-class people," Fowler Simmons said. "I need them to actually consider what they are doing to the American people and just have affordable prescription drugs available."

Otto Wachsmann, a Republican in the Virginia House of Delegates and a pharmacist, said that he doesn't think there's enough evidence yet that prescription drug affordability review boards work.

He said if states set upper payment limits on drugs, that doesn't mean a pharmaceutical company would necessarily lower the cost. Rather, he says, pharmacies may just get reimbursed even less than the cost of the drug. This year Virginia lawmakers tried to create a drug affordability review board.

"There's nothing to prevent the board from saying we're only going to reimburse \$100 for this prescription, although those pharmacies may have to pay \$120 for the drug," Wachsmann said in an interview.

He added that if review boards target expensive and rare drugs for which to set upper payment limits, they could stifle innovation.

"If those manufacturers think that those are the type of drugs that are going to get hit by these boards and they realize they'll never get their investment back, they're not going to develop those drugs anymore," Wachsmann said.

Virginia Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin vetoed a bill this year that would have created a drug affordability board in the state, saying in a statement, "This approach could limit access to treatments and hinder medical innovation, especially for life-threatening or rare diseases."

Wachsmann had voted against the board. Instead, he says it's better to target PBMs, because he said they are engaging in predatory practices that freeze out small pharmacies and leave consumers with nowhere to go.

Neighboring Maryland created the nation's first drug affordability board in 2019; it got a boost of resources and revved up activities in 2023.

"It will not hurt pharmacists. It will help everybody except Big Pharma," said Vincent DeMarco, president of health care advocacy group Maryland Health Care for All, in speaking about the state's drug affordability review board.

The original bill creating the board only authorized the board to create upper payment limits for drugs purchased by states and local governments in Maryland. But this year, Moore signed a law to expand

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the authority of the board to create upper payment limits for everyone, except patients on health plans regulated by the federal government.

DeMarco said he's hoping the board will move to create limits on two popular drugs prescribed for Type 2 diabetes, Jardiance and Farxiga.

"In addition to individuals who can't afford their drugs, all of us pay the price in higher health insurance premiums, because a big part of our health insurance premiums is high-cost drugs," DeMarco said.

Stateline reporter Shalina Chatlani can be reached at schatlani@stateline.org.

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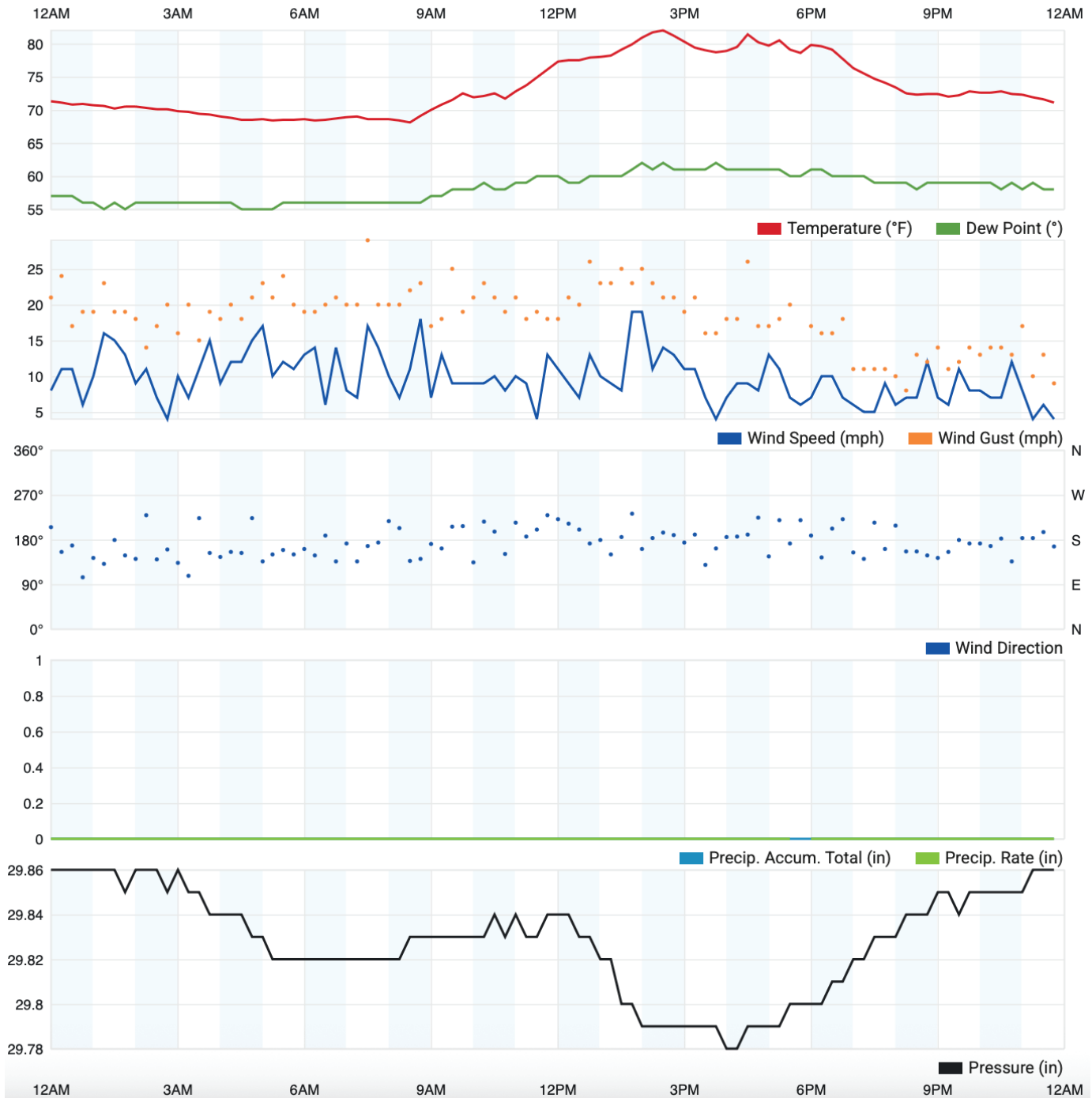
Shalina Chatlani covers health care and environmental justice for Stateline.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

October 1, 2025



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Today



High: 45 °F

Partly Sunny

Tonight



Low: 29 °F

Partly Cloudy

Sunday



High: 62 °F

Mostly Sunny

Sunday Night



Low: 33 °F

Partly Cloudy

Monday



High: 56 °F

Sunny



High To Very High Fire Danger Sunday

November 1, 2025
3:57 AM

- **Relative humidity between 35-45%** Sunday afternoon.
- Winds **increasing and changing direction** through the afternoon, switching from south-southwest to west-northwest

	Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)															
	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm				
Aberdeen	23	22	21	21	23	25	29	31	30	28	25	25				
Britton	32	31	30	29	29	29	30	31	30	28	26	24				
Chamberlain	14	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	22	21	20	20				
Clark	29	28	26	25	24	23	23	23	21	20	20	20				
Eagle Butte	18	20	22	25	31	35	37	37	36	33	31	32				
Eureka	18	20	22	24	33	37	39	40	38	35	32	31				
Gettysburg	17	17	18	20	25	29	33	35	32	31	30	30				
McIntosh	23	25	29	32	43	45	46	45	43	39	36	35				
Milbank	25	25	25	25	26	26	26	25	23	22	21	20				
Miller	20	20	18	18	17	18	21	23	21	20	18	20				
Mobridge	15	15	17	21	31	35	37	37	36	33	31	31				
Murdo	16	16	17	18	23	26	28	29	29	28	25	30				
Pierre	9	9	12	15	22	25	28	29	30	29	26	29				
Redfield	21	21	20	18	18	20	21	22	22	21	20	20				
Sisseton	28	28	28	28	29	29	28	29	28	26	24	24				
Watertown	30	30	30	29	28	28	28	26	24	22	21	20				
Webster	29	29	29	28	29	29	28	28	26	25	24	23				
Wheaton	22	22	22	21	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	21				

	Minimum RH Forecast (%)															
	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm				
Aberdeen	78	69	62	55	44	43	45	42	44	46	47	50				
Britton	77	71	63	58	48	46	45	43	48	51	55	59				
Chamberlain	71	60	50	42	37	35	35	36	39	43	47	50				
Clark	72	70	65	60	51	49	48	46	51	54	58	58				
Eagle Butte	69	59	53	48	45	44	40	36	38	39	42	46				
Eureka	82	72	64	58	50	50	46	42	44	45	48	52				
Gettysburg	75	67	60	52	46	45	43	42	44	45	46	50				
McIntosh	70	61	53	47	45	44	42	39	41	44	46	49				
Milbank	72	67	60	54	48	47	47	46	51	53	56	57				
Miller	67	58	50	45	40	40	41	39	42	46	49	50				
Mobridge	82	72	62	53	47	44	40	35	38	42	46	48				
Murdo	60	55	48	45	39	40	39	37	39	42	42	44				
Pierre	73	67	58	50	42	43	42	39	41	44	45	48				
Redfield	77	68	58	50	41	40	40	39	42	44	46	47				
Sisseton	66	61	56	53	47	46	45	44	47	50	54	56				
Watertown	77	71	66	59	48	47	46	46	50	53	56	59				
Webster	69	64	58	53	47	46	45	44	48	51	54	57				
Wheaton	77	71	61	54	50	50	48	47	50	53	54	57				



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

The fire weather picture is starting to come together for Sunday. Afternoon relative humidity appears to be settling into a range from around 30-35 percent across the Missouri River valley to 40-50 percent across northeast South Dakota into west central Minnesota. Wind gusts are trending higher during the afternoon on Sunday. Starting off from the south or southwest, a wind shift is forecast to occur with the wind direction becoming west or northwest and blustery at times. This is causing an increase in areal coverage of high Grassland Fire Danger, and the addition of Corson County into the very high Grassland Fire Danger index category for Sunday afternoon.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 42 °F at 1:26 PM

Low Temp: 36 °F at 12:00 AM

Wind: 24 mph at 6:35 PM

Precip: : 0.06

Today's Info

Record High: 75 in 2022

Record Low: -3 in 1935

Average High: 50

Average Low: 26

Average Precip in Oct.: 2.14

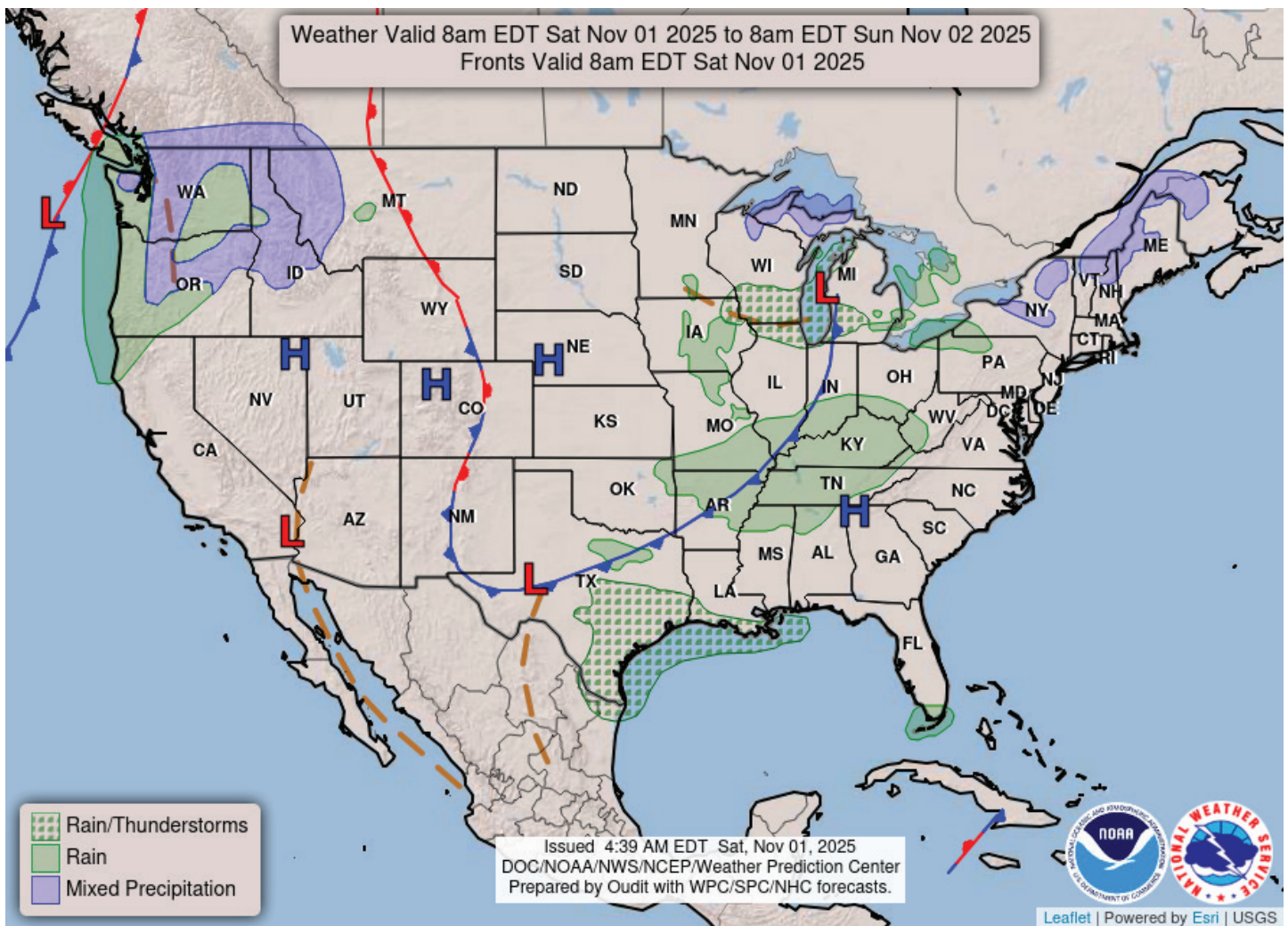
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.59

Average Precip to date: 20.50

Precip Year to Date: 23.51

Sunset Tonight: 6:21 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:12 am



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Today in Weather History

November 1st, 1999: High winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts to around 55 mph caused some tree and building damage throughout Big Stone and Traverse counties. On Highway 10 west of Browns Valley, the high winds blew a semi-tractor trailer full of 12,000 pounds of meat off the road and into a ditch. High winds from 30 to 50 mph, gusting to near 65 mph, also caused building and tree damage throughout central, north-central, and northeast South Dakota. In Eureka, the high winds blew down a large part of the ballpark fence. In Mellette, a 250-foot diameter grain bin under construction also received some damage from the winds.

November 1st, 2000: A rare and unusual tornado event occurred as five tornadoes hit south-central North Dakota, causing property damage and injuries. The majority of the damage and injuries occurred in the Bismarck area. Forty-two homes suffered minor to moderate damage. The tornadoes were rated F0 and F1, packing winds up to 90 mph. Another unusual phenomenon, these tornadoes traveled from east to west due to close proximity to a low-pressure system. Simultaneously, as these tornadoes were occurring, snow began to fall in the far western area of North Dakota. As a result, winter storm watches and warnings were posted across northwest and central North Dakota that afternoon. Before this, the last recorded tornado in the state was October 11th, 1979, in Sargent County in southeast North Dakota.

1755: A magnitude 8.7 earthquake devastated Lisbon, Portugal, on this day, killing as many as 50,000 people. The epicenter was located 120 miles west-southwest of Cape St. Vincent. In addition, many individuals who sought safety on the Tagus River were killed by an estimated 20-foot tall tsunami that struck 40 minutes after the earthquake.

1848: When Joseph Henry came to the Smithsonian, one of his priorities was to set up a meteorological program. In 1847, while outlining his plan for the new institution, Henry called for "a system of extended meteorological observations for solving American storms." On November 1st, 1848, Joseph Henry and Navy meteorologist James Espy wrote a letter urging anyone interested in becoming a weather observer to signify their willingness to do so. By 1849, he had budgeted \$1,000 for the Smithsonian meteorological project and established a network of some 150 volunteer weather observers. A decade later, the project had more than 600 volunteer observers, including people in Canada, Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Its cost in 1860 was \$4,400, or thirty percent of the Smithsonian's research and publication budget.

1861: A tropical storm raced across Florida, becoming a hurricane off the coast of South Carolina. The storm-battered a Union fleet of ships attacking the Carolina ports.

1870: United States Army Signal Corps observers at 24 sites around the country simultaneously made weather reports and transmitted them to Washington, where a national weather map would be drawn. These simultaneous reports also started the process of sending out weather reports by telegraph to metropolitan newspapers. This would be the beginning of our present-day National Weather Service.

1966 - Santa Anna winds fanned fires, and brought record November heat to parts of coastal California. November records included 86 degrees at San Francisco, 97 degrees at San Diego, and 101 degrees at the International airport in Los Angeles. Fires claimed the lives of at least sixteen firefighters. (The Weather Channel)

1968 - A tornado touched down west of Winslow, AZ, but did little damage in an uninhabited area. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Early morning thunderstorms in central Arizona produced hail an inch in diameter at Williams and Gila Bend, and drenched Payson with 1.86 inches of rain. Hannagan Meadows AZ, meanwhile, was blanketed with three inches of snow. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the Ohio Valley. Afternoon highs of 76 degrees at Beckley WV, 77 degrees at Bluefield WV, and 83 degrees at Lexington KY were records for the month of November. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2014: Up to 6 inches of snow fell in Gilbert, South Carolina.

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Daily Devotion

The Promises of God God always keeps His promises.

2 Corinthians 1:20-22: 20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. 21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

The Christian life is wonderfully enriched by God's promises, for both today and the future. We can trust everything that our heavenly Father has said to us, because His Word shows Him to be ...

Truthful. The Lord knows what is true and speaks honestly in all matters. He is also omniscient and understands everything (Hebrews 4:12-13). His promises are based on His infinite knowledge and accuracy.

Faithful. Scripture compares the Lord to a shepherd who "gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart" (Isa. 40:11 NIV). What He has planned for us, He will bring to fruition (Philippians 1:6).

Loving. God's love for mankind was demonstrated at the cross. This is the ultimate proof of His devotion to us.

All-powerful. Through divine power, the world was created and death was conquered. So we know God has the ability to carry out all His plans and will do exactly what He has said.

A promise is valuable only if the one making it is trustworthy. Our Father is truthful, faithful, loving, and all-powerful. Because we are secure in the knowledge that He will do just as He has said, we can base our entire life—every decision and action—on His promises.

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:
10.31.25

2 24 52 66 68 9

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$800,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[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: 16 Hrs 20 Mins 21
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.31.25

3 27 37 40 42 1

TOP PRIZE:
\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 35 Mins 21
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.29.25

1 16 20 25 27

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$66,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 35 Mins 21
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.29.25

7 12 24 38 67 26

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 4 Mins 21
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: 17 Hrs 4 Mins 21
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

All Nations Playoffs=

Class 9A=

Semifinal=

Todd County 50, Little Wound 46

Winnebago, Neb. 52, Mahpíya Lúta Red Cloud 14

Class 9B=

Semifinal=

McLaughlin 68, Marty 14

White River 50, Tiospa Zina 0

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

Egypt unveils the world's largest museum dedicated to its ancient civilization

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt was inaugurating the long-delayed Grand Egyptian Museum on Saturday, the world's largest museum dedicated to its ancient civilization — a megaproject also aimed at boosting the country's tourism industry and troubled economy.

Two decades in the making and located near the Giza Pyramids on the edge of Cairo, the Egyptian capital, the museum showcases over 50,000 artifacts detailing life in ancient Egypt.

World leaders, including monarchs, heads of states and governments, were to attend the grand opening ceremony, according to a statement from the Egyptian presidency, which touted the museum as "an exceptional event in the history of human culture and civilization."

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi wrote on social media that the museum will bring "together the genius of ancient Egyptians and the creativity of modern Egyptians, enhancing the world culture and art with a new landmark that will attract all those who cherish civilization and knowledge."

The museum is one of several megaprojects championed by el-Sissi since he took office in 2014, embarking on massive investments in infrastructure with the aim of reviving an economy weakened by decades of stagnation and battered by the unrest that followed the 2011 Arab Spring uprising.

Preparations for the grand reveal have been shrouded in secrecy. Security around Cairo has been tightened ahead of the opening ceremony, with the government announcing Saturday would be a public holiday. The museum, which has been open for limited visits over the past few years, was closed for the final, two-week preparations.

The government has revamped the area around the museum and the nearby Giza Plateau that holds the pyramids and the Sphinx. Roads were paved and a metro station is being constructed outside the museum gates to improve access. An airport, Sphinx International Airport, has also opened west of Cairo — 40 minutes from the museum.

The \$1 billion facility had faced multiple delays, with construction beginning in 2005 but interrupted due to political instability.

The museum, known as GEM, boasts a towering, triangular glass façade imitating the nearby pyramids, with 24,000 square meters (258,000 square feet) of permanent exhibition space.

From the atrium, a grand six-story staircase lined with ancient statues leads up to the main galleries and a view of the nearby pyramids. A bridge links the museum to the pyramids, allowing tourists to move between them either on foot or via electric vehicles, according to museum officials.

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The museum's 12 main galleries, which opened last year, exhibit antiquities spanning from prehistoric times to the Roman era, organized by era and by themes.

Two halls are dedicated to the 5,000 artifacts from the collection of King Tutankhamun, which will be displayed in its entirety for the first time since British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered King Tut's tomb in 1922 in the southern city of Luxor.

Zahi Hawass, Egypt's most renowned archaeologist and former minister of antiquities, said the Tutankhamun collection is the museum's masterpiece.

"Why this museum is so important, and everyone is waiting for the opening?" he told The Associated Press. "Because of Tutankhamun."

The collection includes the boy pharaoh's three funeral beds and six chariots, his golden throne, his gold-covered sarcophagus and his burial mask, made of gold, quartzite, lapis lazuli and colored glass.

The government's hopes the museum will draw more tourists who will stay for a while and provide the foreign currency needed to shore up Egypt's battered economy.

The tourism sector has suffered during years of political turmoil and violence following the 2011 Arab Spring uprising. In recent years, the sector has started to recover after the coronavirus pandemic and amid Russia's war on Ukraine — both countries are major sources of tourists visiting Egypt.

A record number of about 15.7 million tourists visited Egypt in 2024, contributing about 8% of the country's GDP, according to official figures. The government aims to attract 30 million visitors annually by 2032.

The museum will be open to the public starting Tuesday, authorities said.

Latest remains returned to Israel from Gaza are not bodies of hostages, Israel says

By RENATA BRITO Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The remains of three people handed over by Hamas to the Red Cross this week do not belong to any of the hostages, Israel said Saturday, the latest development that could undermine the U.S.-brokered agreement for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

The handover followed Israel's return on Friday of the bodies of 30 Palestinians to Gaza. That completed an exchange after militants earlier this week turned over remains of two hostages, a sign that the tense Israel-Hamas ceasefire agreement was edging forward.

The unidentified remains of the three people were returned late Friday to Israel, where they were being examined overnight. At the time, a military official warned that Israeli intelligence suggested they did not belong to any of the hostages taken by Palestinian militants during the Oct. 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel that sparked the war.

A second Israeli military official confirmed on Saturday that they were not of any hostages, followed by the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The remains we received are not our hostages," the office said.

It was unclear who they might be and why they were returned to Israel. The two Israeli officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. A Hamas spokesman did not immediately answer calls and messages seeking a comment.

Since the U.S. brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect on Oct. 10, Palestinian militants have released the remains of 17 hostages that were held in Gaza for the past two years.

But the process of returning the bodies of the last 11 remaining hostages, as called for under the truce deal, is progressing slowly, with militants releasing just one or two bodies every few days.

The total number of Palestinian bodies returned by Israel since the ceasefire began now stands at 225. Only 75 of those have been identified by families, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It is unclear if those returned were killed in Israel during the Oct. 7, 2023 attack, whether they died in Israeli custody as detainees or were recovered from Gaza by troops during the war.

The fragile truce faced its biggest challenge earlier this week when Israel carried out strikes across Gaza that killed more than 100 people, following the killing of an Israeli soldier in Rafah, Gaza's southernmost

city, and the incomplete return of hostages.

Heidi Klum reveals her much-anticipated 2025 Halloween costume

NEW YORK (AP) — Heidi Klum donned green scales and squirming snakes to transform herself into Medusa for Halloween on Friday.

Klum said she loves the Greek myth of Medusa, in which a goddess turns a beautiful woman into a monster with serpents for hair, the sight of which turns living things around her to stone.

"So I wanted to be really, really like a really ugly, ugly Medusa. And I feel like we nailed it — to the teeth," Klum said before pointing to fangs in her mouth.

Her husband, musician Tom Kaulitz, dressed as a man turned to stone.

Klum said she spent 10 hours getting into costume for her annual Halloween party. She said it was all worth it because she loves the celebration.

The supermodel-turned-TV personality went viral in 2022 when she arrived at her party on the end of a fishing line, encased in a slithering worm costume.

In past years, Klum has come dressed as an 8-foot-tall (2.4-meter-tall) "Transformer," a werewolf from Michael Jackson's "Thriller" music video, a clone accompanied by several Klum-lookalikes, and Kali, the multiarmed Hindu goddess of death and destruction.

Klum has said she starts planning her costume for the next year immediately after her party wraps.

Among the other celebrities who walked the carpet at the Hard Rock Hotel New York were a green-painted Darren Criss as Shrek, Maye Musk as Cruella de Vil and Ariana Madix as Lady Gaga.

Last year, Klum and Janelle Monáe turned up to their respective parties in the same costume: E.T.

Monáe was hosting her annual party on Friday, too, and came dressed as a vampire attacked by a shark. The actress and singer-songwriter turned the entire month into a series of Halloween-themed immersive experiences across the Los Angeles area, concluding with a party at her home in Studio City. Earlier in the week, she had dressed as the Cat in the Hat.

"Halloween gives context to what I already do every day," Monáe told The Associated Press earlier in October. "As an artist, I'm always transforming, world-building and inviting people to play in the worlds I create."

Mexican Americans balance tradition and modernity in Day of the Dead celebrations

By FERNANDA FIGUEROA Associated Press

This weekend, Mexican American families across the U.S. will gather to honor their ancestors with altars, marigolds and sugar skulls on Día de los Muertos — the Day of the Dead. In recent years, the celebration has become more commercialized, leaving many in the community wondering how to preserve the centuries-old tradition while evolving to keep it alive.

Day of the Dead is traditionally an intimate family affair, observed with home altars — ofrendas — and visits to the cemetery to decorate graves with flowers and sugar skulls. They bring their deceased loved ones' favorite foods and hire musicians to perform their favorite songs.

Skeletons are central to the celebrations, symbolizing a return of the bones to the living world. Like seeds planted in soil, the dead disappear temporarily, only to return each year like the annual harvest.

Families place photographs of their ancestors on their ofrendas, which include paper decorations and candles, and are adorned with offerings of items beloved by their loved ones, such as cigars, a bottle of mezcal, or a plate of mole, tortillas and chocolates.

From intimate gatherings to mainstream culture

Day of the Dead celebrations in the U.S. and Mexico continue to evolve.

Cesáreo Moreno, the chief curator and visual director of the National Museum of Mexican Art, said the 2017 release of Disney's animated movie "Coco" transformed celebrations in northern Mexico and made

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Day of the Dead more popular and commercialized in the U.S. American cities organize festivals, and Mexico City holds an annual Dia de los Muertos parade.

"Coco" provided a way for people who do not belong to the Mexican American community to learn about the tradition and embrace its beauty, Moreno said. But it also made the celebration more marketable.

"The Mexican American community in the United States celebrates the Day of the Dead as a cultural expression," Moreno said. "It is a healthy tradition and it actually has an important role in the grieving process. But with 'Coco,' that movie really thrust it into mainstream popular culture."

With its increasing popularity, the Day of the Dead is often confused with Halloween, which has transformed how it is celebrated and people's understanding of it, Moreno said.

Traditional altars, modernized

In recent years, some in and outside the Mexican American community have built ofrendas devoid of color, leaning towards a more minimalistic aesthetic.

The colorful altars have been part of Mexican and Mesoamerican culture since the Spanish arrived and converted Mexico's Indigenous tribes to Catholicism. Some families now build altars without the flowers and papel picado — multi-colored lacy wall hangings featuring hearts and skulls — of years gone by.

Moreno said that's OK, as long as the meaning isn't lost.

"If people are looking to do something a little bit different, that is fine," Moreno said. "But if people stop understanding what is at the heart of this tradition, if people start transforming that, that is what I am against."

Ana Cecy Lerma, a Mexican American living in Texas, suspects the minimalist ofrendas satisfy a desire to create Instagram-worthy content.

"I think you can put what you want in an altar and what connects you to your loved ones," Lerma said. "But if your reasoning is merely that you like how it looks then I feel that's losing a bit of the reason as to why we make altars."

Commercialization raises questions of respect

Sehila Mota Casper, director of Latinos in Heritage Conservation, a nonprofit supporting the preservation of Latinx culture, said American businesses are trying to make money out of Dia de los Muertos as they have Cinco de Mayo, focusing on profit rather than culture. Big chain stores including Target and Wal-Mart now sell create-your-own-ofrenda kits, Mota Casper said.

"It's beginning to get culturally appropriated by other individuals outside of our diaspora," she said.

Although not Mexican, Beth McRae has lived in Arizona and California and has always been surrounded by Latino culture. She has created an altar for Day of the Dead since 1994.

She began collecting items related to the celebration in the early 90's and has amassed a collection of more than 1,000 pieces. And she throws a party to celebrate the day every year.

"This is the coolest celebration because you're inviting the loved ones that you've lost," McRae said.

"I threw my first Day of the Dead party in San Diego with my very meager collection of items," she continued, "and it became an annual event."

McRae said she tries to be respectful by making sure the trinkets she places on her ofrenda are from Mexico, and by focusing on lost loved ones.

"It's done with respect and love, but it's an opportunity to raise awareness to people that are not familiar with the culture or are not from the culture," McRae said.

Salvador Ordorica, a first generation Mexican American who lives in Los Angeles, said traditions must be reinvented so the younger generations want to keep them alive.

"I think it's okay for traditions to change," Ordorica said. "It's a way to really keep that tradition alive as long as the core of the tradition remains in place."

New York Attorney General Letitia James seeks to block Trump administration's subpoenas

By CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

New York Attorney General Letitia James is challenging the legitimacy of the acting U.S. attorney in Albany as she pushes back against the Trump administration's investigation of cases she brought against the president and the National Rifle Association, according to court documents unsealed Friday.

James in August filed a motion to block subpoenas issued by acting U.S. Attorney John Sarcone for records related to the legal actions, claiming the Justice Department's probe of the cases was retaliatory.

She also argued that Sarcone had been improperly appointed to his position and, as a result, lacked legitimate authority to authorize the subpoenas.

The subpoenas seek records related to a major civil case the Democrat James filed against President Donald Trump over alleged fraud in his personal business dealings. Another subpoena seeks records from a lawsuit involving the National Rifle Association and two senior executives.

Dozens of court documents in the case have been filed under seal in U.S. District Court since August. A federal judge in Manhattan late Friday granted James' motion to unseal most of the entries, making them public over the objection of the Justice Department.

Judge Lorna Schofield, however, has not yet ruled on the motion to quash the subpoenas.

"Unsealing this action is not only permissible but compelled," she wrote. "One simple fact drives this conclusion: the information at issue is not secret."

An email seeking comment was sent to Sarcone's office. A phone message was not immediately returned late Friday.

James has accused the Trump administration of using the justice system as a "tool of revenge" against adversaries. The attorney general has sued Trump and his Republican administration dozens of times over his policies as president and over how he conducted his private business empire.

In October, James was indicted in a federal mortgage fraud case the president pressed the Justice Department to bring. She pleaded not guilty Monday allegations she lied on mortgage papers to get favorable loan terms when purchasing a house in Norfolk, Virginia, where she has family.

In her motion to quash Sarcone's subpoenas, James cited anonymous media reports that they were part of a grand jury investigation into allegations that James violated Trump's civil rights in 2022 when her office sued Trump, then a private businessman.

She argued Sarcone lacked authority to issue the subpoenas because he was improperly appointed by the Trump administration.

U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi appointed Sarcone to serve as the interim U.S. attorney for the Northern District of New York in March. With the expiration of the 120-day interim term, Bondi designated him as first assistant U.S. attorney for the district, essentially improperly extending his role as acting U.S. attorney, according to James.

James' lawyers in the mortgage fraud case have said they intend to challenge the appointment of the prosecutor, Lindsey Halligan, on similar grounds.

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

Air traffic controller shortages lead to broader US flight delays as shutdown nears one-month mark

By RIO YAMAT AP Airlines and Travel Writer

Travel delays were adding up at airports across the U.S. on Friday as the government shutdown drags on, putting even more pressure on air traffic controllers who have been working without pay for a month.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy has been warning that travelers will start to see more flight

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disruptions the longer controllers go without a paycheck.

"Every day there's going to be more challenges," Duffy told reporters Thursday outside the White House after a closed-door meeting with Vice President JD Vance and aviation industry leaders to talk about the shutdown's impact on U.S. travel.

The Federal Aviation Administration on Friday reported staffing shortages that were causing flight delays at a number of airports, including in Boston, Phoenix, San Francisco, Nashville, Houston, Dallas and the Washington, D.C. area. Airports serving the New York City area — John F. Kennedy International Airport, LaGuardia Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport — were also experiencing delays averaging around two hours, according to the FAA.

"Currently nearly 50 percent of major air traffic control facilities are experiencing staffing shortages, and nearly 90 percent of air traffic controllers are out at New York-area facilities," the FAA said in a statement posted on X on Friday evening.

Staffing shortages can occur both in regional control centers that manage multiple airports and in individual airport towers, but they don't always lead to flight disruptions. According to aviation analytics firm Cirium, flight data showed strong on-time performance at most major U.S. airports for the month of October despite isolated staffing problems that surfaced throughout the month.

But Cirium said the data also showed a "broader slowdown" Thursday across the nation's aviation system for the first time since the shutdown began on Oct. 1, suggesting staffing-related disruptions may be spreading.

According to Cirium, many major U.S. airports on Thursday saw below-average on-time performance, with fewer flights departing within 15 minutes of their scheduled departure times. Staffing-related delays at Orlando's airport on Thursday, for example, averaged nearly four and a half hours for some time. The data does not distinguish between the different causes of delays, such as staffing shortages or bad weather.

Last weekend, a shortage of controllers also led to the FAA issuing a brief ground stop at Los Angeles International Airport, one of the busiest in the world. Flights were held at their originating airports for about two hours Sunday until the FAA lifted the ground stop.

Most controllers are continuing to work mandatory overtime six days a week during the shutdown, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association said. That leaves little time for a side job to help cover bills, mortgage payments and other expenses unless controllers call out.

Duffy said controllers are also struggling to get to work because they can't afford to fill up their cars with gas. Controllers missed their first full paychecks on Tuesday.

"For this nation's air traffic controllers, missing just one paycheck can be a significant hardship, as it is for all working Americans. Asking them to go without a full month's pay or more is simply not sustainable," Nick Daniels, president of NATCA, said Friday in a statement.

Some U.S. airports have stepped in to provide food donations and other support for federal aviation employees working without pay, including controllers and Transportation Security Administration agents.

Before the shutdown, the FAA was already dealing with a long-standing shortage of about 3,000 air traffic controllers.

FBI says shooter in deadly Michigan church attack was motivated by hatred toward the Mormon faith

By ISABELLA VOLMERT and HANNAH SCHOENBAUM Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The former Marine who opened fire in a Michigan church and set it ablaze last month was motivated by "anti-religious beliefs" against The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the FBI confirmed Friday.

While friends of the gunman in the deadly shooting have said he harbored hatred for what is widely known as the Mormon church, the FBI had previously declined to specify the motivation behind the attack that left four people dead and the church burned to the ground, except to say it was a "targeted" act of violence.

The gunman, Thomas Jacob Sanford, 40, was killed by law enforcement responding to the shooting.

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"I am confirming this is a targeted act of violence believed to be motivated by the assailant's anti-religious beliefs against the Mormon religious community," Jennifer Runyan, special agent in charge of the FBI Detroit field office, said in a prerecorded video message. The agency declined to share further information on what led to its conclusion.

Sanford drove his pickup truck into the side of a Latter-day Saints chapel in Grand Blanc Township, 60 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of Detroit, on Sunday, Sept. 28, and began shooting at congregants. Authorities have said he used gasoline as an accelerant to then light the church on fire.

Body camera footage released by Grand Blanc Township police shows an officer yelling, "Drop the gun! Drop the gun! Drop it now!" One of the officers tells another, "I've got your back, back here man. Yeah stay there. Shoot him!"

The FBI said Friday that nine people were injured in the attack. The previous official count had been eight.

"During our investigation, an additional individual was determined to be 'injured' during the Grand Blanc critical incident," a spokesperson said in a statement.

The agency declined to comment Friday on the nature of the additional injury.

The four people who were killed have been identified through family and friends as Craig Hayden, William "Pat" Howard, John Bond and Thelma Armstrong.

Lisa Louis, who was in the chapel when her father, Hayden, was fatally shot, wrote in a letter that after looking into the shooter's eyes, she forgave him, "with my heart."

Earlier this month, top church leaders preached a message of love and forgiveness in the wake of the attack while gathered for the faith's twice-annual general conference in its home state of Utah. Its members responded by raising hundreds of thousands of dollars in an online fundraiser for the gunman's family.

The church said it strengthened its security protocols for the conference and, days later, for the funeral of its oldest-ever president, who died a day before the Michigan shooting.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints did not have a comment Friday.

Brandt Malone, a member of the faith who was attending services at a nearby church on the morning of the shooting, said the FBI's statement "did confirm some of our darkest fears — that this attack was motivated by hatred."

"This affects all believers of all religious traditions, and it hurts that there are those out there who are motivated by the darkest of feelings," he said.

Malone grew up attending events at the church where the attack occurred. He said local Latter-day Saints have been uplifted by an outpouring of love from the Grand Blanc Township community and other religious congregations.

Authorities have released little information about Sanford and the attack. People who knew him have said he began vocalizing anti-Mormon sentiments years ago after living in Utah, where he dated and broke up with a girlfriend who was a member of the faith. Sanford had moved to Utah after leaving the Marines and told his friends he had become addicted to methamphetamines.

An attorney acting as a spokesperson for Sanford's family did not immediately return a request for comment.

Unidentified remains of 3 people transferred to Israel, Red Cross says

By WAFAA SHURAF and JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — The Red Cross said it transferred the unidentified remains of three people to Israel late Friday but they were still being examined and may not be those of missing hostages, an Israeli military official said.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to the media, said the remains had earlier been turned over to the Red Cross by Hamas in Gaza.

The handover follows Israel's return Friday of the bodies of 30 Palestinians to authorities in Gaza. That completed an exchange after militants turned over remains of two hostages, in a sign that the tense

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Israel-Hamas ceasefire agreement is edging forward.

The incremental progress came despite Israeli strikes on Gaza this week that killed more than 100 people following the killing of an Israeli soldier.

The bodies were also transferred with the Red Cross serving as intermediary. The return of the Palestinian remains was confirmed by a doctor at Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis, where medical workers were striving to identify them.

Gaza and Israel grapple with latest exchange of bodies

Photos showed the remains, in white body bags, arranged in rows inside the grounds of Nasser Hospital. Health officials have struggled to identify bodies without access to DNA kits.

The handover brings the number of Palestinian bodies returned by Israel to 225, only 75 of which have been identified by families, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It is unclear if those returned were killed in Israel during the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war, died in Israeli custody as detainees or were recovered from Gaza by troops during the war.

The bodies returned had been "torn apart and exhumed," Munir al-Bursh, director general of Gaza's Health Ministry, said in a post on X.

"Their flesh had melted, their faces erased by fire, leaving behind only bones and teeth," he said.

The Israeli military has previously told The Associated Press that all bodies returned so far are those of combatants, a claim the AP was unable to verify. The military has said it operates in accordance with international law.

Al-Bursh said recently that many of the bodies handed over appear to be fighters or others killed during the 2023 attack. Several relatives who have identified the bodies of family members said they weren't fighters.

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said late Thursday that the remains returned by Palestinian militants had been confirmed as those of Sahar Baruch and Amiram Cooper, both taken hostage during the 2023 attack.

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.

On Friday a small crowd of Israelis gathered in the plaza known as Hostages Square, praying together for the return of the dead hostages still in Gaza.

"We cannot give up until everybody, all the bodies, will be here," said Rimona Velner, a Tel Aviv resident who joined the gathering. "It's very important to the families and for us ... to close this circle."

Warning to Hamas

A senior U.S. official and a second source familiar with negotiations said that in messages passed to Hamas by mediators on Wednesday, Israel warned the militant group that its fighters had 24 hours to leave the yellow zone or face strikes.

That deadline passed Thursday evening, after which the senior U.S. official said "Israel will enforce the ceasefire and engage Hamas targets behind the yellow line." Hamas did not respond to a request for comment.

On Friday, Shifa hospital director Mohamed Abu Selmiya said that one person had been killed by Israeli gunfire in northern Gaza. Israel's military said its troops had fired after the person approached troops in a way that posed a threat.

In a new assessment released Friday, the United Nations said satellite photos taken in early October show that 81% of all buildings in Gaza have been destroyed or otherwise damaged in the conflict.

Government officials from eight Arab and Muslim nations will gather in Istanbul on Monday to discuss the next steps for Gaza, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Friday.

The talks follow a meeting between the countries' leaders and President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the United Nations Security Council, preceding the ceasefire agreement. They mark the latest effort to create an International Stabilization Force in Gaza, outlined in a 20-point U.S. plan.

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.

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In the October 2023 attack on Israel, Hamas-led militants 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 the figures without providing its own tally.

Israeli fire kills teen in West Bank

In the central West Bank town of Silwad on Friday, mourners thronged the streets for the funeral of Yamen Hamed, 15, who Palestinian health officials say was shot by an Israeli soldier overnight. Samed Yousef Hamed kissed his son goodbye.

Samed said his son left home Thursday to hang out with friends. Soon after, he learned the teen had been injured and Israel's army was preventing an ambulance from reaching him. Ahed Smirat, the ambulance driver who tried to reach Hamed following the shooting, told the AP that troops held him up multiple times. By the time they let him through, troops told him the teen had died, he said.

Israel's military called the teen a "terrorist" and said troops had fired believing that he was holding an explosive, but did not provide any evidence to support that characterization. Hamed's funeral was Friday.

The shooting is the latest in a surge of military killings of Palestinian children in the West Bank that has accompanied a general upswing in violence in the territory since the start of the Israel-Hamas war. Some were killed during Israeli military raids in dense neighborhoods, others by sniper fire in peaceful areas.

The killings have risen as the Israeli military has stepped up operations in the occupied West Bank since the war's onset in what it calls a crackdown on militants.

What's the filibuster and why does Trump want to get rid of it during the shutdown?

BY SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seemingly frustrated by the government shutdown and Democrats' unwillingness to accept a Republican funding bill, President Donald Trump is once again demanding that the Senate eliminate the legislative filibuster.

The filibuster is a longstanding parliamentary tool that halts action on most bills unless 60 senators in the 100-member chamber vote to move forward. Over the years, it has stymied policy priorities for Democrats and Republicans alike, and Trump has been complaining about the maneuver since his first White House term.

Getting rid of it would be a way for Republicans to immediately end the now month-long shutdown, he said. "It is now time for the Republicans to play their 'TRUMP CARD,' and go for what is called the Nuclear Option — Get rid of the Filibuster, and get rid of it, NOW!" the president wrote on his social media site Thursday night.

But majority Republicans have strongly resisted calls to eliminate the legislative filibuster, since it would dilute their power if and when they are in the minority again. In its best form, the filibuster encourages compromise and dealmaking.

Here are some common questions about the filibuster, and why it's coming up now in the shutdown debate.

What is a filibuster?

Unlike the House, the Senate places few constraints on lawmakers' right to speak. But senators can use the chamber's rules to hinder or block votes. That's what's effectively a filibuster — a term that, according to Senate records, began appearing in the mid-19th century.

The filibuster isn't in the Constitution and it wasn't part of the Founding Fathers' vision for the Senate.

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It was created inadvertently after Vice President Aaron Burr complained in 1805 that the chamber's rule book was redundant and overly complicated, according to historians.

But how the filibuster is used today doesn't resemble the public's longstanding perception of the tactic, which was made famous by the 1939 film, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," in which James Stewart played a senator who spoke on the floor until exhaustion.

Now, senators inform their leaders — and often confirm publicly — that they will filibuster a bill. No lengthy speeches required. Nonetheless, the Senate still needs to muster 60 votes to move past that obstacle. If they get that, then senators can move to final passage, which only requires a simple majority.

Wait — isn't the filibuster already gone?

Yes, but only for nominations. In 2013, then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., led Senate Democrats in eliminating the filibuster for all nominations except for candidates to the Supreme Court, triggering what's known in the Senate as the "nuclear option." Democrats were fed up with repeated Republican filibusters of President Barack Obama's nominees, especially to the influential U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, then the minority leader, furiously warned Democrats that they'd come to regret going nuclear. And he returned the favor in 2017, when Republicans moved to eliminate the filibuster on Supreme Court nominees as they confirmed Neil Gorsuch to the high court.

Trump mentioned in his Truth Social post that eliminating the filibuster would help Republicans get the "best Judges" and the "best U.S. Attorneys," but it's unclear what he meant since he needs only a simple majority to install those picks.

Democrats came close to dumping the legislative filibuster for voting rights legislation in 2022, but faced resistance from then-Sens. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona and Joe Manchin of West Virginia. They said changes to the filibuster would haunt Democrats if Republicans regain control of Congress and the White House — which the GOP did, not long after.

Earlier this year, Republicans changed the Senate's rules further to make it easier to confirm large groups of the least controversial executive branch nominees. But they have resisted calls from Trump to eliminate so-called "blue slips" that allow both senators to sign off on some lower court judges regardless of party.

What does this have to do with the shutdown?

As with any government funding bill — and most other legislation — Republicans need help from at least a handful of Democrats to clear the 60-vote threshold in the Senate since they control just 53 votes.

In exchange for their votes on a stopgap funding bill, most Democrats have been demanding an extension of subsidies for people who purchase health coverage under the Affordable Care Act. Republicans say that's a costly nonstarter, especially on a bill that keeps the federal government operating for a mere seven weeks.

Democrats argue that because the Senate needs 60 votes to advance funding bills, that gives them leverage. As the shutdown drags on, frustrated Republicans have been floating the idea of getting rid of the filibuster in order to erase that leverage.

"Maybe it's time to think about the filibuster," said Sen. Bernie Moreno, R-Ohio, on Fox News earlier this month. "Let's just vote with Republicans. We've got 52 Republicans. Let's go, and let's open the government. It may get to that." (There are 53 GOP senators, but one — Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul — is a committed 'no' on funding bills.)

Where do Republicans stand on dumping the filibuster?

Unlike many other demands from Trump, GOP senators have generally resisted his calls to get rid of the filibuster.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune has long defended the filibuster, and began his tenure as the Senate's top official in January pledging to preserve it.

He reiterated those sentiments in early October, saying the filibuster is "something that makes the Senate the Senate" and that the "60-vote threshold has protected this country." His spokesman emphasized on Friday after Trump's comments that Thune's position hasn't changed.

Veteran senators who have seen the chamber swing back and forth from Democratic to Republican

control are generally the ones who are the most firm on keeping the filibuster. But even some newer members agree.

"The filibuster forces us to find common ground in the Senate," Sen. John Curtis, R-Utah, elected in 2024, said on social media on Friday. "Power changes hands, but principles shouldn't. I'm a firm no on eliminating it."

Oftentimes, House Republicans weigh in on Senate strategy, urging GOP senators to follow Trump's wishes to eliminate the filibuster. But House members — unfortunately for them — have no influence on what the Senate does.

Speaker Mike Johnson said he texted with the president after Trump's late-night demand but refused to publicly weigh in on the filibuster question.

"It's not my call," Johnson said during his daily press conference at the Capitol.

Multiple people have been arrested in Michigan in a Halloween weekend attack plot, FBI director says

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Multiple people who had been allegedly plotting a violent attack over the Halloween weekend were arrested Friday in Michigan, FBI Director Kash Patel said in a social media post.

The law enforcement effort was focused on suburban Detroit. Patel said more information would be released later.

Investigators believe the plot was inspired by Islamic State extremism and are investigating whether those in custody were potentially radicalized online, according to two people briefed on the investigation who could not publicly discuss details. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

FBI and state police vehicles were in a neighborhood near Fordson High School in Dearborn. People wearing shirts marked FBI walked in and out of a house, including one person who collected paper bags and other items from an evidence truck.

Police in Inkster, another suburb, said FBI personnel were at a storage facility there.

"There is no current threat to public safety," said Jordan Hall, an FBI spokesperson in Detroit, who declined further comment.

The investigation involved discussion in an online chatroom involving at least some of the suspects who were taken into custody, people familiar with the investigation told AP. The group had discussed carrying out an attack around Halloween, referring to "pumpkin day," according to one of the people. The other person briefed on the investigation confirmed that there had been a "pumpkin" reference.

It wasn't immediately clear if the group had the means to carry out an attack, but the reference to Halloween prompted the FBI to make arrests Friday, one of the people said.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said on X that she was briefed by Patel. She said she was grateful for "swift action" but offered no details.

Residents in the Dearborn neighborhood watched as investigators worked at the house.

"It's really scary because we have a lot of relatives around this neighborhood," said Fatima Saleh, who was next door.

Separately, in May, the FBI said it arrested a man who had spent months planning an attack against a U.S. Army site in suburban Detroit on behalf of the Islamic State group. The man, Ammar Said, didn't know that his supposed allies in the alleged plot were undercover FBI employees.

Said remains in custody, charged with attempting to provide support to a terrorist organization. The criminal complaint was replaced in September with a criminal "information" document, signaling that a plea agreement could be possible in the months ahead.

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 amid the threat of food aid funding for tens of millions of vulnerable Americans ending 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. who shifted plans to give out shelf-stable foods to trick-or-treaters this year to prepare for looming cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, that were put on hold at the final hour by two judges. They ruled Friday that President Donald Trump's administration must keep paying for SNAP through emergency reserve funds, but it's unclear how things will unfold and many beneficiaries are expected to have their payments delayed regardless.

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 judgment.

"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.

"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 full time — 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 stockpiling 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."

Judges order Trump administration to use emergency reserves for SNAP payments during the shutdown

By MICHAEL CASEY, GEOFF MULVIHILL and KIMBERLEE KRUESI Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Two federal judges ruled nearly simultaneously on Friday that President Donald Trump's administration must continue to pay for SNAP, the nation's biggest food aid program, using emergency reserve funds during the government shutdown.

The judges in Massachusetts and Rhode Island gave the administration leeway on whether to fund the program partially or in full for November. That also brings uncertainty about how things will unfold and will delay payments for many beneficiaries whose cards would normally be recharged early in the month.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture planned to freeze payments to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program starting Nov. 1 because it said it could no longer keep funding it due to the shutdown. The program serves about 1 in 8 Americans and is a major piece of the nation's social safety net. It costs about \$8 billion per month nationally.

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Minnesota Democrat and the ranking member of the Senate Agriculture committee that oversees the food aid program, said Friday's rulings from judges nominated to the bench by former President Barack Obama confirm what Democrats have been saying: "The administration is choosing not to feed Americans in need, despite knowing that it is legally required to do so."

Trump posted on social media Friday blasting congressional Democrats for the shutdown and suggesting the government would comply with the rulings but also that it needed more clarity first: "If we are given the appropriate legal direction by the Court, it will BE MY HONOR to provide the funding."

Judges agree at least one fund must go toward SNAP

Democratic state attorneys general or governors from 25 states and the District of Columbia challenged the plan to pause the program, contending that the administration has a legal obligation to keep it running in their jurisdictions.

The administration said it wasn't allowed to use a contingency fund of about \$5 billion for the program, which reversed a USDA plan from before the shutdown that said money would be tapped to keep SNAP running. The Democratic officials said not only could that money be used, but that it must be. They also said a separate fund with around \$23 billion is available for the cause.

In Providence, Rhode Island, U.S. District Judge John J. McConnell ruled from the bench in a case filed by cities and nonprofits that the program must be funded using at least the contingency funds. He asked for an update on progress by Monday.

Along with ordering the federal government to use emergency reserves to backfill SNAP benefits, McConnell ruled that all previous work requirement waivers must continue to be honored. The USDA during the shutdown has terminated existing waivers that exempted work requirements for older adults, veterans and others.

There were similar elements in the Boston case, where U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani ruled in a written opinion that the USDA has to pay for SNAP, calling the suspension "unlawful." She ordered the federal government to advise the court by Monday as to whether they will use the emergency reserve funds to provide reduced SNAP benefits for November or fully fund the program "using both contingency funds and additional available funds.

"Defendants' suspension of SNAP payments was based on the erroneous conclusion that the Contingency Funds could not be used to ensure continuation of SNAP payments," she wrote. "This court has now clarified that Defendants are required to use those Contingency Funds as necessary for the SNAP program."

For many, benefits will still be delayed after the ruling

No matter how the rulings came down, the benefits for millions of people will be delayed in November because the process of loading cards can take a week or more in many states.

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The administration did not immediately say whether it would appeal the rulings.

States, food banks and SNAP recipients have been bracing for an abrupt shift in how low-income people can get groceries. Advocates and beneficiaries say halting the food aid would force people to choose between buying groceries and paying other bills.

Most states have announced more or expedited funding for food banks or novel ways to load at least some benefits onto the SNAP debit cards.

Across the U.S., advocates who had been sounding the alarm for weeks about the pending SNAP benefits cut off let out a small sigh of relief as the rulings came down Friday, while acknowledging the win is temporary and possibly not complete.

"Thousands of nonprofit food banks, pantries and other organizations across the country can avoid the impossible burden that would have resulted if SNAP benefits had been halted," said Diane Yentel, president and CEO of the National Council of Nonprofits, one of the plaintiffs in the Rhode Island case.

The possibility of reduced benefits also means uncertainty

Cynthia Kirkhart, CEO of Facing Hunger Food Bank in Huntington, West Virginia, said her organization and the pantries it serves in Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia will keep their extra hours this weekend, knowing that the people whose benefits usually arrive at the start of the month won't see them.

"What we know, unless the administration is magical, is nothing is going to happen tomorrow," she said.

Kristle Johnson, a full-time nursing student and mother of three in Florida, is concerned about the possibility of reduced benefits.

Despite buying meat in bulk, careful meal planning and not buying junk food, she said, her \$994 a month benefit doesn't buy a full month's groceries.

"Now I have to deal with someone who wants to get rid of everything I have to keep my family afloat until I can better myself," Johnson said of Trump.

The ruling doesn't resolve partisan tussles

At a Washington news conference earlier Friday, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, whose department runs SNAP, said the contingency funds in question would not cover the cost of the program for long. Speaking at a press conference with House Speaker Mike Johnson at the Capitol, she blamed Democrats for conducting a "disgusting dereliction of duty" by refusing to end their Senate filibuster as they hold out for an extension of health care funds.

A push this week to continue SNAP funding during the shutdown failed in Congress.

To qualify for SNAP in 2025, a family of four's net income after certain expenses 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.

"The court's ruling protects millions of families, seniors, and veterans from being used as leverage in a political fight and upholds the principle that no one in America should go hungry," Skye Perryman, president and CEO of Democracy Forward, said of the Rhode Island decision.

Militia attack on hospital in Darfur came in waves, WHO says

By SARAH EL DEEB and JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Groups of gunmen who reportedly killed at least 460 people at a hospital in Sudan attacked in several waves, abducting doctors and nurses, then gunning down staff, patients and people sheltering there, the World Health Organization said Friday.

The attack Tuesday in the country's Darfur region was part of a reported rampage by the Rapid Support Forces, a powerful paramilitary group, as it captured the key city of el-Fasher after besieging it for 18 months. Witnesses have reported fighters going house-to-house, killing civilians and committing sexual assaults.

Many details of the hospital attack and other violence in the city have been slow to emerge, and the total death toll remains unknown.

The fall of el-Fasher heralds a new phase of the brutal, two-year war between the RSF and the military

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in Africa's third-largest country.

The war has killed more than 40,000 people, according to U.N. figures, but aid groups say that is an undercount and the true number could be many times higher. The war has displaced more than 14 million people and fueled outbreaks of diseases believed to have killed thousands. Famine has been declared in parts of Darfur, a region the size of Spain, and other parts of the country.

Escaping el-Fasher

Communications are down in el-Fasher, located deep in a semi-desert region some 800 kilometers (500 miles) southwest of Khartoum, the capital. Aid groups that had been operating there have largely been forced out.

Some survivors have staggered into a refugee camp about 40 miles away in the town of Tawila.

More than 62,000 people are believed to have fled el-Fasher between Sunday and Wednesday, the U.N. migration agency said. But far fewer have made it to Tawila. The Norwegian Refugee Council, which manages the camp, put the number at around 5,000 people, raising fears over the fate of tens of thousands.

Fatima Abdulrahim, 70, fled el-Fasher with her grandchildren a few days before it was captured to escape the siege. She described to The Associated Press a harrowing five-day journey to reach Tawila, hiding in trenches, dodging bullets and gunmen behind walls and empty buildings.

"We ran on the streets, hiding for ten minutes behind the berm, then charging out, running until we made it out," she said, adding that she kept falling and getting up amid gunfire and shelling. Her companions carried her at times, she said.

"Thirst almost killed us," she said, describing picking grass to eat from the side of the road.

Along the way, she said she also witnessed militiamen shoot and kill young men trying to bring food into the city.

"The people dead on the streets were countless," she said. "I kept covering the eyes of the little ones so they don't see. Some were injured and beaten and could not move. We pulled some to the paved road, hoping a car would come and take them."

She said some fighters stopped her, and the group she was traveling with, and took all their belongings and beat the children.

At least 450 people have been admitted to the hospital in Tawila, some suffering from severe malnutrition and sexual violence, said Adam Rojal, spokesperson for a local group that works with displaced people in Darfur.

The Norwegian Refugee Council said people were arriving at the camp with broken limbs and other wounds, and some with injuries sustained months ago. Many children arrived at the camp who had lost their parents in the fighting.

Of the 70 children younger than 5 that arrived in Tawila on Monday, 40 were severely malnourished, according to Doctors Without Borders.

Hospital attack

Christian Lindmeier, a WHO spokesman, provided new details about the killings at el-Fasher's Saudi Hospital, which had been the only hospital in the city still providing limited services during the siege.

Gunmen returned to the facility at least three times, Lindmeier told a U.N. press briefing in Geneva. At first, the fighters came and abducted a number of doctors and nurses, and at least six are still being held, he said. They later returned and "started killing," he said.

They came a third time and "finished off what was still standing, including other people sheltering in the hospital," Lindmeier said, without specifying who the attackers were.

A number of grisly videos from the hospital have circulated online showing bodies and at least one fighter shooting a man. The Associated Press has not been able to independently verify the details of the assault.

The RSF denied committing killings at the hospital. On Thursday, it posted on social media a video filmed at the hospital, showing what it said were some patients at the facility. A person speaking in the video said RSF fighters were caring for the patients, offering them change of wounds and food. At least one wounded man spoke to the reporter.

It was not immediately clear when the video was filmed, although a timestamp stated it was Thursday.

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Dr. Teresa Zakaria, WHO's unit head for humanitarian operations, told the briefing that the hospital was offering "limited service" now. But he said that since el-Fasher's seizure on Sunday, "there is no longer any humanitarian health presence in the city, and access has remained blocked."

Militia accused of repeated mass killings

El-Fasher was the Sudanese military's last stronghold in Darfur, and its fall secures the RSF's hold over most of the large western region. That raises fears of a new split in Sudan, with the military holding Khartoum and the country's north and east.

The RSF and its allied militias have been accused of repeated mass killings and rapes when it controlled the capital Khartoum, and as it has seized towns across Darfur and further south over the past two years – mostly targeting civilians of Central and East African ethnicities.

The RSF is largely made up of fighters from the Arab Janjaweed militia, which is accused of carrying out a government-backed genocidal campaign in Darfur in the 2000s in which some 300,000 people were killed.

The Janjaweed were initially recruited by the military to fight Darfur insurgents, who were rebelling against power concentrated in the north. The militia later were reorganized into the RSF as an official force.

The military and the RSF were briefly allied in ruling Sudan following popular protests that ousted long-time leader Omar al-Bashir. They had a falling out in 2023 in a struggle for power.

Monkey escape in Mississippi gives a glimpse into the secretive world of animal research

By JEFF MARTIN Associated Press

The recent escape of several research monkeys after the truck carrying them overturned on a Mississippi interstate is the latest glimpse into the secretive industry of animal research and the processes that allow key details of what happened to be kept from the public.

Three monkeys have remained on the loose since the crash on Tuesday in a rural area along Interstate 59, spilling wooden crates labeled "live monkeys" into the tall grass near the highway. Since then, searchers in masks, face shields and other protective equipment have scoured nearby fields and woods for the missing primates. Five of the 21 Rhesus macaques on board were killed during the search, according to the local sheriff, but it was unclear how that happened.

Key details remain shrouded in secrecy

Mississippi authorities have not disclosed the company involved in transporting the monkeys, where the monkeys were headed or who owns them. While Tulane University in New Orleans has acknowledged that the monkeys had been housed at its National Biomedical Research Center in Covington, Louisiana, it said it doesn't own them and won't identify who does.

An initial report from the sheriff described the monkeys as "aggressive" and carrying diseases such as herpes, adding to the confusion. Tulane later said the monkeys were free of pathogens, but it is still unclear what kind of research the monkeys were used for.

The questions surrounding the Mississippi crash and the mystery of why the animals were traveling through the South are remarkable, animal advocates say.

"When a truck carrying 21 monkeys crashes on a public highway, the community has a right to know who owned those animals, where they were being sent, and what diseases they may have been exposed to and harbored simply by being caught up in the primate experimentation industry," said Lisa Jones-Engel, senior science adviser on primate experimentation with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

"It is highly unusual — and deeply troubling — that Tulane refuses to identify its partner in this shipment," Jones-Engel added.

One thing that is known is that the 2025 Chevrolet Silverado pickup hauling the monkeys was driven by a 54-year-old Cascade, Maryland, man when it ran off the highway into the grassy median area, the Mississippi Highway Patrol said in a statement to The Associated Press. The driver wasn't hurt, nor was his passenger, a 34-year-old resident of Thurmont, Maryland.

Confidentiality is built into contracts, blocking information

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Transporting research animals typically requires legally binding contracts that prohibit the parties involved from disclosing information, Tulane University said in a statement to the AP. That's done for the safety of the animals and to protect proprietary information, the New Orleans-based university said.

"To the best of Tulane's knowledge, the 13 recovered animals remain in the possession of their owner and are en route to their original destination," the statement said.

The crash has drawn a range of reactions — from conspiracy theories that suggest a government plot to sicken people to serious responses from people who oppose experimenting on animals.

"How incredibly sad and wrong," Republican U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene said of the crash.

"I've never met a taxpayer that wants their hard-earned dollars paying for animal abuse nor who supports it," the Georgia congresswoman said in a post on the social platform X. "This needs to end!"

Tulane center has ties to more than 155 institutions worldwide

Tulane's Covington center has received \$35 million annually in National Institutes of Health support, and its partners include nearly 500 investigators from more than 155 institutions globally, the school said in an Oct. 9 news release. The center has been funded by NIH since 1964, and federal grants have been a significant source of income for the institution, it said.

In July, some of the research center's 350 employees held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the opening of a new 10,000-square-foot office building and a new laboratory at the facility. This fall, the facility's name was changed from the Tulane National Primate Research Center to the Tulane National Biomedical Research Center to reflect its broader mission, university officials announced.

Research monkeys have escaped before in South Carolina, Pennsylvania

The Mississippi crash is one of at least three major monkey escapes in the U.S. over the past four years.

Last November, 43 Rhesus macaques escaped from a South Carolina compound that breeds them for medical research after an enclosure wasn't fully locked. Employees from the Alpha Genesis facility in Yemassee, South Carolina, set up traps to capture them. However, some spent two months that winter living in the woods and weathering a rare snowstorm. By late January, the last four escapees were recaptured after being lured back into captivity by peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

In January 2022, several cynomolgus macaque monkeys escaped when a truck towing a trailer of about 100 of the animals collided with a dump truck on a Pennsylvania highway, authorities said. The monkeys were headed to a quarantine facility in an undisclosed location after arriving at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York on a flight from Mauritius, an Indian Ocean island nation, authorities said. A spokesperson for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said all of the animals were accounted for within about a day, though three were euthanized for undisclosed reasons.

Amazon carries Wall Street to the finish of another winning week and month

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon led the U.S. stock market on Friday to the finish of another winning week and month.

The S&P 500 rose 0.3% and pulled closer to its all-time high set on Tuesday. It closed out a third straight winning week and a sixth straight winning month, its longest monthly winning streak since 2021.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 40 points, or 0.1%, and the Nasdaq composite gained 0.6%.

Amazon led the way and jumped 9.6%. The retail giant was by far the strongest force lifting the market after reporting profit for the latest quarter that blew past analysts' expectations. CEO Andy Jassy said growth for its booming cloud-computing business has accelerated to a pace it hasn't seen since 2022.

Amazon's massive size of roughly \$2.4 trillion means its stock movements carry more weight on the S&P 500 than almost any other company's. Without it, the S&P 500 would have been down for the day.

Another highly influential stock, Apple, had less of an effect on the market even though it's bigger than Amazon. The iPhone maker, which is worth more than \$4 trillion, swung between modest gains and losses through the day before finishing with a dip of 0.4%.

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It likewise delivered a better profit report for the latest quarter than analysts expected, though by not as big a margin as Amazon did. CEO Tim Cook said it benefited from strong revenue for both its iPhone lineup and its services offerings, which include its app store.

Elsewhere on Wall Street, online message board Reddit jumped 7.5% to erase losses from earlier in the week after reporting stronger profit and revenue for the latest quarter than analysts expected.

Coinbase Global rose 4.6% after the crypto exchange's profit likewise topped expectations.

Outside of earnings reports, Netflix added 2.7% after the video streamer announced a move that could make its stock price more affordable but still leave all its investors holding the same amount. Netflix will undergo a 10-for-1 stock split, where it will give nine additional shares to investors for each they own.

They helped offset a drop for AbbVie, which fell 4.5% even though the medicine maker reported stronger profit for the latest quarter than expected. Analysts pointed to how it's beating forecasts by less than before, and expectations may have been high after AbbVie's stock came into the day with a strong 28.4% gain for the year so far.

The pressure is on companies broadly to deliver big growth in profits to justify the huge gains their stock prices have made since April. Criticism has been growing that the U.S. stock market has become too expensive.

A day earlier, the S&P 500 slumped 1% as investors appeared unnerved by big increases in spending that Meta Platforms and Microsoft are planning as part of the investment spree underway in artificial-intelligence technology. Financial markets also appeared skeptical that President Donald Trump's trade truce with China would put an end to tensions between the two countries.

Additional drops on Friday of 1.5% for Microsoft and 2.7% for Meta were the two heaviest weights on the U.S. market.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 17.86 points to 6,840.20. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 40.75 to 47,562.87, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 143.81 to 23,724.96.

In stock markets abroad, indexes dipped in Europe following a mixed finish in Asia.

Stocks fell 1.4% in Hong Kong and 0.8% in Shanghai after data showed factory activity in China contracted in October for a seventh straight month.

Japan's Nikkei 225, meanwhile, jumped 2.1% to another record after a report showed industrial production rose more in September than expected.

In the bond market, Treasury yields eased following their spurt higher in the middle of the week, when Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell warned that another cut to interest rates in December "is not a foregone conclusion — far from it."

The yield on the 10-year Treasury dipped to 4.09% from 4.11% late Thursday, though it's still above the 3.99% level it was at before Powell's warning.

Other central banks have halted cuts to rates or hinted at pauses recently, and "it seems this is it for the 2025 easing season in developed economies," economists at Bank of America wrote in a BofA Global Research report.

Ohio panel and Virginia lawmakers move forward with congressional redistricting plans

By DAVID A. LIEB, OLIVIA DIAZ and MARK SCOLFORO Associated Press

An Ohio panel adopted new U.S. House districts on Friday that could boost the GOP's chances of winning two additional seats in next year's elections and aid President Donald Trump's efforts to hold on to a slim congressional majority.

The action by the Ohio Redistricting Commission came as Virginia's Democratic-led General Assembly advanced a proposed constitutional amendment that could pave the way for redistricting in the state ahead of the 2026 congressional elections. That measure needs another round of legislative approval early next year before it can go to voters.

Trump has been urging Republican-led states to reshape their U.S. House districts in an attempt to win

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more seats. But unlike in other states, Ohio's redistricting was required by the state constitution because the current districts were adopted after the 2020 census without bipartisan support.

Ohio joins Texas, Missouri and North Carolina, where Republican lawmakers already have revised congressional districts.

Democrats have been pushing back. California voters are deciding Tuesday on a redistricting plan passed by the Democratic-led Legislature.

The political parties are in an intense battle, because Democrats need to gain just three seats in next year's election to win control of the House and gain the power to impede Trump's agenda.

In a rare bit of bipartisanship, Ohio's new map won support from all five Republicans and both Democrats on the redistricting panel. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee praised the Ohio Democrats "for negotiating to prevent an even more egregious gerrymander" benefiting Republicans.

Republicans hold 10 of Ohio's 15 congressional seats. The new map could boost their chances in already competitive districts currently held by Democratic Reps. Greg Landsman in Cincinnati and Marcy Kaptur near Toledo. Kaptur won a 22nd term last year by about 2,400 votes, or less than 1 percentage point, in a district carried by Trump. Landsman won reelection with more than 54% of the vote.

National Democrats said they expect to hold both targeted districts and compete to flip three other Republican seats.

Ohio residents criticize new map

Ohio's commission had faced a Friday deadline to adopt a new map, or the task would have fallen to the GOP-led Legislature, which could have crafted districts even more favorable to Republicans. Any redistricting bill passed by the Legislature could have been subject to an initiative petition campaign from opponents forcing a public referendum on the new map.

That uncertainty provided commissioners of both parties with some incentive for compromise. House Minority Leader Dani Isaacsohn, a Democratic commissioner, said the deal "averts the disaster that was coming our way" with a potential 13-2 map favoring Republicans. And Republican Secretary of State Frank LaRose, another commissioner, said it avoided a costly battle over a referendum that could have delayed the state's primaries.

But Ohio residents who testified to commissioners Friday denounced the new districts. Julia Cattaneo, whose shirt proclaimed, "gerrymandering is cheating," said the new map is gerrymandered for Republicans more than the one it is replacing and is not the sort of compromise needed.

"Yes, you are compromising — your integrity, honor, duty and to represent Ohioans," she said.

Added resident Scott Sibley: "This map is an affront to democracy, and you should all — every one of you — be ashamed."

Republican Auditor Keith Farber, a commission member, defended the map during a testy exchange with one opponent. Because many Democrats live in cities and many Republicans in rural areas, he said there was no way to draw eight Republican and seven Democratic districts — as some had urged — without splitting cities, counties and townships.

Virginia Democrats point at Trump to defend redistricting

Virginia is represented in the U.S. House by six Democrats and five Republicans. Democratic lawmakers haven't unveiled their planned new map, nor how many seats they will try to gain, but said their moves are necessary to respond to the Trump-inspired gerrymandering in Republican-led states.

"Our voters are asking to have that voice. They're asking that we protect democracy, that we not allow gerrymandering to happen throughout the country, and we sit back," Democratic Sen. Barbara Favola said.

The proposed constitutional amendment would let lawmakers temporarily bypass a bipartisan commission and redraw congressional districts to their advantage. The Senate's approval Friday followed House approval Wednesday.

The developments come as Virginia holds elections Tuesday, where all 100 state House seats are on the ballot. Democrats would need to keep their slim majority to advance the constitutional amendment again next year. It then would go to a statewide referendum.

Republican Sen. Mark Obenshain said Democrats were ignoring the will of voters who overwhelmingly

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approved the bipartisan redistricting commission.

"Heaven forbid that we actually link arms and work together on something," Obenshain said. "What the voters of Virginia said is, 'We expect redistricting to be an issue that we work across the aisle on, that we link arms on.'"

But Democratic Sen. Schuyler VanValkenburg, who has long championed the bipartisan redistricting commission, noted it still would be responsible for redistricting after the 2030 census.

"We're not trying to end the practice of fair maps," he said. "We are asking the voters if, in this one limited case, they want to ensure that a constitutional-norm-busting president can't break the entire national election by twisting the arms of a few state legislatures."

Indiana and Kansas could be next

Republican Indiana Gov. Mike Braun called a special session to begin Monday to redraw congressional districts, currently held by seven Republicans and two Democrats. But lawmakers don't plan to begin work on that day. Although it's unclear exactly when lawmakers will convene, state law allows 40 days to complete a special session.

In Kansas, Republican lawmakers are trying to collect enough signatures from colleagues to call themselves into a special session on congressional redistricting beginning Nov. 7. Senate President Ty Master-son says he has the necessary two-thirds vote in the Senate, but House Republicans have at least a few holdouts. The petition is necessary because Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly isn't likely to call a session to redraw the current districts, held by three Republicans and one Democrat.

Andrew, the civilian formerly known as 'prince,' faces an uncertain future

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — He has lost his title as prince, lost his rent-free mansion on the sprawling grounds next to Windsor Castle and lost whatever remained of his reputation in the public eye.

What is next for the commoner once known as Prince Andrew probably involves a fleet of moving trucks as he packs up the trappings of his once royal life to move to an isolated private home owned by his brother, King Charles III.

But life as he knew it will change dramatically given the king's unprecedented act to protect the monarchy by stripping his younger brother of his titles and evicting him to punish him for serious lapses of judgment over his friendship with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

"On a personal level, it must be pretty devastating and the ultimate humiliation for him," said Joe Little, editor of Majesty Magazine. "We know him to be rather an arrogant character, but this has got to be taking its toll on him mentally. It would be very strange if it weren't."

Downsizing his digs

It was not exactly clear what house the civilian now known as Andrew Mountbatten Windsor will occupy on the king's private estate at Sandringham 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of London. But it will undoubtedly be smaller than Royal Lodge, the 30-room luxurious home that belies its rustic name.

As the Epstein drama was reignited recently by revelations that Andrew stayed friends with the disgraced financier longer than he previously disclosed, his hold on the Windsor property became tenuous despite a "cast-iron" lease.

Andrew spent about 8.5 million pounds on renovations and a down payment in 2003 when he got a 75-year lease to the property. It required an annual rent of a mere peppercorn (if demanded), a historic and symbolic figure often used in real estate transactions.

Andrew, 65, did not put up a fight when he was served notice to surrender the lease to the home on 99 acres (50 hectares) that includes a swimming pool, several cottages and a bird enclosure.

He will move as soon as practical to Sandringham, the longtime refuge for Charles on 20,000 acres (8,000 hectares) along the wind-swept North Sea coast of eastern England.

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How soon Andrew will move, however, was not disclosed, but it's not expected before the family gathers there for Christmas when they are typically seen walking to church. Andrew is not expected to be there for the event.

Impact on the family

The move to insulate the crown from the scandal-tainted Andrew will not affect just the former prince. Ex-wife Sarah Ferguson, who was also ensnared in the Epstein scandal, had shared Royal Lodge with him. Ferguson, who is no longer known as the Duchess of York, will have to find a new place to live.

The couple's daughters, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, however, will retain their titles along with the honorary HRH — her royal highness — because they are the granddaughters of a sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II.

King's private purse to prop up brother

The king is stepping in with his private wealth to financially support his brother, whose money woes have been at the heart of previous scandals over shady business deals and questionable relationships.

Andrew ceased being a working member of the royal family since he was suspended from duties following a disastrous 2019 interview in which he tried to defend his relationship with Epstein. He has no known source of income beyond a modest pension from his 22-year Royal Navy career.

George Gross, a royal expert at King's College London, said the financial arrangement makes sense. It shields the king from criticism Andrew is drawing from public coffers and shows he's not abandoning his brother.

"If Andrew is unable to be a working royal, and presumably is unemployable, then there has to be a little bit of thought as to what on earth is done with him for the remainder of his life," Gross said. "It's clearly important that he's provided for in some ways, because otherwise he becomes a potential pawn for anybody with negative or bad intentions."

Further possible consequences

Until now, Andrew's royal privilege provided a layer of protection for him. But his diminished status and calls for accountability could expose him to consequences outside the control of the House of Windsor.

A parliamentary committee is looking into how he could afford to maintain Royal Lodge and a lavish lifestyle, despite not paying rent, with no major source of income in recent years.

Andrew previously settled a U.S. sexual abuse lawsuit for millions of dollars with Virginia Roberts Giuffre, who died by suicide in April at the age of 41. Giuffre said she was 17 when she was trafficked by Epstein to have sex with Andrew in London.

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

Giuffre's family has called for Andrew to face further legal consequences. Police are investigating a claim that he asked one of his police bodyguards to dig up dirt on Giuffre.

Historian Andrew Lownie, who wrote a recent biography of Andrew and 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," Lownie, the author of "Entitled: The Rise and Fall of the House of York," told the BBC.

Still in line to be king

Despite losing his nobility, Andrew remains eighth in line to the throne.

Removing him from the line of succession would require action from Parliament and that is unlikely at this point.

Lawmakers could have removed Andrew's titles, but the king took action in part to spare the government from wasting time on the matter.

Whether there's an appetite to take up the succession issue later — or if the Epstein saga continues to bring damaging headlines — is unknown.

While he's technically in line to be king some day, Gross said: "Of course, that's entirely unrealistic."

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Trump declines to clarify if the US will conduct tests of its nuclear weapons

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and MANUEL BALCE CENETA Associated Press

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE (AP) — President Donald Trump declined to say Friday whether he plans to resume underground nuclear detonation tests, as he had seemed to suggest in a social media post this week that raised concerns the U.S. would begin testing nuclear weapons for the first time in three decades.

The president told reporters “You’ll find out very soon,” without elaborating when asked if he means to resume underground nuclear detonation tests.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth offered few details on Friday when asked about what nuclear testing the Pentagon would oversee. But he seemed to indicate to reporters that the intent was to test warheads when he said “resuming testing” would be “pretty responsible.”

Trump, who spoke to reporters aboard Air Force One as he headed to Florida for a weekend stay, said, “We’re going to do some testing” and “Other countries do it. If they’re going to do it, we’re going to” but then refused to offer more details.

His comments on nuclear testing have drawn confusion inside and outside the government when the president seemed to suggest in a brief post that the U.S. would resume nuclear warhead tests on an “equal basis” with Russia and China, whose last known tests were in the 1990s. Some of Trump’s comments seemed to refer to testing missiles that would deliver a warhead, rather than the warhead itself. There has been no indication that the U.S. would start detonating warheads.

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.

The Pentagon has not responded to questions. The Energy Department, which oversees the U.S. nuclear stockpile, declined to comment Friday.

Hegseth, speaking as he appeared at a meeting of defense ministers in Malaysia on the sidelines of a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, said the Pentagon would work with the Energy Department.

“The president was clear: We need to have a credible nuclear deterrent,” he said. “That is the baseline of our deterrence.” He said “resuming testing is a pretty responsible — very responsible — way to do that. And I think it makes nuclear conflict less likely.”

He added a few moments later: “It’s the right directive. We’ve moving out quickly.”

Trump’s post on nuclear tests came as Russia this week announced it had tested a new atomic-powered and nuclear-capable underwater drone and a new nuclear-powered cruise missile.

Russia responded to Trump’s post by underscoring that it did not test its nuclear weapons and has abided by a global ban on nuclear testing. The Kremlin warned though, that if the U.S. resumes testing its weapons, Russia will as well — an intensification that would restart Cold War-era tensions.

Vice Adm. Richard Correll, Trump’s nominee to lead the military command in charge of the nation’s nuclear arsenal, struggled to interpret the president’s comments when he testified before senators during a Capitol Hill hearing Thursday, telling them, “I’m not reading anything into it or reading anything out of it.”

Young adults turn to Quakers’ silent worship to offset — and cope with — a noisy world

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — At the Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia’s Old City, more and more young people are seeking respite from a clamorous technological age in the silent worship of a centuries-old faith.

Like other Quaker houses of worship, it follows values of simplicity and equality. There’s no clergy, pulpit or altar. No statues of saints, no stained-glass windows. No one sings or chants, burns incense or lights

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candles. They simply sit in silence in 200-year-old wooden pews — and wait for a message from God to move through them until they speak.

"This feels different in that it's so simple. It's set up in a way that makes you feel like your internal world ... is equally as important as the space that you're in," says Valerie Goodman, a pink-haired artist reading her Bible outside the meeting house on a recent Sunday before going inside. Goodman, 27, grew up Southern Baptist but left the evangelical church in college.

"It feels like I can have a minute to breathe. It's different than having a moment of meditation in my apartment because there's still all of the distractions around," Goodman says. "And it's crazy being in a room full of other people that are all there to experience that themselves."

It has been called the "Westminster Abbey of Quakerism." Yet for years, attendance at Arch Street was so low, and its historic 300-seat West Room felt so empty, that the few people present began to meet in a smaller room. But recent years have produced an unprecedented surge in the number of attendees at Sunday worship — from about 25 before the coronavirus pandemic to up to 100 today.

"One of the things that I'm very excited about is the number of people that we have coming to meeting, and the fact that the majority of them are young," says Hazele Goodridge, Arch Street's clerk.

One couple's story

Among them: Emily Philbrook, 24, and Benjamin Barger, 27, who recently married at Arch Street in a traditional Quaker wedding. The couple moved from Washington to Philadelphia so he could attend veterinary school and began to worship at Arch Street three years ago.

He in a dark suit, she in a white wedding dress, they sat on chairs upfront facing hundreds of guests in wooden pews. Eyes shut, they held a long period of silence broken only when they stood to exchange their vows. Like other Quaker weddings, it was a self-uniting ceremony: They married each other, without an officiant. At the end, the guests lined up to sign, as witnesses, a marriage certificate.

Two days later, the couple returned to Arch Street for Sunday worship, wearing jeans, sneakers and Philadelphia Eagles T-shirts.

"It's really nice to have that hour of silence when so much is going on in the world," Barger says. "Kind of like stepping back into time a little bit in this building."

It isn't merely the silence. Philbrook says she values the faith's long tradition of Quaker activism that she believes is attracting young people at a time of deep divisions and political violence in America.

Historically, Quakers have been involved in peaceful protests to end wars and slavery, and they support women's voting rights in line with their commitment to justice and peace. Earlier this year, Quakers marched from New York City to Washington to demonstrate against the Trump administration's crackdown on immigrants.

"In times of national distress, people tend to turn towards something that is historically a peaceful and social justice-oriented faith," Philbrook says. "They just want a place to sit and reflect and be in a like-minded community."

Tracing its heritage to William Penn

The Arch Street Meeting House was built in the early 19th century on land donated by William Penn, an English Quaker, who founded Pennsylvania following the faith's emphasis on religious tolerance. It remains one of the world's largest active meeting houses.

"It's the most important building in the Quaker faith, probably because it is that sort of mecca of Quakerism," says Sean Connolly, executive director of the Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust. "It was built to be the largest, grandest Quaker meeting house in the world."

But not many knew about it. Tourists visiting Independence Hall and other historic Philadelphia attractions would walk into the meeting house's brick building and were often surprised Quakers even existed, says Goodridge, a member of Arch Street for more than 25 years.

"They think, 'Oh, they must have all died out because probably they don't hear too much about us,'" says Goodridge, who is also the first Black clerk in Arch Street's history. "They think of Quakers as a historic construct, something that used to be around."

Others, she says, would confuse them with Amish or Mennonites or would invoke Quaker Oats, which is

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unrelated to the faith. The company describes the logo as “a figure of a man in ‘Quaker garb’” with white hair and a tall black hat on its label that the owners picked along with the Quaker name more than 150 years ago “as a symbol of good quality and honest value.”

“Quakers didn’t haggle,” Goodridge says. “Quakers were fair businesspeople. And they made good products -- the benches are proof of it!”

Arch Street’s original wooden pews withstood the test of time. But how does a religion that offers the solace of quiet make itself known and compete against all the loud noise of the modern world?

Part of the challenge, Goodridge says, was that Quakers — those in the northeastern United States, at least — don’t proselytize. Arch Street, though, has more leeway because it’s a historic site with exterior exhibits that talk about the Quaker faith. That has helped increase visitation.

The museum run by Arch Street’s preservation trust has also held organized tours and virtual resources. One of them challenges visitors to test their knowledge of Quakerism with questions painted on a wooden panel. Among them: “Do Quakers quake?” “Do Quakers eat Quaker Oats?” and “Are Quakers still around today?”

Roots in 17th-century England

The Religious Society of Friends, or the Quakers, originated in 17th-century England. The Christian group was founded by George Fox, who objected to Anglican emphasis on ceremony. In the 1640s, he said he heard a voice that led him to develop a personal relationship with Christ, described as the Inner Light.

Fox taught that the Inner Light emancipates a person from adherence to any creed, ecclesiastical authority or ritual forms. Brought to court for opposing the established church, Fox tangled with a judge who derided him as a “quaker” in reference to his agitation over religious matters.

In the United States, Quakers became highly influential in cities like Philadelphia and founded colleges in Pennsylvania. But members of the group also faced scorn for refusing to join wars due to their belief in nonviolence. Some were persecuted and even executed for trying to spread their religious beliefs.

Today, there are an estimated 400,000 Quakers worldwide. About half live in Africa; most are in Kenya, where they use bands and choirs and evangelize.

Arch Street Quakers, though, want to remain traditional. But members credit its outreach clerk, Alec Unkovic, for raising awareness about the often-ignored contributions of Quakers by redesigning the congregation’s site and posting about events on social media.

“The stillness in meeting and the way of silence is atypical for our current moment,” says Unkovic, who grew up Catholic. “This meeting made a really conscious choice to acknowledge that many people were interested in this.”

On a recent Sunday, Aurora Reardanz sat with dozens of others at Arch Street. After worship, she shared that she had decided to become a full member.

Though she was baptized Catholic, Reardanz never practiced. Instead, she found her spiritual home in Quakerism and the faith’s values, known as SPICES — Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship. Today, she also appreciates silence, calling it “beautiful and alluring.” But it wasn’t always that way.

“My first meeting for worship at 15, I thought I was in a cult. I was terrified. The silence was deafening,” she says. “And it’s something that grew on me, and I think it grows on a lot of people, and they learn to appreciate it in a world of constant noise.”

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

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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 stanch 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 for his elder son, Prince William, to inherit.

"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," the author of "Entitled: The Rise and Fall of the House of York," told the BBC. "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 for decades. In 2007, he sold a house near Windsor Castle for 20% over the 15-million-pound (\$19.7 million) 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

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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."

Debate over energy costs fuels clear divide in New Jersey and Virginia governor's races

By OLIVIA DIAZ and MIKE CATALINI Associated Press

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. (AP) — If there's agreement on anything in the two states with governor's races this year, it's that utility bills are a growing concern among voters.

One Virginia voter, Kim Wilson, lamented at a town hall recently that her electricity bill seems to go up every month, no matter how much she tries to mitigate the costs. She was drawn to the event in part by its title: "The energy bills are too damn high."

"It's way too high," Wilson readily agreed.

In New Jersey, Herb Michitsch of Kenilworth said his electric bill has climbed to nearly \$400 a month, or more than four times what it was when he and his wife moved into their home half a century ago.

"Something really has to be done," Michitsch said.

That something must be done is pretty much where the agreement ends. It's what must be done that splits politicians back into rival camps.

Democratic candidates in the two states are far more likely to embrace clean energy options like wind and solar than their Republican opponents. The two states' Republican nominees are more closely aligned with the policies of President Donald Trump, who has called climate change a "con job" and promotes more traditional energy sources like gas and coal. New Jersey Republican nominee Jack Ciattarelli has acknowledged that human-caused climate change is occurring, but he says Democrats have driven up costs with their clean energy push.

Which side voters land on in the off-year elections will give both parties plenty to consider in what feels destined to be an emerging economic issue heading into next year's midterm elections.

At a recent rally in New Jersey, Democratic state Sen. Vin Gopal made clear that he stood with Democratic nominee Mikie Sherrill in support of her plans to lower costs. But Gopal acknowledged that the outcome could signal whether voters are ready to embrace the president's approach or have simply grown weary of national politics.

"The whole country is watching what happens," he said.

Technology drives up costs

The debate comes as people in the two states grapple with double-digit percentage increases in monthly electricity bills. The exploding costs are driven by soaring demand, particularly from data centers, and by the rapid onset of energy-intensive artificial intelligence technology. Virginia's largest energy utility also

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has linked potential future rate increases to inflation and other costs.

In Virginia's open race to succeed a term-limited GOP incumbent, Democrat Abigail Spanberger and Republican Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears are at odds over the development of renewable energy sources.

Spanberger has laid out a plan to expand solar and wind production in underused locations, praising a wind project off the coast of Virginia Beach. In a debate against her opponent, she also said she would "ensure that data centers pay their fair share" as costs rise. The state is home to the world's largest data center market,

Republican Winsome Earle-Sears wasn't having it.

"That's all she wants, is solar and wind," Earle-Sears said of Spanberger at the debate. "Well, if you look outside, the sun isn't shining and the breeze isn't blowing, and then what, Abigail, what will you do?"

In New Jersey, where Ciattarelli's endorsement by Trump included recent social media posts praising his energy affordability plans, the GOP nominee blames rising costs on eight years of Democratic control of state government.

Ciattarelli says he would pull New Jersey out of a regional greenhouse gas trading bloc, which Democratic incumbent Gov. Phil Murphy reentered when he first took office in 2018.

"It's been a failure," Ciattarelli said at the final debate of the campaign. "Electricity is at an all-time high."

He's also come out as a strident opponent of wind energy off the state's coast, an effort Democrats spearheaded under Murphy. A major offshore wind project ground to a halt when the Danish company overseeing it scrapped projects, citing supply chain problems and high interest rates.

At the center of Sherrill's campaign promise on the issue is an executive order to freeze rates and build cheaper and cleaner power generation.

"I know my opponent laughs at it," Sherrill said recently.

A growing concern among voters

The candidates' focus on affordability and utility rates reflects an unease among voters. A recent Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll found electricity bills are a "major" source of stress for 36% of U.S. adults, at a time when data center development for AI could further strain the power grid.

Perhaps that's why the statewide races have become something of an energy proxy battle in Virginia. Clean Virginia, a clean energy advocacy group that targets utility corruption, has backed all three Democratic candidates for statewide office in Virginia — a first for the organization. GOP statewide candidates, meanwhile, have accepted money from Dominion Energy, the largest electric utility in Virginia.

To further complicate an already complex issue: Virginia has passed the Virginia Clean Economy Act, which calls for utilities to sunset carbon energy production methods by 2045.

Republican House Minority Leader Terry Kilgore, who represents the southwest edge of Virginia, had failed to alter part of the state's Clean Economy Act earlier this year. Kilgore, whose top donor is Dominion Energy, said in February: "If their bills go any higher, there are folks in my region that are not able to pay them now, they're definitely not going to be able to pay them in the future."

Evan Vaughn, executive director of MAREC Action, a group of Mid-Atlantic renewable energy developers, said candidates from both parties are in a tough spot because bringing down prices quickly will be difficult given broader market dynamics.

"Voters should look to which candidate they think can do the best to stabilize prices by bringing more generation online," he said. "That's really going to be the key to affordability."

Michitsch, who's backing Sherrill in the governor's race and said he would campaign for her, said her proposal shows she's willing to do something to address spiraling costs.

"We need to change," he said. "And I think she is here to change things."

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FDA says drugmakers have recalled a blood pressure medicine tainted with a cancer-causing chemical

By The Associated Press undefined

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says drugmakers have recalled more than a half-million bottles of the blood pressure medication prazosin hydrochloride over concerns it may include a cancer-causing chemical.

New Jersey-based Teva Pharmaceuticals USA and drugs distributor Amerisource Health Services issued voluntary nationwide recalls earlier this month of more than 580,000 bottles of various strengths of prazosine capsules, according to the FDA.

Doctors prescribe prazosin, which relaxes blood vessels, to help lower blood pressure. It also is sometimes prescribed for nightmares and other sleep disturbances caused by post-traumatic stress disorder.

The FDA said in enforcement orders posted online that it has given the affected lots of the drug a Class II risk classification because some of the recalled medication may have nitrosamine impurities that are considered potentially cancer causing.

According to the FDA, N-nitrosamine impurities are a class of potentially cancer-causing chemicals that can form during manufacture or storage of a drug.

Quakers at a glance: A look at the faith's beliefs and the tradition of activism and silent worship

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Do Quakers quake? Do Quakers eat Quaker Oats? Are Quakers still around today? These are some of the questions that visitors often ask at the Arch Street Meeting House in Old City Philadelphia.

Many visitors don't know about the Quakers' faith. But in recent years, attendance has been surging. The Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust has used exhibits, technology and social media to help teach others about Quakers and the meeting house that was built in the early 19th century. It is still one of the world's largest and most important Quaker buildings.

Here's a look at the faith's beliefs and history — and some common misconceptions about it.

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Quakers began in England

The Religious Society of Friends — best known as the Quakers — originated in 17th-century England. The Christian group was founded by George Fox, an Englishman who objected to Anglican emphasis on ceremony. In the 1640s, he said he heard a voice that led him to develop a personal relationship with Christ, described as the Inner Light. Fox taught that the Inner Light emancipates a person from adherence to any creed, ecclesiastical authority or ritual forms. Brought to court for opposing the established church, Fox tangled with a judge who derided him as a “quaker” in reference to his agitation over religious matters.

Quakers worship in silence and believe in the ‘Inner Light’

Quakers follow values of simplicity and equality and believe that everyone can have a personal connection with God. The basic unit of Quaker organization is the weekly meeting, which corresponds to the congregation in other churches. There are no religious symbols or clergy, and no one sings or chants. Quakers simply gather for silent worship at meeting houses, and wait for a message from God to move through them until they speak. This form of worship focused in stillness has been around for more than 350 years.

Quaker couples officiate their own weddings

Quakers marry in a self-uniting ceremony without an officiant. Couples observe silence that is only broken when they exchange their vows. At the end, guests sign, as witnesses, a marriage certificate.

Quakers have a long history of social activism and pacifism

Historically, Quakers have been involved in peaceful protests to end wars and slavery, and support women’s voting rights in line with their commitment to justice and peace. Earlier this year, Quakers marched from New York City to Washington to demonstrate against the Trump administration’s crackdown on immigrants.

William Penn was a Quaker

Penn was an English Quaker who founded Pennsylvania following the faith’s emphasis on religious tolerance. In the U.S., Quakers became highly influential in cities like Philadelphia and founded colleges in Pennsylvania, including Bryn Mawr, Haverford and Swarthmore. But members of the group also faced scorn for refusing to join wars due to their belief in pacifism and nonviolence. Some were persecuted and even killed for their religious beliefs.

Quakers are still around, and most live in Africa

Today, there are an estimated 400,000 Quakers worldwide. About half live in Africa; most are in Kenya, where in contrast to the silent services, they often use bands and choirs and evangelize.

And finally ... Quaker Oats is not Quaker

Quakers say people often confuse them with Amish or Mennonites. Or say they knew about them through Quaker Oats, which is unrelated to the faith. The company uses “a figure of a man in “Quaker garb” with white hair and a tall black hat on its label that the owners picked along with the Quaker name more than 150 years ago “as a symbol of good quality and honest value.”

Takeaways from AP, Cox Media Group investigation into injuries and deaths of school crossing guards

BY DASIA GARNER, HAYA PANJWANI, AARON KESSLER, JOHN BEDELL, TINA TERRY, and TED DANIEL
The Associated Press, Cox Media Group Television Stations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Across the country, school crossing guards provide a vital service protecting children as they go to and from school. Many of them say the job is rewarding. But an investigation by AP and Cox Media Group Television Stations shows it can also be dangerous.

Here are some key takeaways from the AP and Cox Media Group Investigation:

—There is no systematic way to track how many crossing guards are injured or killed each year.

A database compiled by the AP and Cox Media Group shows that at least 230 school crossing guards across 37 states and Washington, D.C., were struck by vehicles on the job over the last decade. Nearly three dozen were killed. The data, compiled from incident and accident reports requested from nearly 200 police departments, most likely represents only a portion of guards injured and killed nationwide.

— Drivers who hit crossing guards rarely face criminal charges, even if the injuries to crossing guards

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result in death.

Of the 183 incidents involving crossing guards where an outcome by police could be determined, nearly half resulted in traffic citations – such as “failure to yield to a pedestrian.” About a quarter of the drivers weren’t ticketed at all, while a quarter faced criminal charges by police. Police said each case has to be looked at individually and not every accident warrants charges.

— Federal data analyzed by the AP show that crossing guard is among the most dangerous jobs.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes survey data for on-the-job injuries and deaths across most industries, but school crossing guards are included in a job category with road construction flaggers, and the agency does not publish a fatality rate for it. The AP calculated its own fatality rates for nearly 200 job classifications with at least 10,000 workers and 10 deaths in 2023, the most recent year of available labor records. Crossing guards and flaggers were in the top fifth for death rates on the job, the AP analysis found, on par with power line installers and air transportation workers.

— Just two states have made a serious effort to track crossing guard safety: New Jersey and Massachusetts.

Both states say they took action after several guards were killed by drivers. New Jersey officials say they target school zones for recurring safety inspections and have already issued eight serious violations and 30 others to employers for noncompliance. In 2022, Massachusetts made it mandatory that cities and towns have to report if there’s an injury to a crossing guard.

— Distracted drivers and speeders are the main factors contributing to injuries and deaths to crossing guards, but experts say there are other issues.

Modern SUVs and trucks have higher hoods that create larger blind spots, making crossing guards less visible to drivers. Many school zones lack adequate traffic-calming measures like speed bumps or automated enforcement cameras. Road design often prioritizes vehicle flow over pedestrian safety, with inadequate sight lines and insufficient buffer zones around crosswalks.

— Crossing guards tend to be senior citizens or retirees.

Of the 160 school crossing guards whose ages AP and Cox Media Group were able to document, more than half were over 65 years old.

This story is a collaboration between the Associated Press and Cox Media Group’s local television stations. It is part of The AP Local Investigative Reporting Program. The program offers AP members workshops, reporting tools, and collaboration with AP journalists to help apply investigative techniques.

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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.

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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. He also expressed hopes to work with other countries to expand cooperation in green industries and clean energy.

In written remarks sent to a CEO summit held in conjunction with APEC, Xi said China was open for investment and would uphold the multilateral trading system.

"Facts have proven that whoever gains a foothold in the Chinese market will be able to seize the critical opportunity in increasingly fierce international competition," Xi wrote. "Investing in China is investing in the future."

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."

Xi met other leaders on the sidelines

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.

In his meeting with Takaichi, Xi said he hopes the two countries would commit to building a constructive and stable relationship "fit for the new era." Takaichi expressed hopes to ease what she called "a variety of" challenges facing the two countries. She said she also hopes to deepen her personal relationship with Xi.

On Saturday, Xi is to meet South Korean President Lee Jae Myung for another one-on-one meeting expected to touch on North Korea's nuclear program.

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 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.

"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."

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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 the host nation, South Korea placed a priority on discussing AI cooperation and demographic challenges during the summit.

Senate report details dozens of cases of medical neglect in federal immigration detention centers

By CLAUDIA LAUER Associated Press

A U.S. Senate investigation has uncovered dozens of credible reports of medical neglect and poor conditions in immigration detention centers nationwide — with detainees denied insulin, left without medical attention for days and forced to compete for clean water — raising scrutiny about how the government oversees its vast detention system.

The report released by Sen. Jon Ossoff, a Democrat from Georgia, is the second in a series of inquiries examining alleged human rights abuses in the immigration detention system. It builds on an August review that detailed mistreatment of children and pregnant women and draws from more than 500 reports of abuse and neglect collected between January and August.

The latest findings document more than 80 credible cases of medical neglect and widespread complaints of inadequate food and water. Senate investigators say that points to systemic failures in federal detention oversight.

The report cites accounts from detainees, attorneys, advocates, news reports and at least one Department of Homeland Security employee, describing delays in medical care that, in some cases, proved life-threatening. One detainee reportedly suffered a heart attack after complaining of chest pain for days without treatment. Others said inhalers and asthma medication were withheld, or that detainees waited weeks for prescriptions to be filled.

A Homeland Security staff member assigned to one detention site told investigators that "ambulances have to come almost every day," according to the report.

Ossoff said the findings reflect a deeper failure of oversight within federal immigration detention.

"Americans overwhelmingly demand and deserve secure borders. Americans also overwhelmingly oppose the abuse and neglect of detainees," Ossoff told The Associated Press. "Every human being is entitled to dignity and humane treatment. That is why I have for years investigated and exposed abuses in prisons, jails, and detention centers, and that is why this work will continue."

The medical reports also detailed how a diabetic detainee went without glucose monitoring or insulin for

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two days and became delirious before medical attention was given and that it took months for another detainee to receive medication to treat gastrointestinal issues.

Expired milk, foul water, scant food are reported

The Senate investigation also identified persistent complaints about food and water, including evidence drawn from court filings, depositions and interviews. Detainees described meals too small for adults, milk that was sometimes expired, and water that smelled foul or appeared to make children sick. At one Texas facility, a teenager said adults were forced to compete with children for bottles of clean water when staff left out only a few at a time.

The Associated Press asked U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for comment on the report's findings multiple times Wednesday and Thursday, but the agency did not provide a response. The Homeland Security Department previously criticized Ossoff's first report in August, saying the allegations of detainees being abused were false and accusing him of trying to "score political points."

Attorneys for some of those detained at facilities across the country said they've seen some of the issues with medical care and food firsthand.

Stephanie Alvarez-Jones, a Southeast regional attorney for the National Immigration Project, said one of the organization's clients was denied a prescribed medical device while being detained at Angola's Camp J facility in Louisiana in the last two months. The man, in his 60s, experienced stroke-like symptoms, including partial paralysis, and was eventually taken to the hospital, where he was transferred to an intensive care unit for several days.

Doctors there prescribed him a walker to help him move during his recovery, but Alvarez-Jones said the detention staff would not let him have it when he first returned and placed him in a segregation cell.

"He still could not walk by himself," she said. "He still had paralysis on his left side." She added: "He was not able to get up and get his food, to shower by himself or to use the bathroom without assistance. So he had to lay in soiled bedsheets because he wasn't able to get up."

Alvarez-Jones said the guards had insinuated to the man that they believed he was faking his illness. He was eventually given the choice of staying in the segregation cell and being allowed a walker, or returning to the general detainee population. She said he's been relying on the help of others in the general population to eat and use the bathroom as he recovers.

The Baltimore field office is examined

Amelia Dagen, a senior attorney with the Amica Center for Immigrant Rights, is working on a lawsuit against the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Removal Operations Baltimore Field Office as well as officials in charge of national immigration enforcement efforts.

Dagen said several of the organization's clients have had to fight for access to medication at the Baltimore holding facility. Through the lawsuit, she said the government agency had to admit in the court record that it does not have a food vendor to provide three meals a day or any onsite medical staff at the facility that was initially only supposed to hold detainees for about 12 hours.

But since January and the various immigration enforcement actions, it's much more likely that detainees are held for as much as a week in the Baltimore Hold Room.

"What we started hearing very quickly, maybe in February, was that the food they were being fed three times a day was incredibly inadequate," Dagen said. "We would hear sometimes it would be a protein bar or sometimes just bread and water. There is very little nutritional value and very little variety. I mean, sometimes it was a military ration component, but just the rice and beans, not a full meal."

Dagen said the detainees also have to ask for bottles of water and they aren't always given. The ICE office has taken the stance that the sinks attached to the cell toilets are a continuous supply of water. But Dagen said the detainees complained the sink water has a bad taste.

"This is 100% a problem of their own making," she said of the authorities. "These hold rooms were not used in this way prior to 2025. They are setting themselves these quotas, removing discretion to release people and trying to arrest numbers of people that are just impractical ... fully knowing they don't have the ability to hold these people."

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 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 are happening at museums across the globe, as those tasked with securing art ask: "Could that happen here?" One California museum knows the answer is yes — police are investigating the theft of more than 1,000 items just before the Louvre heist.

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."

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.

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."

Aging security systems

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."

Prioritizing protection

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

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architecture of our institutions." It called for international cooperation, and investments in technology and personnel.

Creating a balance

Beaver, in Washington, predicts the Paris heist will spur museums to implement new measures. One area that 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 that 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 the 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."

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."

Today in History: November 1 Seabiscuit wins "Race of the Century"

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Saturday, Nov. 1, the 305th day of 2025. There are 60 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 1, 1938, in a two-horse match, Seabiscuit defeated the favored Triple Crown winner War Admiral by four lengths in what was dubbed the "Race of the Century" at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore.

Also on this date:

In 1765, the Stamp Act, passed by the British Parliament, went into effect, prompting stiff resistance from American colonists.

In 1861, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln named Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan General-in-Chief of the Union armies, succeeding Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott.

In 1894, Nicholas II became Emperor of Russia, succeeding his late father Alexander III.

In 1936, in a speech in Milan, Italy, Benito Mussolini described the alliance between his country and Nazi Germany as an "axis" running between Rome and Berlin.

In 1950, two Puerto Rican nationalists tried to force their way into Blair House in Washington, D.C., in a failed attempt to assassinate President Harry S. Truman. (One of the pair was killed, along with a White House police officer.)

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In 1982, the first Japanese car produced in the U.S. rolled off the assembly line at the Honda manufacturing plant in Marysville, Ohio.

In 1989, East Germany reopened its border with Czechoslovakia, prompting tens of thousands of refugees to flee to the West. East Germany would announce on Nov. 9 that it was opening its border crossings with West Berlin, prompting the fall of the Berlin Wall.

In 1993, The Maastricht Treaty takes effect, formally establishing the European Union and a new era of integration and economic cooperation among its member states.

In 1995, peace talks opened in Dayton, Ohio, with leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia present. The talks would lead to the formal signing the next month in Paris of the Dayton Peace Accord, signaling an end to the more than 3-year-old Bosnian war that erupted after the breakup of the former Yugoslavia.

Today's Birthdays: Golf Hall of Famer Gary Player is 90. Football Hall of Famer Ted Hendricks is 78. Music producer David Foster is 76. Musician Lyle Lovett is 68. Apple CEO Tim Cook is 65. Rock singer Anthony Kiedis (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 63. Country singer "Big Kenny" Alphin (Big and Rich) is 62. Actor Toni Collette is 53. Actor-TV host Jenny McCarthy is 53. Actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is 52. Football Hall of Famer Steve Hutchinson is 48. Actor Natalia Tena is 41. Actor Penn Badgley is 39. Actor Anthony Ramos is 34.