

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Monday, Nov. 3

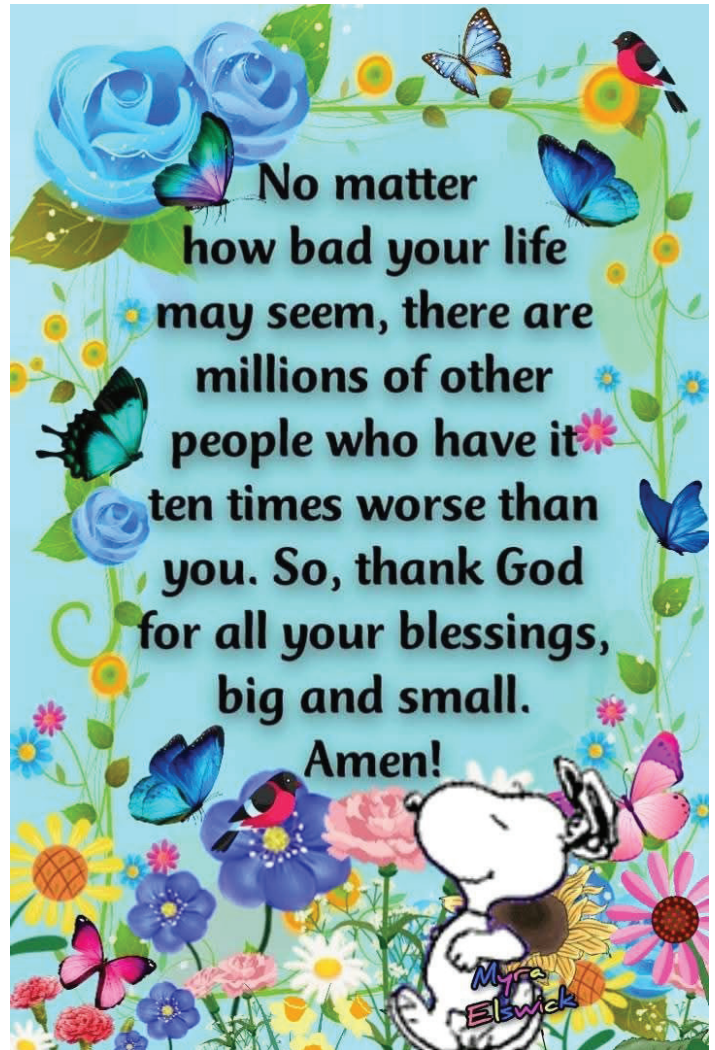
Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Egg bake.  
School Lunch: Pork cutlet, rice.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
1st grade GBB practice, 3:30 p.m.  
Middle School GBB hosts Warner (7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.)  
HOSA- Yoga in the Gym, 6 p.m.  
3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6 p.m.

## Tuesday, Nov. 4

Senior Menu: Cowboy/Calico casserole, fruited Jello, dinner roll.  
School Breakfast: Muffins.  
School Lunch: Chicken breast, Tri taters.  
St. John's: Ladies Aid LWML, 1 p.m.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.  
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
5th grade GBB practice, 4:15 p.m.

## Wednesday, Nov. 5

Senior Menu: Baked hot ham and cheese, broccoli potato soup, fruit, poke cake.  
School Breakfast: Oatmeal.  
School Lunch: Cheese quesadilla, refried beans.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.



St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.  
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.  
Groton Chamber Meeting, noon City Hall  
6th grade GBB practice, 6 p.m.  
4th-6th grade hosts Roncalli, 7:30 .m.

**Groton Daily Independent**  
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# 1440

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

## Trump Warns Nigeria

President Donald Trump threatened to end all aid to Nigeria Saturday and ordered the Pentagon to prepare for possible military action. The warning comes as Trump accuses the country of failing to protect its Christian population.

Since 2009, Islamist insurgency group Boko Haram has killed more than 35,000 civilians, largely in the country's Muslim-majority north. An ISIS-affiliated breakaway group has killed thousands more. While it is not publicly known what percentage of the groups' victims are Christian, a 2012 estimate put the figure at one-third. In 2020, the Trump administration designated Nigeria a country of concern over religious freedom violations, a decision the Biden administration reversed. Trump redesignated Nigeria last week as the group continues to carry out attacks from its base in the Lake Chad region.

The US historically gives roughly \$1B annually to Nigeria.

## 25 Years in Space

Yesterday marked 25 years of a continuous human presence in space—including at least one US citizen.

President Ronald Reagan commissioned the project that would become the International Space Station in 1984. (The idea of living in space dates back further, with author Edward Everett Hale imagining a fictional ISS in his 1869 tale, "The Brick Moon.") Canada, Japan, Europe, and ultimately Russia joined the project. On Nov. 2, 2000, the Expedition 1 crew became the first group to reside on the ISS. Today, the station is the largest space vehicle ever built—as large as a football field, including solar arrays—with a habitable volume larger than a six-bedroom house.

More than 280 people from 27 countries have visited the station, typically to conduct scientific experiments in six-month rotations. The ISS will be deorbited in early 2031 and driven into the Pacific Ocean.

## Dodgers Go Back-to-Back

The Los Angeles Dodgers won the World Series Saturday night, topping the Toronto Blue Jays 5-4 in a come-from-behind Game 7 victory that went extra innings. The title is the second in a row for the Dodgers—the first repeat champions since 2000.

Two outs from their first title since 1993, the ninth inning was a heartbreaker for Toronto. The Blue Jays gave up the game-tying home run, and then failed to score with the bases loaded—including a force out at home plate and a deep ball caught by Dodgers center fielder Andy Pages despite colliding with a teammate.

Dodgers pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto was named World Series Most Valuable Player, holding Toronto scoreless over the last eight outs Saturday night after throwing almost 100 pitches in Friday's Game 6.

Los Angeles immediately opened as the favorite to win the 2026 championship.

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## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

College basketball returns today, with women's reigning NCAA champion UConn Huskies favored to win again, Florida Gators aiming for a back-to-back men's title; see live updates.

Kenya's Hellen Obiri sets a new record for women in the New York City Marathon, winning in 2 hours, 19 minutes, 51 seconds; Kenyan Benson Kipruto wins men's competition with the closest-ever finish.

Xania Monet becomes the first AI-based artist to chart on the Billboard radio charts with "How Was I Supposed to Know?" reaching No. 30 on Adult R&B Airplay.

## Science & Technology

AI startup Perplexity launches tool to speed up patent research, letting users search databases using natural language queries instead of keywords.

Researchers to launch personalized gene-editing clinical trial aimed at curing ultra-rare diseases; approach modeled after successful treatment of "Baby KJ," who suffered from a one-in-a-million disorder, revealed in May.

NASA carries out first test flight of the X-59, designed to fly at speeds greater than the sound barrier while reducing the sound of a sonic boom.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close up Friday (S&P 500 +0.3%, Dow +0.1%, Nasdaq +0.6%); Amazon shares jump 9.6% after company reports 20% increase in quarterly cloud computing revenue.

OPEC+ countries agree to raise oil production by 137,000 barrels a day in December, won't increase output through the first quarter of 2026.

Berkshire Hathaway reports a record high in cash and equivalent holdings of nearly \$382B; Warren Buffett-owned company has sold more stocks than purchased for 12 straight quarters.

## Politics & World Affairs

Tens of thousands of people feared killed by UAE-backed Rapid Support Forces over the past week in el-Fasher, capital city of Sudan's North Darfur state.

Assailant wounds 11 people in a mass stabbing attack on a train in Cambridge, England; UK police rule out terrorism as a motive, with a suspect in custody.

Two more suspects are charged in connection with last month's Louvre heist, in addition to two men already charged; see details about the suspects.

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## Upcoming November Events

### Monday, Nov. 3

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Egg bake.  
School Lunch: Pork cutlet, rice.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
1st grade GBB practice, 3:30 p.m.  
Middle School GBB hosts Warner (7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.)  
HOSA- Yoga in the Gym, 6 p.m.  
3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6 p.m.

### Tuesday, Nov. 4

Senior Menu: Cowboy/Calico casserole, fruited Jello, dinner roll.  
School Breakfast: Muffins.  
School Lunch: Chicken breast, Tri taters.  
St. John's: Ladies Aid LWML, 1 p.m.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.  
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
5th grade GBB practice, 4:15 p.m.

### Wednesday, Nov. 5

Senior Menu: Baked hot ham and cheese, broccoli potato soup, fruit, poke cake.  
School Breakfast: Oatmeal.  
School Lunch: Cheese quesadilla, refried beans.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.  
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.  
Groton Chamber Meeting, noon City Hall  
6th grade GBB practice, 6 p.m.  
4th-6th grade hosts Roncalli, 7:30 .m.

### Thursday, Nov. 6

Senior Menu: Beef and potatoes, antigua blend, fruit, beadstick.  
School Breakfast: Maple French Toast Bake.

School Lunch: Lasagna bake, corn.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.  
FFA at Jackrabbit Invite  
Region 1A Volleyball at Groton Area  
4th grade GBB practice, 4 p.m.  
3rd grade GBB practice, 5 p.m.

### Friday, Nov. 7

Senior Menu: Chicken pot pie casserole, roasted potatoes, applesauce, biscuits.  
School Breakfast: Breakfast boats.  
School Lunch: Chicken fajitas, mixed vegetable.  
MS GBB hosts Aberdeen Christian (7th at 5 p.m., 8th at 6 p.m.)

### Saturday, Nov. 8

### Sunday, Nov. 9

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m. (3rd graders receiving Bibles); at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.  
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.  
6th grade GBB practice, 2 p.m.  
5th grade GBB practice, 4 p.m.  
2nd grade GBB practice, 4 p.m.  
Dance Team practice, 5 p.m.

### Monday, Nov. 10

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes with ham, green peas, Mandarin orange salad, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Eggs.  
School Lunch: Oriental chicken, egg roll.



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New Construction  
Remodeling  
Hoop Barns  
Shops

13379 Sperry Ln, Bath  
605/216-2677  
prblocker@hotmail.com

Perry Blocker

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
FFA District 1 LDE at Dolan, 1 p.m.  
1st Grade GBB practice, 3:30 p.m.  
MS GBB hosts Britton-Hecla, 7th at 5:30 p.m., 8th at 6:30 p.m.  
3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6 p.m.

## Tuesday, Nov. 11

VETERAN'S DAY  
Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, Catalina blend, mixed fruit, garlic toast.  
School Breakfast: Veteran's Breakfast at Elementary, Scones at high school.  
School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, cooked carrots.  
Veteran's Day Program, 2 p.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.  
5th grade GBB practice, 4:15 p.m.  
Volleyball SoDak 16  
School Board Meeting

## Wednesday, Nov. 12

Senior Menu: Thanksgiving meal: Roast turkey with dressing, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes with gravy, cranberries, pumpkin bar, dinner roll.  
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.  
School Lunch: Pasta Primavera, cooked broccoli.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.  
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.  
4th grade GBB practice, 3:30 p.m.  
6th grade GBB practice, 6 p.m.  
FCCLA Food Drive, 6-8 p.m.

## Thursday, Nov. 13

Senior Menu: Chicken rice casserole, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Cereal.  
School Lunch: Sloppy joes, fries.

Groton Lions Club meeting, 6 p.m., 104 N Main  
MS GBB at Webster (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)  
3rd grade GBB practice, 5 p.m.

## Friday, Nov. 14

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hotdish, mixed vegetables, pears, cornmeal muffin.  
School Breakfast: Egg wraps.  
School Lunch: Chicken ala king, biscuits.

## Saturday, Nov. 15

Groton Legion Turkey Party, 6:30 p.m.  
4th-6th grade GBB Tournament at Groton Area, 8 a.m.  
MS GBB at North Central Jamboree, 10 a.m.

## Sunday, Nov. 16

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m. (Sunday School Christmas Program Parts Handout); at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.  
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.  
7th grade soccer at Elementary School Gym, 1 p.m.  
5th grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.  
2nd grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.  
Dance Team Practice, 5 p.m.

## Monday, Nov. 17

Senior Menu: Sweet and sour pork, steamed rice, carrot and broccoli medley, corn, honey fruit salad.  
School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.  
School Lunch: Chef salad at elementary, build your own salad at high school.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
1st grade GBB practice, 3:30 p.m.

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MS GBB vs. Leola/Frederick at Frederick, one combined game at 5 p.m.

3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6 p.m.

## **Tuesday, Nov. 18**

Senior Menu: Meat loaf, baked potato, antigua blend, fruited Jello, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.

School Lunch: Pasta with meat sauce.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

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

## **Wednesday, Nov. 19**

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, green beans, pears, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Omelets.

School Lunch: Soup and sandwich.

## **Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.**

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

6th grade GBB practice, 6 p.m.

## **Thursday, Nov. 20**

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potato, 3-bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Biscuits.

School Lunch: Turkey gravy and mashed potatoes, dressing.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Praise and Thanksgiving, 1:30 p.m. (Program: Sarah, Hostess: Nigeria)

4th grade GBB practice, 4 p.m.

3rd grade GBB practice, 5 p.m.

State Volleyball at Rapid City

## **Friday, Nov. 21**

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken over biscuits, peas and carrots, pineapple.

School Breakfast: Doughnuts.

School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, green beans.

State Volleyball at Rapid City

MS GBB at Milbank (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)

## **Saturday, Nov. 22**

State Volleyball at Rapid City

## **Sunday, Nov. 23**

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m. (Special Congregational Meeting); Choir 6 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

7th grade soccer at Elementary School Gym, 1 p.m.

6th grade GBB Practice, 2 p.m.

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

5th grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

2nd grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

Dance Team Practice, 5 p.m.

## **Monday, Nov. 24**

Senior Menu: Stir fry beef with rice, oriental blend vegetables, fruit cocktail.

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

School Lunch: Ham patty, baked beans.

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

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

4th grade GBB practice, 4 p.m.

Fall Sports Awards Night, 7 p.m.

## **Tuesday, Nov. 25**

Senior Menu: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Muffins.

School Lunch: Pizza burger, tri tater.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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

Wrestling kick-off fundraiser, 5 p.m.

MS GBB hosts Aberdeen Roncalli (7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.)

## **Wednesday, Nov. 26**

Senior Menu: Chili with beans, tossed salad,

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peaches, corn bread/muffin.

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving break

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

## **Thursday, Nov. 27**

No Senior Meal

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving break

## **Friday, Nov. 28**

No senior meal.

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving break

## **Sunday, Nov. 30**

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

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

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m. (3rd graders receiving Bibles); at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.; No Sunday School.

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

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

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

Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.

4th grade GBB practice, 2 p.m.

1st grade GBB practice, 3:30 p.m.

2nd grade GBB practice, 4 p.m.

Dance Team practice, 5 p.m.

## "Listen to your gut"

People often talk about having a "gut feeling" or are told to "listen to their gut" when making a decision. Do you know what your gut is trying to tell you? There are multiple things that your digestive system can do to get your attention. Do you know what your body is trying to tell you? Here are some of the things your gut could be trying to say.

Pain just below the breastbone that occurs soon after eating could be a sign of a stomach ulcer. Pain that improves with eating, but then comes back 2-3 hours after eating could be a sign of an ulcer in the small intestine right past the stomach. The pain from ulcers is often described as a burning pain. This pain improves with acid blocking medication like a PPI (Proton Pump Inhibitor) or antacids.

The gallbladder can also cause significant pain in the right upper part of the abdomen, especially after eating fatty foods. Often this pain will radiate to the right shoulder or between the shoulder blades. It can lead to significant nausea and diarrhea. This pain usually will come and go. It can become very severe if a small gallstone gets stuck in the bile duct between the gallbladder and the small intestine. Infections of the gallbladder can cause fevers and chills as well.

Issues with the small intestine can also cause serious pain. The condition of Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) causes abdominal pain, bloating and changes in bowel movements. IBS can cause severe diarrhea, severe constipation or both. IBS is considered a diagnosis of exclusion since these symptoms can be caused by many other conditions like Microscopic Colitis, Celiac Disease, Crohn's Disease, Ulcerative Colitis, Small Intestine Bacterial Overgrowth, and even Colon Cancer.

However, it is important to note that not all pain in the stomach area is from the digestive system. Heart attacks can also give symptoms of indigestion, nausea, vomiting, and stomach pain. These subtle signs happen more frequently in women and can lead to delay in diagnosis. Aortic dissections or ruptured aortic aneurysms can also cause severe, tearing pain in the abdomen that can radiate to the back or shoulders.

If you notice your gut trying to tell you something, listen and get it checked out by a doctor. Many of these issues have similar or overlapping symptoms. Finding a physician who can order and interpret the right tests to find the answer is key. Your gut knows when something is wrong, and you should trust it. Listen to your gut and stay healthy out there.

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



Jill Kruse, DO





In advance of the upcoming Veteran's Day Holiday, Brown County announced plans to illuminate the Brown County Courthouse from November 4-11, 2025 as part of Operation Green Light for Veterans, a nationwide effort uniting counties to support military veterans. The initiative, led by the National Association of Counties (NACo), raises awareness around the unique challenges faced by many veterans and the resources available at the county, state and federal levels to assist Veterans and their families.

Now in its fifth year, Operation Green Light is spearheaded by NACo and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, building upon successful efforts by the New York State Association of Counties and the NYS County Veteran Service Officers' Association in 2021. In 2023 and 2024, over 450 counties participated in Operations Green Light.

Brown County residents, businesses and community organizations are encouraged to participate in Operation Green Light by changing one light to a green bulb. By shining a green light, we let our veterans know that they are seen, appreciated and supported.

"Operation Green Light" is an opportunity to Thank Veterans for both their service to our nation and their contributions to our communities," said NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase. "With hundreds of counties coming together to light up everything from courthouses to bridges, we know Veterans will see and feel our gratitude from their selflessness and courage."

Counties and residents across the country are sharing their participation on social media using the hashtag #OperationGreenLight.

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## The Life of Alfred Larson

The funeral service for Alfred Larson, 96, of Aberdeen, SD, formerly of Columbia, SD, will be 10:00am, Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, with Pastor Chad Schopp officiating. Private family burial will be at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Alfred died Friday, October 31, 2025, at his home.

Visitation will be 3:00pm to 5:30pm, Tuesday, November 4, followed by a prayer service at 5:30pm, at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 South Main Street.

Alfred was born December 5, 1928, to Carl and Mae (Nilsson) Larson, on the family farm near Columbia, SD. He grew up on the farm and walked to school in Columbia where he graduated from high school.

In 1946, when Alfred was a senior in high school, he knew he wanted to farm and raise livestock. He bought land east of Columbia and four years later, on October 6, 1950, he married his high school sweetheart, Doris Dennert and they began their life together.

At a young age, Jesus called Alfred to a life of faith and trust in Him. Alfred was an active member at St. John's Lutheran Church in Columbia and later attended Our Savior Lutheran Church in Aberdeen. He was a board member at James Valley Telephone Cooperative for 30 years, volunteered at the parochial school in Columbia, and was on the board of North Central Livestock. In his younger years, Alfred enjoyed playing baseball and was an avid New York Yankees fan. He loved hunting and trapping near the James River. Alfred was blessed to be featured in the Aberdeen Insider on May 2, 2025, and recently celebrated his 75th wedding anniversary with Doris.

Grateful for having shared Alfred's life are his wife: Doris Larson, his children: Ray (Cyndy) Larson, Joyce Yexley, Yvonne (Don) Abeln, and Carson (Julie) Larson; grandchildren: Jennifer (Mic) Daggett, Joshua (Desa) Larson, Amy Yexley, Hannah (Trevor) King, Isaac (Nikki) Abeln, Philip (Lindsey) Abeln, Anthony (Kayla) Abeln, Emily (Tom) Sternhagen, Wyatt (Taylor) Larson, and Chandler Larson; great-grandchildren: Zachary Daggett, Lucas Daggett, Easton Larson, Bryton Larson, Hainslee Larson, Dillon Abeln, Alex Abeln, Kali Abeln, Aubrey Abeln, Selah Abeln, Shema Abeln, Lily Abeln, Lawrence Abeln, MaKenna Sternhagen, Morgan Sternhagen, Adeline Larson, and Lottie Larson; many nieces and nephews; and his special care giver, Diane Zahalka.

Preceding Alfred in death are his parents: Carl and Mae; his son-in-law, David Yexley; sister, Gert (Richard) Ruden, and brother, Melvin (Janice) Larson.

The family would like to express a sincere thank you to Diane Zahalka, Angel Care and the Avera@Home Hospice.



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The Minnesota Vikings traveled to Detroit to try and tame the Lions. The last time these two teams met in Detroit was week 18 last season, with the number one seed on the line. Detroit dominated that game, and most people thought the same thing would happen this week. However, the Vikings were able to get the 27-24 win and move to 4-4 on the season.

J.J. McCarthy was finally healthy and in line to start just his third game since he was drafted in 2024, which was especially important with Carson Wentz going on IR due to a shoulder injury. Christian Darrisaw, Brian O'Neill, and Andrew Van Ginkel were also available for this game, meaning this is the healthiest the team has been this season.

The game started well for the Vikings, despite the Lions getting the ball first and marching down the field for a quick touchdown. The Vikings responded with a touchdown drive of their own, thanks in large part to a 61-yard kick return by Myles Price, and finished off with a one-handed TD catch by Justin Jefferson. The Vikings' defense forced a Detroit punt, and the offense found the end zone again, this time a McCarthy pass to former Lion T.J. Hockenson to take a 14-7 lead.

After both teams traded punts, Detroit found the end zone again to tie the game. The Vikings answered with a field goal to retake the lead, and then the defense held the Lions to a three-and-out. The Vikings had a decent drive going on their next possession, but a McCarthy pass was thrown behind Jalen Nailor and intercepted. The Vikings' defense held strong, forced a punt, and the Vikings were able to go into halftime with a 17-14 lead.

The second half started sloppily for both teams. Three consecutive punts and then a Detroit fumble gave the ball to Minnesota at the Detroit 28-yard line, and five plays later, McCarthy scampered into the end zone to extend the lead to 24-14. Detroit kicked a field goal on its next possession, and the Vikings took a seven-point lead into the fourth quarter.

Following Detroit's field goal, Myles Price returned the kickoff all the way to the end zone, but the Vikings were called for a holding penalty, so the drive started at the 26. A Vikings' three-and-out gave the ball back to Detroit, who put together a 12-play drive, but their field goal attempt was blocked. The Vikings' next drive was a successful field goal, which extended the lead to 10 with three and a half minutes left in the game. The Lions weren't done, though, as they put together a TD drive in about a minute and a half. The Lions still had all three timeouts left, but a Vikings' first down sealed the game.

The NFC North is the most competitive division in football. The Packers, Lions, and Bears all have five wins, while the Vikings are only a game behind with a 4-4 record.

J.J. McCarthy completed 14 of 25 passes for 143 yards, two touchdowns, and one interception. Aaron Jones and Jordan Mason combined for 114 yards on 19 carries. Justin Jefferson led the team with six catches for 47 yards and a touchdown, while Jordan Addison added 48 yards on two catches.

Blake Cashman was all over the field on defense, racking up 14 total tackles. Another linebacker, Eric Wilson, led the team with two sacks, while Javon Hargrave, Jalen Redmond, and Levi Drake Rodriguez each had one apiece.

The player of the game was Eric Wilson. Besides his two sacks, he also had three tackles for a loss and two QB hits. Wilson was brought in to be a backup, but he's been playing so well the Vikings can't keep him off the field.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will host the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday (noon kickoff). The Ravens will be coming off a mini bye, since they played the Dolphins last Thursday, and their MVP-caliber QB will be back in the fold after missing a month because of injury. Despite their 3-5 record, expect the Ravens to be heavy favorites in this matchup.



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## EARTHTALK

### How To Fight Warming-Caused Ocean Acidification

by Rachel Berliner

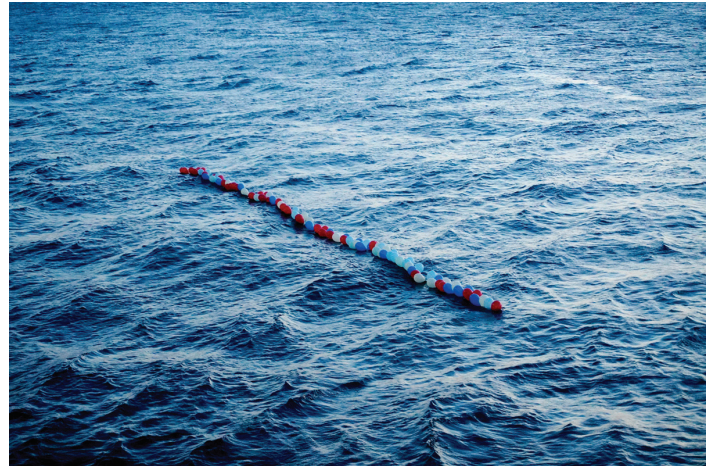
Dear EarthTalk: What are some natural ways to fight ocean acidification? – Jim Kline, Boston, MA

Ocean acidification, the lowered pH levels of ocean water, has become a big threat to the environment in recent years. According to the European Environment Agency, the ocean's acidity has increased 15 percent from 1985 to 2024 because of rising levels of carbon emissions. It occurs when excessive amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) are absorbed by the ocean, causing naturally-forming carbonate ions to break down into hydrogen ions. This lowers both the pH level of the water and the quantity of available carbonate ions. For mussels, coral, clams, crabs and other organisms that depend on carbonate ions to create their shells, ocean acidification is extremely detrimental. Furthermore, losing a consistent supply of mussels, oysters, clams and lobsters endangers a 100-million-dollar industry and many employees.

Kelp farms are one sustainable local solution. These underground farms cultivate seaweed that naturally consume CO<sub>2</sub> and prevent it from harming other marine life. "We always suspected that there was this positive interaction between the mussels and kelp," says Matt Moretti, CEO and co-owner of Bangs Island Mussels. "We suspected that because kelp photosynthesises, it sucks carbon out of the water and therefore must be good for the ocean and good for the mussels." Colder regions with lower ocean temperatures are typically at higher risk for acidification. With growing numbers of kelp farms in regions like New England and the Pacific Northwest, experts are effectively fighting acidification where it matters most. Moretti says that kelp farming actually has a significant impact. In many cases, farmers pass along the cultivated kelp to local producers who then create kimchi and other fermented products.

In addition, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is addressing ocean acidification at a federal level with their CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction (CDR) strategy. This method takes atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and keeps it on land or underground instead of in the atmosphere. NOAA is making progress in the industry with leading CDR pathway models and projections, data observations of coasts, and research on ecosystems. Also, NOAA plays a crucial role in regulating voluntary carbon markets and CDR technology. According to a report by McKinsey & Company, by 2050, the CDR industry is projected to generate over a trillion dollars. NOAA's oversight ensures the credibility of the growing industry and promotes long-term impact on ocean acidification.

Alongside the efforts of local kelp farmers and national organizations, individuals can work to fight ocean acidification by reducing their personal carbon emissions and supporting organizations that are committed to minimizing their carbon footprint.



**Environmentalists are embracing everything from kelp farming to societal CO<sub>2</sub> reduction strategies to turn the tide on ocean acidification.** Credit: Pexels.com.



## **Pennington County Hit and Run Crash**

What: Hit and Run Injury Crash  
Where: 3737 N. Elk Vale Road, Rapid City, SD  
When: 9:51 p.m., Saturday, November 1, 2025

Driver 1: Unknown  
Vehicle 1: Older model red Ford pick-up

Pedestrian 1: 25-year-old female from Rapid City, SD, serious, non-life-threatening injuries

Pennington County, S.D.- A hit and run driver injured a Rapid City woman Saturday evening in a single vehicle crash on North Elk Vale Road in Rapid City, SD.

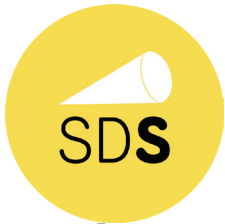
The name of the person involved has not been released.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of an older Ford pick-up was traveling northbound on North Elk Vale Road and struck a pedestrian walking along the side of the road. The truck was described as an older red Ford pick-up, with an approximate model year of 2000 and a broken headlight lens.

The pedestrian was transported by ambulance to Monument Health in Rapid City.

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

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



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **Lawmaker predicts broad support for rehab and recidivism reforms in wake of prison vote**

**BY: MAKENZIE HUBER-NOVEMBER 2, 2025 7:00 AM**

A South Dakota legislative leader predicted he can “almost assure” that “every legislator” will support reforms addressing inmate rehabilitation and recidivism during the legislative session that begins in January.

Sioux Falls Republican Rep. Greg Jamison, a House majority whip, made the comment as a legislative committee examining recidivism rates held a meeting Wednesday in Sioux Falls. Recidivism is the term applied to inmates who commit more crimes after being released from prison.

Jamison is also a member of a new task force taking up the issue, appointed by the governor and dedicated to rehabilitation transformations in the system.

Both groups came out of lawmakers’ disillusionment with the state’s rehabilitation efforts during discussions about the need for a new men’s prison. Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden promised to form the task force in exchange for support for the \$650 million project in Sioux Falls, which he and lawmakers approved during a special legislative session in September.

The legislative committee will finalize its list of recommended legislation at its next meeting, targeting rehabilitation, diversion and supervision issues that affect incarceration and recidivism rates. Diversion of nonviolent felony suspects into rehabilitative programming, sentencing reform, more support for inmates reentering society, and addressing why parolees return to prison are all pieces that could impact South Dakota’s incarceration and recidivism rates, lawmakers on both groups said.

The new task force intends to look at rehabilitation throughout the remainder of 2025 and 2026. Task force chair and Lt. Gov. Tony Venhuizen said the task force will focus on short-term and long-term rehabilitation efforts happening with inmates while in prison.

Representatives with the Council of State Governments Justice Center spoke to lawmakers about helping improve rehabilitation efforts based on data from South Dakota and other states. The nonprofit worked with several other states to study and suggest criminal justice and prison reforms.

The nonprofit is already partnering with the state Department of Corrections through next spring to shore up the data tracking offenders who reenter South Dakota communities and better understand outcomes of inmates after they are released from prison. The task force voted to explore working with the nonprofit on Wednesday.

“We’ve struggled to kind of chart our path and goals and now our time is up,” Jamison said, “but this next committee, really, is going to have another window of time to evaluate and lay out a timetable and goals.”

A majority of inmates stay in the prison system for a year or less before being released. Ryan Brunner, senior policy adviser for the governor, said that timeline can limit the rehabilitation programs available to inmates. Upon admission, about 91% of male inmates and 97% of female inmates last year were diagnosed with a substance use disorder.

The task force plans to dive more deeply into rehabilitation options and community partnerships connected to programming for education, faith, tribal and behavioral health needs. Venhuizen said the group will likely meet again in December.

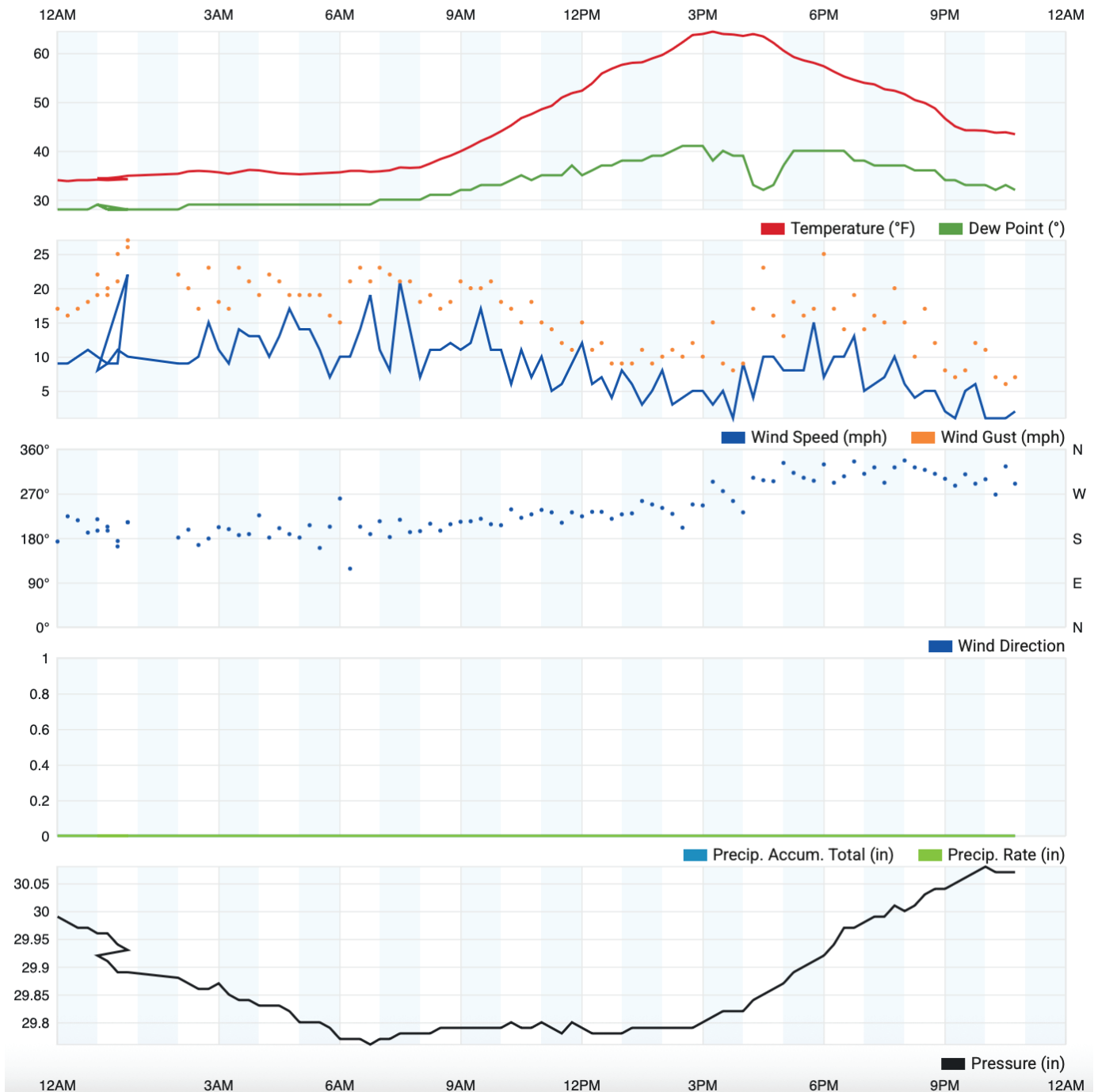
*Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota’s Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was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

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

November 2, 2025



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Today



High: 58 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 33 °F

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 58 °F

Sunny

Tuesday Night



Low: 29 °F

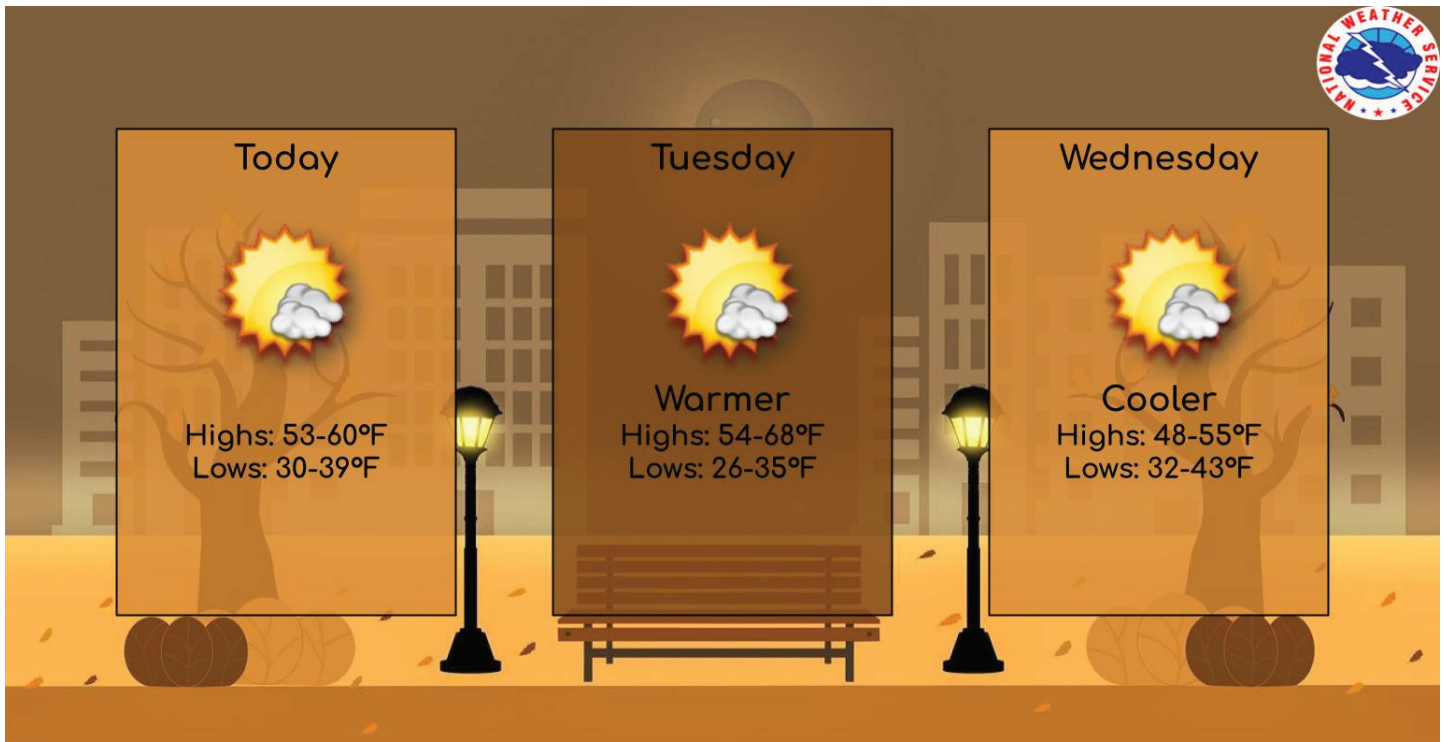
Mostly Clear

Wednesday



High: 51 °F

Mostly Sunny



Other than the possibility of sprinkles or brief very light rain Tuesday evening, the weather forecast looks to remain dry for the first half of this week. Highs will range from the 50s today and mid 50s to the mid 60s on Tuesday, down to the upper 40s to mid 50s on Wednesday.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 64 °F at 3:11 PM**

**Low Temp: 34 °F at 12:15 AM**

**Wind: 27 mph at 1:39 AM**

**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 76 in 2020

Record Low: 1 in 1991

Average High: 49

Average Low: 25

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.10

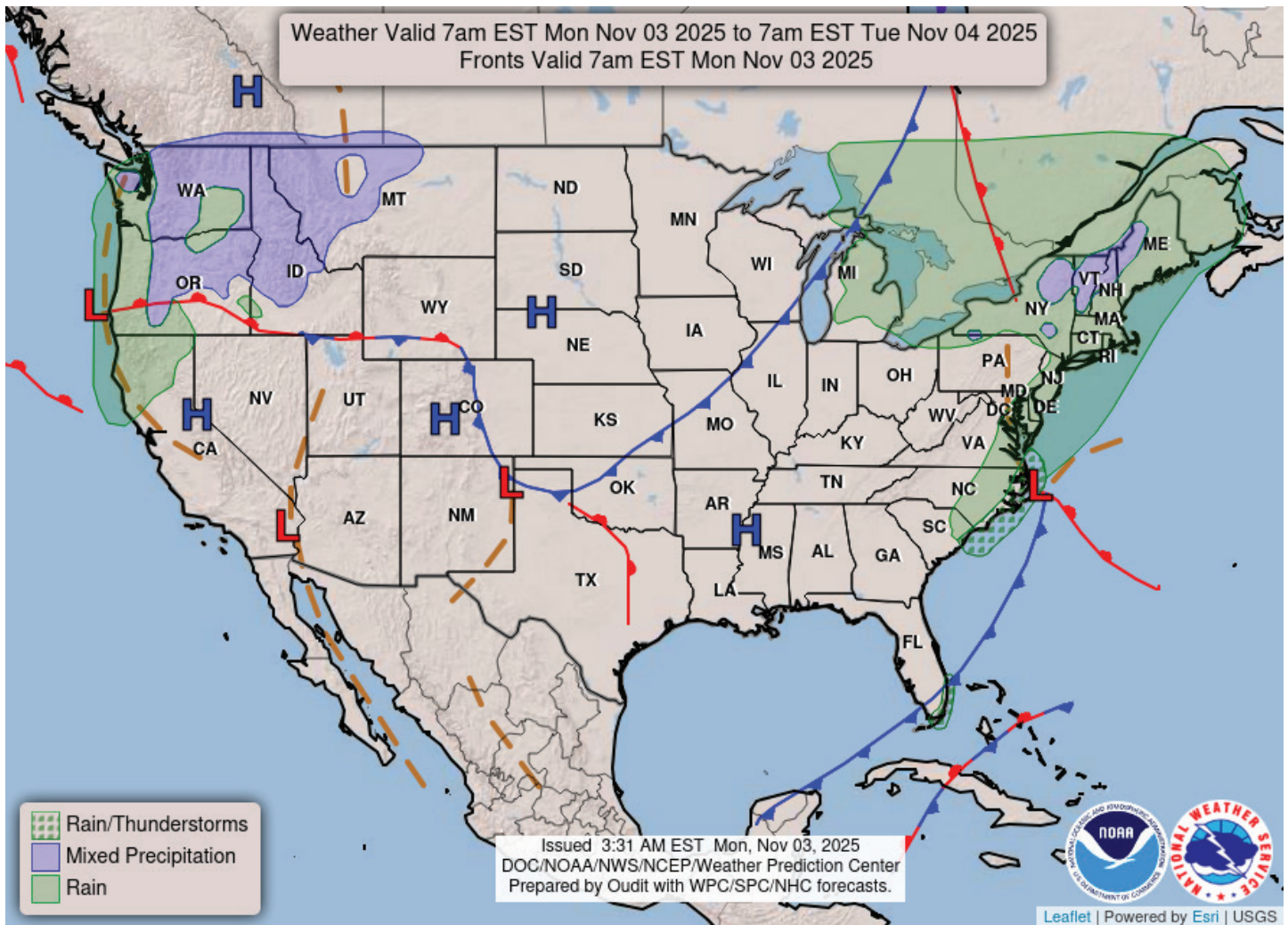
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.57

Precip Year to Date: 23.51

Sunset Tonight: 5:16 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:16 am



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## Today in Weather History

November 3rd, 2003: Heavy snow fell across the area, including 6 to 9 inches across Big Stone County in Minnesota, with nine inches in Ortonville. Heavy snow of up to eight inches fell across Grant County in South Dakota. Six inches fell at Big Stone City, and 8 inches fell at Milbank. Heavy snow also fell from the early morning to around noon across parts of central South Dakota. Six inches of snow fell at Kennebec, Fort Thompson, Gann Valley, and Miller.

1890 - The temperature at Los Angeles, CA, reached 96 degrees, a November record for 76 years. (David Ludlum)

1927 - Somerset VT was deluged with 8.77 inches of rain to establish a 24 hour record for the state. (3rd-4th) (The Weather Channel)

1927: Historic flooding occurred across Vermont from November 2nd through the 4th. The flood washed out 1285 bridges, miles of roads and railways, and several homes and buildings. Eighty-four people were killed from the flooding, including Lt. Governor S. Hollister Jackson.

1961 - A rare November thunderstorm produced snow at Casper, WY. (3rd-4th) (The Weather Channel)

1966: An early season snowfall, which started on the 2nd, whitened the ground from Alabama to Michigan. Mobile, Alabama, had their earliest snowflakes on record. Louisville, Kentucky measured 13.1 inches, Nashville; Tennessee reported 7.2 inches, and Huntsville, Alabama, had 4 inches of snow.

1987 - Twenty-one cities, mostly in the Ohio Valley, reported record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Columbus OH was their warmest reading of record for so late in the season. Showers and thundershowers associated with a tropical depression south of Florida produced 4.28 inches of rain at Clewiston in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A sharp cold front brought about an abrupt end to Indian Summer in the north central U.S. Up to a foot of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park WY, and winds in the mountains near the Washoe Valley of southeastern Wyoming gusted to 78 mph. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the south central U.S. Del Rio TX tied Laredo TX and McAllen TX for honors as the hot spot in the nation with a record warm afternoon high of 91 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Cold weather prevailed in the central U.S. Six cities in Texas, Minnesota, and Michigan, reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 7 above zero at Marquette MI was their coldest reading of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

2001: Hurricane Michelle reached peak intensity on this day as a Category 4 storm. Michelle made landfall on November 4-5, between Playa Larga and Playa Giron, Cuba, as a Category 4 hurricane, the strongest to strike the country since 1952's Hurricane Fox. The storm caused an estimated \$2 billion US dollars in damage to Cuba.

2002: A Magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck central Alaska. The quake is the 9th largest to be recorded in the US.

2007: Dense fog in the early morning hours resulted in a 100 vehicle pile-up just north of Fowler, CA on I-99. Two people were killed, and 41 others were injured. The thick seasonal fog is known as "Tule fog" and typically occurs in Central California in late fall and winter.

2011: Floodwaters by Tropical Depression Keila's heavy rainfall were responsible for several deaths in Oman.

2013: The town of Arnhem in the Netherlands was hit with several tornadoes.

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Daily Devotion

## Hope Is a Choice

**In times of discouragement, remember God's faithfulness and choose to trust Him.**

Acts 27:13-26: The Storm

13 When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14 Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. 15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure, 17 so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor[a] and let the ship be driven along. 18 We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. 19 On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. 20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

21 After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. 22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23 Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

Life doesn't always go the way we want. Even when making plans according to God's instructions, we may run into delays and obstacles. Frustration over these hindrances can lead to discouragement and even hopelessness.

Think about Paul's voyage to Rome. When a bad storm arose, the sailors worked to save the ship. But they couldn't control the weather and gradually gave up hope of being saved (Acts 27:20). However, no one was lost. God was sovereign over their violent weather just as He is over our upheavals, whether we're facing a job loss, a loved one's death, or a devastating diagnosis. In such situations, feelings of hopelessness may overtake us at times, but we can trust the Lord to act for our ultimate good.

Postponed or unfulfilled dreams can dishearten us, as was the case for Hannah (1 Samuel 1:10-11). Year after year, she was dejected because she longed for a child but faced "hope deferred" (Proverbs 13:12). When things do not go as we desire, we may experience emotions like hers, but the same powerful God who ultimately fulfilled her longing also knows our situation.

In times of discouragement, we have a choice: Focus on circumstances or on our loving heavenly Father who will carry us through every challenge just as He's promised.

*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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## Upcoming Groton Events

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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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.31.25

2 24 52 66 68 9

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$800,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 27  
Mins 19 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.01.25

8 11 23 31 47 6

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$6,050,000**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 42 Mins 19  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.02.25

8 14 19 25 38 15

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 57 Mins 19  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.01.25

1 2 12 34 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$70,000**

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 57  
Mins 19 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.01.25

7 10 19 42 59 26

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 26 Mins 20  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.01.25

2 26 43 44 62 22

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$419,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 26 Mins 20  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### Health officials in Gaza say Israel has handed over the bodies of 45 Palestinians

By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Health officials in Gaza say Israel has handed over the bodies of 45 Palestinians.

Zaher al-Wahidi, a spokesperson at the Gaza Health Ministry, told the AP that Nasser Hospital in Gaza received the bodies Monday morning.

It comes a day after Palestinian militants returned to Israel the remains of three Israeli troops taken hostage on Oct. 7, 2023.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel said on Monday the remains of three hostages returned from Gaza the previous night belong to soldiers who were killed in the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023 that triggered the war. The positive identification marked another step forward for the tenuous, U.S.-brokered ceasefire.

Since the ceasefire took effect on Oct. 10, Palestinian militants have released the remains of 20 hostages, with eight now remaining in Gaza.

The latest hostages' return came as Israel was shaken by a political scandal involving the former legal chief for Israel's military, who was arrested overnight after she admitted to leaking a video of Israeli soldiers assaulting a Palestinian detainee, according to media reports. A former chief military prosecutor was also arrested, the reports said.

The two were to appear in court on Monday. The authorities did not immediately comment.

Slow release of bodies

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu identified the three hostages returned as Capt. Omer Neutra, an American-Israeli, Staff Sgt. Oz Daniel and Col. Assaf Hamami. A Hamas statement earlier said their remains were found on Sunday in a tunnel in southern Gaza.

U.S. President Donald Trump said Sunday he had spoken with the family of American-Israeli Omer Neutra, describing their relief and heartbreak. "They were thrilled, in one sense, but in another sense, obviously, it's not too great," Trump said.

Militants have released one or two bodies every few days. Israel has urged faster progress, and in certain cases it has said the remains were not those of any hostage. Hamas has said the work is complicated by widespread devastation.

Israel in turn has been releasing the remains of 15 Palestinians for each Israeli hostage returned. Health officials in Gaza have struggled to identify bodies without access to DNA kits.

Only 75 of the 225 Palestinian bodies returned since the ceasefire began have been identified, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The Ministry has posted photos of the remains online and used projectors to magnify the images onto the walls of Nasser hospital, all in the hope that families will recognize them.

Arrests of 2 ex-military figures rocks Israel

The arrest of Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, the former military legal chief, came just days after she issued a stunning admission that she was responsible for leaking a video showing Israeli soldiers sexually assaulting a Palestinian detainee and resigned from office.

The arrest followed a frantic search Sunday along the Tel Aviv beach for Tomer-Yerushalmi, after her family raised concerns for her safety and police found her abandoned car along the coastline, reported Israel's Channel 12. Police said she was found soon after the search began.

Former chief military prosecutor Col. Matan Solomesh was also arrested, reported Israel's Army Radio.

Who were the hostages returned?

The American-Israeli, Neutra, was 21 when he died. In the Oct. 7, 2023 attack, he was abducted with the rest of his tank crew. In December 2024, the military announced Neutra had been killed in the attack that started the war.

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Neutra's parents were a regular presence at protests in the U.S. and Israel, and addressed the Republican National Convention last year.

The militants took the body of Daniel, 19, from his tank, along with three others. He is survived by his parents and twin sister.

Hamami commanded Israel's southern brigade in the Gaza division and died early on Oct. 7, 2023, in fighting to defend Kibbutz Nirim.

According to Israeli media, Hamami was the first person in the military to declare that Israel was at war, less than 10 minutes after the attack began. Hamami and two of his soldiers were killed and their bodies were taken to Gaza. The other two soldiers' remains were retrieved in July 2024. Hamami is survived by his wife and three children.

Where the ceasefire stands

The exchange of hostage remains for Palestinian bodies has been the central part of the initial phase of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire. The 20-point plan includes the formation of an international stabilization force of Arab and other partners that would work with Egypt and Jordan on securing Gaza's borders and ensure the ceasefire is respected.

Multiple nations have shown interest in taking part in a peacekeeping force but have called for a clear U.N. Security Council mandate before committing troops.

Other difficult questions include Hamas' disarmament and the governance of a postwar Gaza, as well as when and how humanitarian aid will be increased.

U.K. Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper will visit Jordan on Monday and call on Israel to allow more aid into Gaza. She is expected to visit a warehouse where British aid remains stuck waiting to enter Gaza.

Ahead of the visit, Cooper said that "humanitarian support is desperately needed and the people of Gaza cannot afford to wait."

"Following the U.S.-led peace process and the plans for a substantial increase in aid for Gaza, we need an increase in crossings, an acceleration in lifting of restrictions and more agencies able to go in with aid," Cooper said.

Cooper also announced that Britain will provide an extra 6 million pounds (\$7.9 million) of humanitarian support for Gaza, provided by the UN Population Fund.

The two-year war has been the deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and Hamas. It started with the Hamas-led 2023 attack that killed about 1,200 people and saw 251 taken as hostages.

Israel's military offensive has killed more than 68,800 Palestinians in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by independent experts.

Israel, which has denied accusations by a U.N. commission of inquiry and others of committing genocide in Gaza, has disputed the ministry's figures without providing a contradicting toll.

## **UK police charge man with attempted murder over train stabbing that wounded 11 people**

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.K. police on Monday charged a 32-year-old man with attempted murder over a mass stabbing attack on a train that wounded 11 people, and said he also tried to kill someone at a London transit station earlier the same day.

British Transport Police said Anthony Williams is charged with 10 counts of attempted murder, one of actual bodily harm and one of possession of a bladed article over the attack on Saturday.

He is also charged with attempted murder over a separate incident at Pontoon Dock light rail station in London earlier that day, and police said investigators are "looking at other possible linked offenses."

Police say they are not treating the stabbings as an act of terror and are not looking for other suspects. A second man initially arrested as a suspect was released without charge on Sunday after it was determined

the 35-year-old was not involved.

Williams, a British citizen from the city of Peterborough in eastern England, is due to appear in court later Monday.

The minutes-long stabbing spree spread fear and panic through a train bound from Doncaster in northern England to London on Saturday evening. The train was about halfway through its journey and had just departed from a stop at Peterborough when police began receiving calls about people being stabbed onboard.

Passengers described scenes of panic as bloodied travelers raced down the train to get away from the knifeman. The most seriously wounded victim is a member of railway staff who tried to stop the attacker. Police called his actions "nothing short of heroic."

He is hospitalized in a critical but stable condition.

Williams was arrested when the train made an emergency stop in the town of Huntingdon in eastern England. Police say he was detained within eight minutes of officers receiving the first emergency calls.

Authorities said the attack was an isolated incident but stepped up security on the railway, with armed police officers on patrol Monday at major train stations.

## **In Gaza cemeteries, some displaced Palestinians live among the dead**

By WAFAA SHURAFI Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Skeletons are neighbors for some Palestinians in Gaza who found nowhere but cemeteries to shelter from the war.

Gravestones have become seats and tables for families like that of Maisa Brikah, who has lived with her children in a dusty, sun-baked cemetery in the southern city of Khan Younis for five months. Some 30 families shelter here.

A blonde-haired toddler sits outside one tent, running fingers through the sand. Another peeks playfully from behind a drape of fabric.

Nighttime is another matter.

"When the sun goes down, the children get scared and don't want to go, and I have a few children, four small ones," Brikah said. "They are afraid to go out because of the dogs at night, and the dead."

The vast majority of Gaza's population of over 2 million people has been displaced by the two years of war between Hamas and Israel. With the ceasefire that began on Oct. 10, some have returned to what remains of homes. Others are still crowded into the strip of remaining territory that Israeli forces don't control.

Here and in other cemeteries in Gaza, there is life among the dead. A prayer rug hangs on a line. A child pushes a water jug on a wheelchair between the graves. Smoke rises from a cooking fire.

One of Brikah's nearest neighbors is Ahmad Abu Said, who died in 1991 at the age of 18, according to the carving on his tombstone that begins with lines from the Quran. There is unease, a feeling of disrespect, at setting up camp here.

But there is little choice. Brikah said her family's home elsewhere in Khan Younis was destroyed. There is no return for now. Israeli forces occupy their neighborhood.

Other residents of this cemetery come from Gaza's north. They are often far from the land where their own loved ones are buried.

Mohammed Shmah said he has been living here for three months. He said his house had been destroyed, too.

"I'm a grown man, but I still get scared of the graves at night. I hide in my tent," he said, perched on a broken tombstone and squinting in the sun. He said he had only 200 shekels (around \$60) on him when a friend took it to help bring his family to the cemetery.

The lack of money for shelter elsewhere is one reason keeping families living among the graves, said Hanan Shmah, Mohammed's wife. With care, she washed dishes in a soapy container the size of a pie



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tin, guarding precious water.

"Of course, life in the cemetery is full of fear, dread and worries, and you don't sleep in addition to the stress we experience," she said.

There is no guarantee of safety, even among the dead. Israeli forces have bombed cemeteries during the war, according to the United Nations and other observers. Israel has accused Hamas of using some cemeteries for cover, and has argued that the sites lose their protection when they are used for military purposes.

During the war, bodies in Gaza were buried wherever they could, including in hospital courtyards. According to custom, Palestinian families are buried near loved ones. The fighting has largely disrupted that.

Now, with the ceasefire, the search is on for the dead.

Israel presses Hamas to turn over the remains of hostages. Palestinian health officials post gruesome photos of bodies returned by Israel in the hope that families can identify them. Others search Gaza's vast stretches of rubble for bodies that the fighting long made unable to claim.

The death toll in Gaza from the war — now over 68,800 — has jumped by hundreds since the ceasefire began from the recovery of such remains alone.

Families in this Khan Younis cemetery have watched the arrival of new additions, often buried not under slabs but under sand, marked off by stones.

Recovery, reconstruction, return. All feel far away.

"After the ceasefire my life is the same inside the cemetery, meaning I gained nothing," Mohammed Shmah said.

## Government shutdown could become longest ever as Trump says he 'won't be extorted' by Democrats

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government shutdown is poised to become the longest ever this week as the impasse between Democrats and Republicans has dragged into a new month. Millions of people could lose food aid benefits, health care subsidies are set to expire and there are few real talks between the parties over how to end it.

President Donald Trump said in an interview aired on Sunday that he "won't be extorted" by Democrats who are demanding negotiations to extend the Affordable Care Act subsidies that expire at the end of the year for millions of Americans. Echoing congressional Republicans, the president said on CBS's "60 Minutes" that he will only negotiate when the government is reopened.

Trump's comments signal that the shutdown could continue to drag on for some time as federal workers, including air traffic controllers, are set to miss additional paychecks and there is uncertainty over whether 42 million Americans who receive federal food aid will be able to access the assistance. Senate Democrats have now voted 13 times against reopening the government, insisting that they need Trump and Republicans to negotiate with them first.

The president said that Democrats "have lost their way" and predicted that they will eventually capitulate to Republicans.

"I think they have to," Trump said. "And if they don't vote, it's their problem."

He also reiterated his pleas to Republican leaders to change Senate rules and scrap the filibuster. Senate Republicans have repeatedly rejected that idea since Trump's first term, arguing that the rule requiring 60 votes to overcome any objections in the Senate is vital to the institution and has allowed them to stop Democratic policies when they are in the minority.

"Republicans have to get tougher," Trump said in the CBS interview. "If we end the filibuster, we can do exactly what we want."

With the two parties at a standstill, the shutdown, now in its 33rd day and approaching its sixth week, appears likely to become the longest in history. The previous record was set in 2019, when Trump demanded that Congress give him money for a U.S.-Mexico border wall.

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A potentially decisive week

Trump's push on the filibuster could prove a distraction for Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., and Republican senators who have opted instead to stay the course as the consequences of the shutdown have become more acute.

Republicans are hoping that at least some Democrats will eventually give them the votes they need as moderates have been in weeklong talks with rank-and-file Republicans about potential compromises that could guarantee votes on health care in exchange for reopening the government. Republicans need five additional Democrats to pass their bill.

"We need five with a backbone to say we care more about the lives of the American people than about gaining some political leverage," Thune said on the Senate floor as the Senate left Washington for the weekend on Thursday.

Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, a Democrat, said on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday that there is a group of people talking about "a path to fix the health care debacle" and a commitment from Republicans not to fire more federal workers. But it's still unclear if those talks could produce a meaningful compromise.

Far apart on Obamacare subsidies

Trump said in the "60 Minutes" interview that the Affordable Care Act — often known as Obamacare because it was signed and championed by former President Barack Obama — is "terrible" and that if the Democrats vote to reopen the government, "we will work on fixing the bad health care that we have right now."

Democrats feel differently, arguing that the marketplaces set up by the ACA are working as record numbers of Americans have signed up for the coverage. But they want to extend subsidies first enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic so that premiums won't go up for millions of people on Jan. 1.

"We want to sit down with Thune, with (House Speaker Mike) Johnson, with Trump, and negotiate a way to address this horrible health care crisis," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said last week.

No appetite for bipartisanship

As Democrats have pushed Trump and Republicans to negotiate, Trump has showed little interest in doing so. He immediately called for an end to the Senate filibuster after a trip to Asia while the government was shut down.

White House Spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said on "Sunday Morning Futures" on Fox News that the president has spoken directly to both Thune and Johnson about the filibuster. But a spokesman for Thune said Friday that his position hasn't changed, and Johnson said on Sunday that Republicans traditionally have resisted calling for an end to the filibuster because it protects them from "the worst impulses of the far-left Democrat Party."

Trump said on "60 Minutes" that "I like John Thune, I think he's terrific. But I disagree with him on this point."

The president has spent much of the shutdown mocking Democrats, posting videos of House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries in a Mexican sombrero. The White House website has a satirical "My Space" page for Democrats, a parody based on the social media site that was popular in the early 2000s. "We just love playing politics with people's livelihoods," the page reads.

Democrats have repeatedly said that they need Trump to get serious and weigh in. Virginia Sen. Mark Warner said that he hopes the shutdown could end "this week" because Trump is back in Washington.

Republicans "can't move on anything without a Trump sign off," Warner said on "Face the Nation" on CBS.

Record-breaking shutdown

The 35-day shutdown that lasted from December 2018 to January 2019 ended when Trump retreated from his demands over a border wall. That came amid intensifying delays at the nation's airports and multiple missed paydays for hundreds of thousands of federal workers.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said on ABC's "This Week" that there have already been delays at several airports "and it's only going to get worse."

Many of the workers are "confronted with a decision," he said. "Do I put food on my kids' table, do I put

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gas in the car, do I pay my rent or do I go to work and not get paid?"

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"The average delay is about 2 hours, and some flights are more than 3 hours late," the account posted. "FAA planning notes show a possibility of a full ground stop later if staffing shortages or demand increases."

## **SNAP crisis**

Also in the crossfire are the 42 million Americans who receive SNAP benefits. The Department of Agriculture planned to withhold \$8 billion needed for payments to the food program starting on Saturday until two federal judges ordered the administration to fund it.

House Democratic leader Jeffries, D-N.Y., accused Trump and Republicans of attempting to "weaponize hunger." He said that the administration has managed to find ways for funding other priorities during the shutdown, but is slow-walking pushing out SNAP benefits despite the court orders.

"But somehow they can't find money to make sure that Americans don't go hungry," Jeffries said in an appearance on CNN's "State of the Union."

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, in his own CNN appearance Sunday, said the administration continues to await direction from the courts.

"The best way for SNAP benefits to get paid is for Democrats — for five Democrats to cross the aisle and reopen the government," Bessent said.

## **What's on the ballot in the first general election since Donald Trump became president**

By ROBERT YOON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — One year after Donald Trump retook the White House and set into motion a dramatic expansion of executive power, the Republican president figures prominently in state and local elections being held Tuesday.

The results of those contests — the first general election of Trump's second term — will be heralded by the victors as either a major repudiation or resounding stamp of approval of his second-term agenda. That's especially true in high-profile races for Virginia and New Jersey governor, New York City mayor and a California proposition to redraw its congressional district boundaries.

More than half of the states will hold contests on Tuesday. Here's a look at some of the major statewide and local races on the ballot:

**Governors: New Jersey and Virginia**

In New Jersey, Democrat Mikie Sherrill and Republican Jack Ciattarelli are the nominees to succeed term-limited Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy. Sherrill is a four-term U.S. representative and former Navy helicopter pilot. Ciattarelli is a former state Assemblyman backed by Trump. In 2021, Ciattarelli came within about 3 percentage points of toppling Murphy.

In Virginia, Republican Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears and Democratic former U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger look to replace term-limited Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin. While Spanberger has made some efforts to focus on topics other than Trump in stump speeches, the president remained a major topic of conversation throughout the campaign, from comments Earle-Sears made about him in 2022 to some of his more polarizing policies, such as the so-called One Big Beautiful Bill tax and spending cut measure and the widespread dismissal of federal workers, many of whom live in northern Virginia.

Trump was scheduled to participate in telephone rallies for the candidates on Monday night.

As the only gubernatorial races held in the year following a presidential election, the contests have long served as the first major test of voter sentiment toward the party holding the White House. In every race for governor since 1973, one or both states have elected a governor from a party different than that of the sitting president.

**New York City Mayor**

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The race to lead the nation's largest city features Democratic state legislator Zohran Mamdani, independent candidate and former Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Republican Curtis Sliwa.

Mamdani's comfortable victory over Cuomo in the June primary generated excitement from the party's more progressive wing and apprehension among the party establishment. Party leaders like Gov. Kathy Hochul and U.S. House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries eventually endorsed the self-described democratic socialist months after he won the nomination.

The winner will replace outgoing Mayor Eric Adams, who initially sought renomination as a Democrat. After losing the primary Adams opted to run as an independent, but dropped out of the race in September and eventually endorsed Cuomo. In February, the Trump Justice Department asked a court to drop corruption charges against Adams because the case impeded Trump's "immigration objectives." Trump later said he'd like to see both Adams and Sliwa drop out of the race in an effort to defeat Mamdani.

## California Proposition 50

California voters will decide a statewide ballot measure that would enact a new congressional map that could flip as many as five Republican-held U.S. House seats to Democratic control.

Proposition 50, championed by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, is in response to a new Texas map that state Republicans enacted in August as part of Trump's efforts to keep the U.S. House under Republican control in the 2026 midterms. The Texas plan, which could help Republicans flip five Democratic-held U.S. House seats, has sparked an escalating gerrymandering arms race among states to pass new maps outside of the regular once-a-decade schedule.

## Pennsylvania Supreme Court

Control of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court will be at stake when voters cast Yes or No votes on whether to retain three justices from the high court's 5-2 Democratic majority.

Partisan control of the court could have major implications for the 2028 presidential race, since justices might be asked to rule on election disputes, as they did in 2020. Spending on Tuesday's contests is on track to exceed \$15 million as Republicans have campaigned to end the majority and Democrats have responded.

If all three justices are ousted, a deadlock in the confirmation process to replace them could result in a court tied at 2-2. An election to fill any vacant seats for full 10-year terms would be held in 2027.

## Other notable contests

**VIRGINIA ATTORNEY GENERAL:** Republican incumbent Jason Miyares seeks a second term against Democrat Jay Jones. Much of the fall campaign has focused on text messages suggesting violence against political rivals that Jones sent in 2022.

**TEXAS-18:** Sixteen candidates hope to fill a vacant congressional seat previously held by the late Democratic U.S. Rep. Sylvester Turner.

**STATE LEGISLATURES:** Control of the Minnesota Senate and Virginia House of Delegates is at stake, while New Jersey Democrats defend their 52-28 General Assembly majority.

**BALLOT MEASURES:** Maine voters will decide statewide questions on voting and a "red flag" law aimed at preventing gun violence. Texas' 17 ballot measures include constitutional amendments on parental rights and limiting voting to U.S. citizens. Colorado and Washington also have statewide measures on the ballot.

**MAYORS:** Detroit, Pittsburgh, Jersey City and Buffalo will elect new mayors, while incumbents in Atlanta, Minneapolis and Cincinnati seek another term.

## Judge again bars Trump administration from deploying troops to Portland

By CLAIRE RUSH and GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A federal judge in Oregon on Sunday barred President Donald Trump's administration from deploying the National Guard to Portland, Oregon until at least Friday, saying she "found no credible evidence" that protests in the city grew out of control before the president federalized the troops earlier this fall.

The city and state sued in September to block the deployment.



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It's the latest development in weeks of legal back-and-forth in Portland, Chicago and other U.S. cities as the Trump administration has moved to federalize and deploy the National Guard in city streets to quell protests.

The ruling from U.S. District Court Judge Karin Immergut, a Trump appointee, followed a three-day trial in which both sides argued over whether protests at the city's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building met the conditions for using the military domestically under federal law.

In a 16-page filing late Sunday, Immergut said she would issue a final order on Friday due to the voluminous evidence presented at trial, including more than 750 exhibits.

Judge says claims of protest violence are overstated

The purpose of the deployment, according to the Trump administration, is to protect federal personnel and property where protests are occurring or likely to occur. Legal experts said that a higher appellate court order that remains in effect would have barred troops from being deployed anyway.

Immergut wrote that most violence appeared to be between protesters and counter-protesters and found no evidence of "significant damage" to the immigration facility at the center of the protests.

"Based on the trial testimony, this Court finds no credible evidence that during the approximately two months before the President's federalization order, protests grew out of control or involved more than isolated and sporadic instances of violent conduct that resulted in no serious injuries to federal personnel," she wrote.

Ruling follows weeks of back and forth in federal court

The complex case comes as Democratic cities targeted by Trump for military involvement — including Chicago, which has filed a separate lawsuit on the issue — seek to push back. They argue the president has not satisfied the legal threshold for deploying troops and that doing so would violate states' sovereignty. The administration argues that it needs the troops because it has been unable to enforce the law with regular forces — one of the conditions set by Congress for calling up troops.

Immergut issued two orders in early October that blocked the deployment of the troops leading up to the trial. She previously found that Trump had failed to show that he met the legal requirements for mobilizing the National Guard. She described his assessment of Portland, which Trump has called "war-ravaged" with "fires all over the place," as "simply untethered to the facts."

One of Immergut's orders was paused Oct. 20 by a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. But late Tuesday, the appeals court vacated that decision and said it would rehear the matter before an 11-judge panel. Until the larger panel rehears the case, the appeals court's initial order from early October — under which the National Guard is federalized but not deployed — remains in effect.

Federal witness describes 'surprise' at troop deployment

During the Portland trial, witnesses including local police and federal officials were questioned about the law enforcement response to the nightly protests at the city's ICE building. The demonstrations peaked in June, when Portland police declared one a riot. The demonstrations typically drew a couple dozen people in the weeks leading up to Trump's National Guard announcement.

The Trump administration said it has had to shuffle federal agents from elsewhere around the country to respond to the Portland protests, which it has characterized as a "rebellion" or "danger of rebellion" — another one of the conditions for calling up troops under federal law.

Federal officials working in the region testified about staffing shortages and requests for more personnel that have yet to be fulfilled. Among them was an official with the Federal Protective Service, the agency within the Department of Homeland Security that provides security at federal buildings, whom the judge allowed to be sworn in as a witness under his initials, R.C., due to safety concerns.

R.C., who said he would be one of the most knowledgeable people in DHS about security at Portland's ICE building, testified that a troop deployment would alleviate the strain on staff. When cross-examined, however, he said he did not request troops and that he was not consulted on the matter. He also said he was "surprised" to learn about the deployment and that he did not agree with statements about Portland burning down.

Attorneys for Portland and Oregon said city police have been able to respond to the protests. After the

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police department declared a riot on June 14, it changed its strategy to direct officers to intervene when person and property crime occurs, and crowd numbers have largely diminished since the end of that month, police officials testified.

Another Federal Protective Service official whom the judge also allowed to testify under his initials said protesters have at times been violent, damaged the facility and acted aggressively toward officers working at the building.

The ICE building closed for three weeks over the summer due to property damage, according to court documents and testimony. The regional field office director for ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations, Camilla Wamsley, said her employees worked from another building during that period. The plaintiffs argued that was evidence that they were able to continue their work functions.

Oregon Senior Assistant Attorney General Scott Kennedy said that "without minimizing or condoning offensive expressions" or certain instances of criminal conduct, "none of these incidents suggest ... that there's a rebellion or an inability to execute the laws."

## **Kenyan landslide death toll rises to 26 as flash floods hamper search for survivors**

By EVELYNE MUSAMBI Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The death toll from a deadly landslide in western Kenya has risen to 26 after four more bodies were retrieved on Sunday, shortly before rescue efforts to find survivors were suspended due to a flash flood.

Interior Minister Kipchumba Murkomen said 25 people are still missing and that the government had intensified the search mission, with the military deploying four aircrafts to help teams access the area that has been completely cut off after roads were washed away during Saturday's landslide.

On Sunday, search teams had to abandon the site after flash floods from a hill in the Chesongoch area in Kenya's Rift Valley region.

Heavy rains continue across Kenya, and floods have been reported in several counties, displacing thousands of people.

The government has urged those living in flood or landslide prone areas to move, as the rains are expected to continue across the country.

Murkomen said the government would continue airlifting supplies to those affected, including to 15 schools that have been cut off, and that ongoing national examination papers would be airlifted to candidates.

He said the government would cover the medical bills of more than 30 injured people and resettle dozens of others whose homes were swept away.

"It is very sad that families have lost five to six immediate family members," the minister told journalists on Sunday.

Oscar Okum, regional manager for the Kenya Red Cross, said the Rift Valley area was still susceptible to land slides.

"Today, while we were doing search and recovery and rescue, we have had roads that are already opened being populated again by mudslides. So it's still an active incidence and we urge the community members to move to safer grounds for purposes of their safety, lives and livelihoods as well," he said.

## **Mississippi woman kills escaped monkey fearing for her children's safety**

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

One of the monkeys that escaped last week after a truck overturned on a Mississippi highway was shot and killed early Sunday by a woman who says she feared for the safety of her children.

Jessica Bond Ferguson said she was alerted early Sunday by her 16-year-old son who said he thought

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he had seen a monkey running in the yard outside their home near Heidelberg, Mississippi. She got out of bed, grabbed her firearm and her cellphone and stepped outside where she saw the monkey about 60 feet (18 meters) away.

Bond Ferguson said she and other residents had been warned that the escaped monkeys carried diseases so she fired her gun.

"I did what any other mother would do to protect her children," Bond Ferguson, who has five children ranging in age from 4 to 16, told The Associated Press. "I shot at it and it just stood there, and I shot again, and he backed up and that's when he fell."

The Jasper County Sheriff's Office confirmed in a social media post that a homeowner had found one of the monkeys on their property Sunday morning but said the office didn't have any details. The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks took possession of the monkey, the sheriff's office said.

Before Bond Ferguson had gone out the door, she had called the police and was told to keep an eye on the monkey. But she said worried that if the monkey got away it would threaten children at another house.

"If it attacked somebody's kid, and I could have stopped it, that would be a lot on me," said Bond Ferguson, a 35-year-old professional chef. "It's kind of scary and dangerous that they are running around, and people have kids playing in their yards."

The Rhesus monkeys had been housed at the Tulane University National Biomedical Research Center in New Orleans, Louisiana, which routinely provides primates to scientific research organizations, according to the university. In a statement last week, Tulane said the monkeys do not belong to the university, and they were not being transported by the university.

A truck carrying the monkeys overturned Tuesday on Interstate 59 north of Heidelberg. Of 21 the monkeys in the truck, 13 were found at the scene of the accident and arrived at their original destination last week, according to Tulane. Another five were killed in the hunt for them and three remained on the loose before Sunday.

The Mississippi Highway Patrol has said it was investigating the cause of the crash, which occurred about 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the state capital, Jackson.

Rhesus monkeys typically weigh about 16 pounds (7.2 kilograms) and are among the most medically studied animals on the planet. Video recorded after the crash showed monkeys crawling through tall grass beside the interstate, where wooden crates labeled "live animals" were crumpled and strewn about.

Jasper County Sheriff Randy Johnson had said Tulane officials reported the monkeys were not infectious, despite initial reports by the truck's occupants warning that the monkeys were dangerous and harboring various diseases. Nonetheless, Johnson said the monkeys still needed to be "neutralized" because of their aggressive nature.

The monkeys had recently received checkups confirming they were pathogen-free, Tulane said in a statement Wednesday.

Rhesus macaques "are known to be aggressive," according to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. It said the agency's conservation workers were working with sheriff's officials in the search for the animals.

The search comes about one year after 43 Rhesus macaques escaped from a South Carolina compound that breeds them for medical research because an employee didn't fully lock an enclosure. Employees from the Alpha Genesis facility in Yemassee, South Carolina, had set up traps to capture them.

## **Trump says he 'won't be extorted' by Democrats, shuns negotiations as shutdown drags on**

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says he "won't be extorted" by Democrats to reopen the government, making clear that he has no plans to negotiate as the government shutdown will soon enter its sixth week.

In an interview on CBS's "60 Minutes" that aired on Sunday, Trump said that Democrats who are de-

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manding an extension in health care subsidies "have lost their way" and predicted that they will eventually capitulate to Republicans who have said they won't negotiate until they vote to reopen the government.

"I think they have to," Trump said. "And if they don't vote, it's their problem."

Trump's comments signal that the shutdown could continue to drag on for some time as federal workers, including air traffic controllers, are set to miss additional paychecks and as there is uncertainty over whether 42 million Americans who received federal food aid will be able to access the assistance. Senate Democrats have now voted 13 times against reopening the government, insisting that they need Trump and Republicans to negotiate with them first on an extension of Affordable Care Act subsidies that are set to expire at the end of the year.

Instead of negotiating, the president reiterated his pleas to Republican leaders to change Senate rules and scrap the filibuster. But Senate Republicans have rejected that idea, arguing that the rule requiring 60 votes to overcome any objections in the Senate is vital to the institution and has allowed them to stop Democratic policies when they are in the minority.

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No appetite for bipartisanship

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Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, in his own CNN appearance Sunday, said the administration continues to await direction from the courts.

"The best way for SNAP benefits to get paid is for Democrats — for five Democrats to cross the aisle and reopen the government," Bessent said.

## Jaguars' Cam Little kicks a 68-yard field goal to break Justin Tucker's NFL record

By W.G. RAMIREZ Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Cam Little predicted before the season started that someone would break the NFL record for the longest field goal.

Given that Little made a 70-yard kick in the preseason, he clearly knew something — and on Sunday, he made his prognostication come true.

Little made a 68-yard field goal at the end of the first half against the Las Vegas Raiders on Sunday, and coach Liam Coen credited the kick with sparking his team to a 30-29 overtime victory.

"You kick it long enough and you kick it straight enough, it's gonna go in," Little said. "Me and (holder) Logan (Cooke) kind of had a one-on-one right before the kick, and I said, 'Kick the ball as hard as I can.'"

"Usually when I tell myself that, I find success."

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Justin Tucker had the previous record, a 66-yarder in 2021 that gave the Baltimore Ravens a 19-17 win over the Detroit Lions.

While Tucker's kick hit the crossbar, Little's boot had plenty of room as it sailed through the uprights.

"You go so far back, and that ball takes a long time to get there, so you don't want to ever celebrate too early before the kick goes in," Little said. "And so once I saw it clear the crossbar, that's when I knew it was good."

Little came into the game having missed three of his last four kicks, including an extra-point attempt. But Coen said he never lost faith in the second-year kicker out of Arkansas, which is why he and special teams coach Heath Farwell looked at each other during a timeout before the kick and said, "Let's go!"

"I mean, there was no way we're gonna throw a Hail Mary," Coen said. "We've seen him do it before and we're indoors, we're in a great space for it, and he was hitting it pretty good in pregame."

And as the kick sailed through, Coen raced onto the field to greet Little, whose previous career long was 59 yards on Nov. 17, 2024, against the Lions.

"It was like we won the Super Bowl. It was what ignited us," Coen said. "And that confidence from him, from a guy who has been struggling, that was really a special moment for our team."

Trailing 6-0, the Jaguars started at their own 31 with 28 seconds left in the half and drove 19 yards in three plays. Trevor Lawrence spiked the ball at midfield to set up Little for the record-breaker.

Little finished 3 of 3 on field goals, including a 48-yarder in the final minute to send it to OT, and made all three extra points. The last one provided the winning margin.

"For your team, momentum plays are huge," Little said. "Kicking a field goal, maybe not one to put us up points, but it gives us momentum."

"Any chance that I can put points on the board for our team, I'm expected to go out there and do that. Obviously, I felt like I maybe had a part in the momentum, but not a huge part, considering how many guys played their tails off out there and had a lot more to do with that win than I did."

## **Ruling conservatives in North Macedonia cement victory in local elections, main opposition trounced**

By KONSTANTIN TESTORIDES Associated Press

SKOPJE, North Macedonia (AP) — North Macedonia's ruling conservatives cemented victory in a local election runoff on Sunday, winning just over two-thirds of the mayoral contests in two rounds of voting, leaving opposition Social Democrats far behind and dashing their hopes of an early general election.

According to the State electoral commission, with nearly 99 % of ballots counted for both rounds, the ruling conservative VMRO-DPMNE party has won 55 mayoral contests, including in the capital Skopje, while the opposition Social Democrats got only six mayors. North Macedonia has 81 municipalities, of which 37 were contested in Sunday's runoff.

Conservative candidates had already won 33 out of 44 contests decided in the first round two weeks ago.

VMRO-DPMNE leader Hristijan Mickoski announced at party headquarters a "great, great" victory before hundreds of celebrating supporters.

"If anyone had any doubts, the people have shown that (North) Macedonia is yours again. Thank you my people. This is a victory of hope for a better future," Mickoski said.

"These elections are a clear roadmap for the party and what changes need to be undertaken," the Social Democrats' leader Venko Filipche said. He told reporters at party headquarters he has no intention to resign after the poor results.

Candidates' promises about the economy, jobs and education in Skopje took a backseat to problems linked to garbage collection. Until Sunday, trash had been accumulating for weeks due to operational and financial problems faced by the garbage collection company.

The garbage has attracted rats, flies and stray cats and dogs. A child was recently bitten by a rat and was treated at a clinic.

But on Sunday, the roads in Skopje suddenly appeared bright and clean, surprising residents. Just over 1 million people were eligible to vote in the runoffs. Turnout was 41.47%, lower than the 46.48% registered in the first round.

## Israel says it received the remains of 3 hostages from Gaza as fragile ceasefire holds

By RENATA BRITO Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel on Sunday announced that the remains of three hostages had been handed over from Gaza and would be examined by forensic experts, as a fragile month-old ceasefire held.

A Hamas statement earlier said the remains were found Sunday in a tunnel in southern Gaza.

Since the ceasefire took effect on Oct. 10, Palestinian militants had released the remains of 17 hostages, with 11 remaining in Gaza, before Sunday's handover.

Israel's military said official identification of these remains would be provided to families first.

U.S. President Donald Trump later on Sunday indicated that the remains of Omer Neutra, an American-Israeli citizen, were among the hostages returned by Hamas. The president said he has spoken with the family of Neutra, who served as a tank platoon commander in the Israel Defense Forces.

Israeli officials have said they believed Neutra, a Long Island, New York native, was killed in the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack on southern Israel that sparked the war.

"They were thrilled, in one sense, but in another sense, obviously, it's not too great," Trump said of Neutra's parents.

Militants have released one or two bodies every few days. Israel has urged faster progress, and in certain cases it has said the remains aren't of any hostage. Hamas has said the work is complicated by widespread devastation.

Emotions around the remains have been high among families, who continue to rally weekly. On Saturday night, Moran Harari, a friend of the late Carmel Gat, urged Israel to have restraint.

"This cursed war has taken so many lives of dear people on both sides of the fence. This time, we must not fall into it again," Harari said during a rally in Jerusalem.

Israel in turn has been releasing the remains of 15 Palestinians for the return of the remains of an Israeli hostage.

Health officials in Gaza have struggled to identify bodies without access to DNA kits. Only 75 of the 225 Palestinian bodies returned since the ceasefire began have been identified, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which has posted photos of remains in the hope that families will recognize them.

The exchange has been the central part of the initial phase of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire. The 20-point plan includes the formation of an international stabilization force of Arab and other partners that would work with Egypt and Jordan on securing Gaza's borders and ensure the ceasefire is respected.

Multiple nations have shown interest in taking part in a peacekeeping force but called for a clear U.N. Security Council mandate before committing troops.

Other difficult questions include Hamas' disarmament and the governance of a postwar Gaza, as well as when and how humanitarian aid will be increased.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said earlier Sunday that "there are still pockets of Hamas" in parts of Gaza controlled by Israeli forces.

"There are actually two in Rafah and Khan Younis, and they will be eliminated," Netanyahu said during a Cabinet meeting.

The deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and Hamas began with the Hamas-led 2023 attack that killed about 1,200 people and took 251 others hostage.

Israel's military offensive has killed more than 68,800 Palestinians in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable

by independent experts.

Israel, which has denied accusations by a U.N. commission of inquiry and others of committing genocide in Gaza, has disputed the ministry's figures without providing a contradicting toll.

## **Tariffs are Trump's favorite foreign policy tool. The Supreme Court could change how he uses them**

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump sees tariffs — or the threat of them — as a powerful tool to bend nations to his will.

He has used them in an unprecedented way, not only as the underpinning of his economic agenda, but also as the cornerstone of his foreign policy in his second term.

He has wielded the import taxes as a threat to secure ceasefires from countries at war. He has used them to browbeat nations into promising to do more to stop people and drugs from flowing across their borders. He has used them, in Brazil's case, as political pressure because its judicial system prosecuted a former leader who was a Trump ally, and in a recent blowup with Canada, as punishment for a television ad.

This week, the Supreme Court hears arguments on whether the Republican president has overstepped federal law with many of his tariffs. A ruling against him could limit or even take away that swift and blunt leverage that much of his foreign policy has relied on.

Trump increasingly has expressed agitation and anxiety about the looming decision in a case he says is one of the most important in U.S. history.

He has said it would be a "disaster" for the United States if the justices fail to overturn lower court rulings that found he went too far in using an emergency powers law to put his tariffs in place.

Trump had said he wanted to take the highly unusual step of attending the arguments in person, but on Sunday said he had ruled it out, saying he didn't want to be a distraction. "I wanted to go so badly — I just don't want to do anything to deflect the importance of that decision," he told reporters on Air Force One.

The Justice Department, in its defense of the tariffs, has highlighted the expansive way Trump has used them, arguing that the trade penalties are part of his power over foreign affairs, an area where the courts should not second-guess the president.

Earlier this year, two lower courts and most judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit found that Trump did not have power under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, to set tariffs — a power the Constitution grants to Congress. Some dissenting judges on the court, though, said the 1977 law allows the president to regulate imports during emergencies without specific limitations.

The courts left the tariffs in place while the Supreme Court considers the issue. Meanwhile, Trump has continued to wield them as he has tried to pressure or punish other countries on matters related — and unrelated -- to trade.

"The fact of the matter is that President Trump has acted lawfully by using the tariff powers granted to him by Congress in IEEPA to deal with national emergencies and to safeguard our national security and economy," White House spokesman Kush Desai said in a statement. "We look forward to ultimate victory on this matter with the Supreme Court."

Still, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said that the Trump trade team is working on contingency plans should the high court rule against the Republican administration.

"We do have backup plans," Leavitt said on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures." "But ultimately...we are hopeful that the Supreme Court will rule on the right side of the law and do what's right for our country. The importance of this case cannot be overstated. The president must have the emergency authority to utilize tariffs."

Most presidents haven't used tariffs as a foreign policy tool

Modern presidents have used financial sanctions such as freezing assets or blocking trade, not tariffs, for their foreign policy and national security aims, said Josh Lipsky, a former Obama White House and State Department staffer who is now the international economics chair at the Atlantic Council.



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There are other laws that presidents can use to impose tariffs. But they require a monthslong process to justify the rates.

Trump, citing the IEEPA, moves faster and more dramatically. He signs executive orders imposing new rates and fires off social media posts threatening additional import taxes, as he did in late October when he was angered by an anti-tariff television ad aired by the province of Ontario.

"Presidents have typically treated tariffs as a scalpel, not a sledgehammer," Lipsky said.

In contrast, Trump has used tariffs as the backbone of his national security and foreign policy agenda, Lipsky said. "All of it is interconnected and tariffs are at the heart of it," he said.

For example, earlier this year Trump had threatened a 30% tariff on European imports, a major increase from 1.2% before he took office. Seeking to secure Trump's support for the NATO military alliance and for security guarantees for Ukraine in its war with Russia, the European Union struck a deal to settle for 15% tariffs.

The EU Commission faced criticism from businesses and member states for giving away too much. But Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič argued the settlement was "not only about the trade. It's about security. It's about Ukraine."

Trump has been able "to use it in specific circumstances to get better deals — not just trade deals — but better deals overall than he might otherwise," Lipsky said. "On the other hand, you would say there's probably some backlash."

Supreme Court decision could rattle geopolitics — and wallets

Trump's tariff strong-arming has rattled relationships with America's friends and foes. Some have responded by becoming more protectionist or looking to foster relations with China, which has tried to be seen as a promoter of free trade.

There also is the impact on pocketbook. Some businesses have passed on some of the costs to consumers by raising prices, while others have waited to see where tariff rates end up.

Tariffs traditionally have been used just as a tool to address trade practices.

"There's literally no precedent for the manner that President Trump is using them," said Emily Kilcrease, who was a deputy assistant U.S. trade representative and earlier worked on trade issues at the National Security Council as a career civil servant during the Obama, Trump and Biden administrations,

"The use of tariffs the way that President Trump is using them is like — just broadscale attack on an economy as a way to incentivize a foreign government to change their posture," said Kilcrease, now a director at the Center for a New American Security think tank.

But she said the case is not clear-cut. Kilcrease said she thinks there is a "decent chance" the Supreme Court could side with Trump because IEEPA gives the president "broad, flexible emergency powers."

The case is also coming before a Supreme Court that has thus far been reluctant to check to Trump's wide-ranging use of executive powers.

If the court constrains Trump, it could leave foreign governments questioning whether to try to renegotiate trade agreements recently struck with the Trump administration, experts said. But there are political realities at play too, because reneging on deals could affect other foreign policy or economic priorities.

The administration could pivot to try to use other laws to justify the tariffs, though that could mean a more complex and bureaucratic process, Kilcrease said.

"It certainly doesn't take tariffs off the table," she said. "It just makes them a little bit slower."

## Riot police separate opponents, loyalists of Serbia's president as tensions soar amid protests

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Hundreds of riot police Sunday separated opponents and loyalists of Serbia's autocratic President Aleksandar Vucic in central Belgrade as political tensions boiled after a year of persistent anti-government protests.

Several thousand people faced off on both sides of the police cordons with officers in full gear standing in several rows between the shouting crowds who threw bottles, flares and stun grenades.

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Tensions in Belgrade soared a day after tens of thousands of people joined a huge rally in the northern city of Novi Sad that marked the first anniversary of a train station disaster there which killed 16 people, and triggered a youth-led movement demanding political changes, which has challenged Vucic's firm grip on power.

Anti-government protesters in Belgrade gathered in support of Dijana Hrka, the mother of Stefan Hrka, one of the Novi Sad station tragedy victims. Hrka earlier on Sunday said she was launching a hunger strike near a tent camp outside the parliament building which has been occupied by Vucic's loyalists since March.

Both police and Vucic on Sunday accused anti-government protesters of attacking his supporters' camp that he described as a "symbol of freedom." Protesters said most incidents were caused from within the camp.

Protesters on Sunday evening also gathered in Novi Sad and some smaller towns in support of Hrka.

The commemoration rally on Saturday in Novi Sad also reflected major discontent with Vucic's 13-year-long increasingly authoritarian rule. Youth-led protesters are demanding an early election they hope would oust the populist government from power.

Protesters believe that rampant government corruption and nepotism during renovation work on the Novi Sad station building led to negligence and disregard of the construction safety rules, and consequently to the collapse of the concrete canopy on the people standing below.

Hrka said she was seeking accountability for the death of her son and the 15 other victims. She has also demanded that all detained protesters be released and that Vucic schedule an early parliamentary election as sought by the university students at the forefront of the demonstrations.

Vucic set up the loyalists' camp ahead of a major rally in Belgrade in March. The enclosed zone colloquially known as "Caciland" apparently serves as a human shield for Vucic, filling a park and a street between his office and the parliament building.

Police have guarded the camp while the area has been off limits for the residents of Belgrade. A shooting incident there last month has triggered fears of violence.

Authorities have cracked down on the protesters in recent months, with hundreds detained and police breaking up protests. Pro-government media and officials have branded protesting university students as "terrorists," accusing them of inciting violence.

## **Hurricane Melissa deals another heavy blow to Jamaica's farmers and fishers**

By GABRIELA AOUN ANGUEIRA Associated Press

The updates sent by friends and neighbors on WhatsApp confirmed what fisher Prince Davis already feared: Hurricane Melissa put a hole in the stern of his 50-foot (15-meter) fishing boat, and damaged the cabin and back deck.

His father's boat was nowhere to be found. The roof of the house Davis and his parents shared in the small Jamaican fishing community of White House in Westmoreland parish was also destroyed.

Davis was in Nicaragua, where he'd flown shortly before the storm to find new customers for his fish business. But now his livelihood, and the livelihoods of many in his community, were in peril.

"It's going to be very rough" said Davis. "With the damage now, no one will be buying products."

About 29 kilometers (17 miles) northwest in Amity, also in Westmoreland parish, Denver Thorpe lost 15 acres (6 hectares) of mango trees and two greenhouses on his farm.

"There's absolutely nothing," said Thorpe, a farmer and regional manager for the Jamaica Agricultural Society, a farmer advocacy organization.

Hurricane Melissa is blamed for at least 28 deaths in Jamaica, bringing catastrophic winds up to 185 mph (298 kph) and storm surge that wrecked homes and public infrastructure.

While official damage assessments are still underway, experts said it's already clear that one of the strongest landfalling Atlantic hurricanes ever recorded also dealt a devastating blow to tens of thousands of Jamaican fishers and farmers who feed their families and nearby communities.

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Similar impacts will be felt by some of Cuba and Haiti 's small producers, said Lola Castro, World Food Program regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

"I would say every (crop) that was on the path has been damaged, there's no discussion on that," said Castro. "Some of the fruit trees may be recovered, some of the temporary crops will not be recovered at all."

The destruction will impact how residents earn income and feed their families at a time when they must also rebuild homes and communities. There were already 10 million food-insecure people across the affected countries of Haiti, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic, said Castro. The WFP does not have that data for Cuba.

In Jamaica, the destruction comes just 15 months after Hurricane Beryl impacted more than 50,000 farmers and 11,000 fishers, and caused \$4.73 billion Jamaican dollars (about \$29 million) in losses, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining.

"We were just about turning the corner," said Thorpe.

'The lifeblood of the most vulnerable'

Jamaica's agriculture ministry did not respond to questions about sector impacts, but the country has more than 200,000 farmers tending livestock and growing bananas, melons, cocoa and much more.

The food produced is for domestic consumption and export — Jamaica is one of the world's largest yam exporters and its coffee growers generate \$25 million annually, according to the Jamaica Coffee Exporters Association.

Around 80% are small-scale producers, working on 2 hectares of land or less, said Donovan Campbell, geography professor and director of the University of the West Indies' western campus.

"Small-scale fishing and small-scale farming is what most people use to make a living," he said. "It is really the lifeblood of the most vulnerable in our society."

Farmers use October rains to plant crops to harvest before Christmas. Before the storm, the agriculture ministry urged fishers to move equipment out of harm's way and farmers to move livestock and harvest any crops they could.

The devastation exceeded most expectations. Officials Wednesday said St. Elizabeth parish, known as Jamaica's "breadbasket," was "under water." The parish had over 35,000 registered farmers and fishers as of 2022, according to the Jamaica Information Service.

For fishers, Davis said it's not just losing boats, nets and traps that endangers their work. Without electricity, there's no ice to store what they catch, and customers won't buy what they can't keep cold. Lack of tourism will hurt demand, too.

The slowdown is worse for fishers who use most of their catch to feed their families and sell a little extra, he said. "That small income every day maintains their house and their family and their school and children."

There are also special risks for women producers, said Davis and Campbell, many of whom are heads of household who support their children with the small amounts they sell.

Compounding crises in Cuba and Haiti

Cuba and Haiti face similar challenges, exacerbated by their political and economic crises.

The storm unleashed terrible flooding in southern Haiti and is blamed for 31 deaths in the country, where hunger was already rising.

Castro of the World Food Program said the organization is concerned about the impact to some of Haiti's female producers, from whom the WFP typically buys produce to supply local schools.

"We may need to bring food from other parts of the country if available or even having to import," said Castro.

In Cuba, the evacuation of 735,000 people meant the country suffered no known deaths, but Melissa's passage could worsen challenges in feeding Cubans. The country faces a severe economic crisis and spends some \$2 billion annually importing food products.

Local officials said there was damage to plantain, corn and cassava crops, coffee, various vegetables and trees across the five affected eastern provinces.

Government officials said Melissa's heavy rainfall did benefit dams and reservoirs, after the eastern part of the country had been suffering from a severe drought and water shortage.

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"That is one of the silver linings," said Margarita Fernandez, executive director of the Caribbean Agroecology Institute in Vermont. CAI is raising funds to send directly to farmers and cooperatives there. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization also delivered seed to Cuba ahead of the storm, a spokesperson said.

Help arrives in phases

Relief efforts across the northern Caribbean are focused on immediate needs for now, as first responders and humanitarian organizations provide shelter, health care, food and clean water, and restore power and communications.

Food producers will soon need cash to make up for lost income, help replacing equipment and animals as well as new seed.

The Jamaican government keeps reserve funds, parametric insurance policies and catastrophe bonds for disasters. The government and nonprofits helped farmers and fishers after Hurricane Beryl replace what they lost.

But it can take a long time for that help to reach small scale producers, said Campbell.

With airports open again, Davis is looking for a flight to get back to White House. He needs to fix his boat, and his roof, but he doesn't know when he will sell fish again.

"My worry is about when will the economy will be back to normal, where life goes on as it was before," said Davis. "Everyone is picking up the pieces."

## The end of federal food aid could hit Black Americans hardest

By TERRY TANG, JAYLEN GREEN and GRAHAM LEE BREWER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the nation, a line stretched along the side of the Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen and Pantry.

Willy Hilaire is homeless, unemployed and 63. He lives in a New York shelter with his two grandchildren and often goes hungry so that they can eat the food he gets from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

On many days, Hilaire's only food is a hot meal he gets from Holy Apostles in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. With SNAP at risk, he worries there won't be enough for him and the children, forcing more sacrifice.

"I always tell them, 'Grandpa is there for you,'" he said. "'Whatever I have, I'll give it to you.'"

Two federal judges ruled nearly simultaneously on Friday that President Donald Trump's administration must continue to fund SNAP, the nation's biggest food aid program, using contingency funds during the government shutdown. But officials said it was too late to stop recipients from losing benefits on Saturday and that restoring them could likely take at least one week.

Reliance on food aid hits Black people harder

One in eight Americans use SNAP but its halt will disproportionately hurt Black Americans like Hilaire. Black people are 12.6% of the population but more than a quarter of SNAP recipients, the largest overrepresentation of any ethnic or racial group. Other racial groups get SNAP at rates lower than their overall share of the population.

Historians and advocates say that's an example of what's known as systemic racism. There may be no formally racist policy at play but America's long history of racism — from slavery to unfair zoning rules — has left Black communities with a series of structural disadvantages, and far less wealth accumulated over generations.

Non-Hispanic white people are 58.1% of the population but just 35.4% of SNAP recipients, the latest data show.

Hispanic people and Asian people are underrepresented in the SNAP statistics. And Native Americans get SNAP at basically the same rate that their group is in the general population.

Asian Americans living in poverty face constraints like lack of English fluency and neighborhood gentrification. In New York City, 253,000 of the 1.5 million Asian residents use SNAP, according to the nonprofit Asian American Federation. Over 91% of them work. But, with limited English proficiency, many are lim-



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ited in their job opportunities, said CEO Catherine Chen. Families who have lived comfortably in cultural enclaves like Chinatown for one or two generations are getting priced out.

Working, on food aid

A majority of adult SNAP recipients who can work, do. Some still qualify for SNAP — typically \$187 a month — despite holding down one or more jobs, according to nonprofit advocates. They're often low-wage jobs without benefits like paid sick days.

A report by the National Urban League last year found that the racial income gap has been virtually unchanged for more than 20 years, with Black Americans making 64% of the income of white people, on average.

"There's so much discrimination in the work force, so much discrimination in America today, that Black people who were enslaved and segregated for 350 years are still fighting for economic parity," said Marc Morial, president of the civil rights group. "While we have a growing number of African American, middle-class Americans, we still have a disproportionate number of poor (Black) Americans."

At the current pace, it would take anywhere from one to three centuries for most Black Americans to achieve parity with their white peers, depending on where they live, according to the McKinsey Institute for Black Economic Mobility.

Worsening statistics

This year Black unemployment rose from 6.2% to 7.5%, the highest level since October 2021. Black homeownership fell to the lowest level in four years, according to an analysis by the real estate brokerage Redfin. The Census Bureau found the median Black household income fell 3.3% last year to \$56,020. That's around \$36,000 less than what a white household earns.

The looming absence of grocery dollars would almost certainly make it harder for families to afford rent, gas and other expenses. Even if SNAP benefits are restored before November ends, nonprofit leaders say low-income residents could face financial setbacks into next year.

Tribal nations navigate a web of bureaucracy for food aid

For tribal nations, food and nutrition assistance programs are part of the U.S. government's trust and treaty responsibilities — the government's legal and moral obligations to fund tribes' health and well-being. The U.S. promised to uphold those rights in exchange for the land and resources it took from Indigenous peoples.

However, those rights continue to be chronically underfunded and uniquely vulnerable to government shutdowns, according to a report released last week by the Brookings Institution. The study found that in 2024, more than two-thirds of trust and treaty responsibilities were funded through discretionary spending, meaning they are not guaranteed during a shutdown. It also noted that one of the largest sources of mandatory spending owed to tribes comes in the form of SNAP benefits.

Another U.S. Department of Agriculture program that provides food to income-eligible Native American households, the Food Distribution Program in Indian Reservations, is still operating. But Native Americans already enrolled in SNAP cannot participate in that program. FDPIR President Mary Greene-Trottier said in October that her agency asked USDA Undersecretary Patrick Penn for a waiver, which the agency has granted for November, according to a letter Greene-Trottier received on Friday.

She expects to see a substantial increase in demand for her program once SNAP benefits are shut off. "I've heard the pleas from the people in the community and outside the community that are just really concerned with not having enough food to eat and the choices between paying medical bills or utility bills that are increasing," Greene-Trottier said.

"I can't say this loud enough, but this is the weaponization of food again," she said, a reference to the U.S. government's historic policies of withholding or cutting off food supplies to starve out tribal nations during the country's expansion.

Meanwhile, tribal nations across the country — including Spirit Lake Nation, Cherokee Nation, Blackfeet Nation, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Shawnee Tribe — declared states of emergency ahead of the loss of SNAP benefits.

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Misinformation drives stereotypes about SNAP recipients

The disproportionate need for food stamps among non-white households has contributed to misinformation and stereotypes. Starting in the 1960s the term "welfare queen" became popular, playing to assumptions that poor people of color were profiting off government assistance rather than looking for work.

But two-thirds of the over 40 million SNAP beneficiaries are people you wouldn't expect to work. Thirty-nine percent are children, 20% are elderly and 10% are children or non-elderly adults with disabilities, according to the Urban Institute.

Pastor Cleo Lewis, who usually conducts street ministry in Phoenix, organized a food drive for the first time to cushion the blow as much as possible for the 30 families he counsels at a local shelter

"We usually are dealing with areas that are spiritually related," Lewis said. "Now we're having to increase our presence, and dealing with issues of substance and material issues that we know are significant, but we relied on other professionals to deal with this."

\_\_\_\_ This story has been corrected to state that the population percentage of non-Hispanic white people is 58.1%, not 75%, and to state that Asian SNAP recipients are underrepresented, not overrepresented. \_\_\_\_

Tang reported from Phoenix. Brewer reported from Norman, Oklahoma. Associated Press data journalist Kasturi Pananjady in Philadelphia and reporter Matt Brown in Washington contributed to this report.

## The Latest: Notre Dame returns to No. 10 in college football poll

By MAURA CAREY Associated Press

The latest AP Top 25 rankings put two Big 12 teams in the top 10 for the first time in two years and Notre Dame returned to No. 10, reclaiming a playoff-worthy slot.

The Fighting Irish have won six straight, and this weekend's victory over Boston College boosted them two spots in the poll. They had fallen out of the top 10 after a home loss to Texas A&M.

Losses by Georgia Tech, Vanderbilt and Miami made room for BYU at No. 8 and Texas Tech at No. 9.

Texas and No. 11 Oklahoma were the biggest climbers in the poll, jumping seven spots. The Sooners beat Tennessee on the road, while the Longhorns knocked off Vanderbilt at home.

No. 1 Ohio State is on top for the 10th straight week, again followed by Indiana, Texas A&M, Alabama, Georgia, Oregon and Ole Miss.

Here's the latest:

Hear from a voter: What are you expecting for the first CFP rankings?

By KIRK BOHLS

As for Tuesday night's reveal, I think each of the (top) three teams have a strong case to be No. 1.

My guess is Ohio State will be because the selection committee is always in love with brand names. That's why TCU got screwed in, what, 2014, when it went from like third to five after bludgeoning an Iowa State team like 56-3.

The Buckeyes are the defending champs, which brings some merit even though it's a new year; they beat Texas in as challenging a non-conference game as you'll find, while Indiana played ODU, FCS Indiana State and Kennesaw State, even though the latter is bowl eligible. A&M's right there, unbeaten, and with a road win over the Irish in their pocket.

My guess is it'll go OSU, Indiana, A&M, but every committee is different.

Kirk Bohls is a college football reporter and columnist for The Houston Chronicle. He's been an AP Top 25 voter since 1989. You can follow him on X: @kbohls.

Looking ahead

By MAURA CAREY

The first College Football Playoff rankings drop Tuesday night, setting the tone down the stretch and giving an early look at the playoff picture. But several Week 11 matchups could shake up those standings.

No. 8 BYU vs. No. 9 Texas Tech headlines the slate, a showdown between the top two Big 12 teams that could carry postseason implications. No. 3 Texas A&M hopes to keep its undefeated streak alive on a trip to No. 19 Missouri. And No. 6 Oregon faces Iowa, where a Hawkeyes' win could derail the Ducks' season

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and boost Iowa into the rankings.

Hear from a voter: Do the Big 12 and ACC still have a chance at landing two teams in the playoff?

By KIRK BOHLS

I think the Big 12 might have a better shot than the ACC.

I believe BYU and Texas Tech are both worthy of high CFP seedings, and Utah can be a dominant team at times, as in Saturday when the Utes demolished Cincinnati. Since Tech has a loss, it would serve the Big 12 better if the Red Raiders win the league and the Cougars could get an at-large berth.

I think the ACC is fading because North Carolina State is cutting the legs out from under the league by knocking off Georgia Tech and Virginia.

Four undefeated teams remain

By MAURA CAREY

Four FBS teams remain unbeaten through Week 10: No. 1 Ohio State, No. 2 Indiana, No. 3 Texas A&M and No. 8 BYU.

Texas A&M and BYU were both idle in Week 10, while No. 1 Ohio State beat Penn State 38-14, and No. 2 Indiana defeated Maryland 55-10

Iowa may be getting close

Iowa remains outside the rankings looking in, but received the most votes of any unranked team this week (71).

The Hawkeyes (6-2, 4-1 Big Ten) have the same conference record as No. 6 Oregon and are on a three-game winning streak, most recently defeating Minnesota 41-3 before a bye week. Two tough challenges await in back-to-back weeks, with Oregon coming to town next weekend and a trip to USC on the schedule for mid-November.

Hear from a voter: Thoughts on expanding the CFP from 12 teams to 16?

By KIRK BOHLS

There has been a lot of chatter about expanding the CFP from 12 teams to 16 or even more. Various models are seen as a way to 'guarantee' more spots for power conference teams. What would you like to see and why?

AP sports editor Dave Zilio

I think 12 is fine, and there's nothing wrong with using that model for a while and letting it marinate. But I'd be OK with a 16-team format.

One thing that could be done is to eliminate the byes, which are precious, although all four teams with the byes lost their first game last year. But going to 16 would mean more on-campus games, which were a bit hit.

It's just sad we didn't have this model decades ago. I do think the public got burnt out on the four-team model and had Alabama and Clemson fatigue and were ready for more of an open field.

Personally, I loved the fact that teams like Indiana, SMU and Arizona State got in last year as new blood. I don't really think the number of teams should go beyond 16, but I think it inevitably would climb to 24.

I really don't like guarantees beyond conference champions. I found it outrageous that the SEC and Big Ten wanted guarantees of three or four teams before we even kicked off the season. That's un-American. Decide it on the field.

Hear from a voter: Are "bad wins" better than "good losses"?

By KIRK BOHLS

I wouldn't say so. Wins are always better than narrow losses, even those to good teams.

That said, I give Texas credit for scheduling Ohio State. Not sure if any other team could beat the Buckeyes in the Shoe. Plus, the Longhorns lost 14-7 in Arch Manning's first start as the quarterback and he got stuffed at the 1 on two plays and one of OSU's two touchdowns came on a 45-yard drive helped by two personal foul calls against Texas.

As for Virginia, it's cornered the market on close wins.

Big 12 boasts two top 10 teams, but not for long

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By MAURA CAREY

College football's Big 12 has two top 10 teams in the AP Top 25 for the first time in two years thanks to No. 8 BYU and No. 9 Texas Tech moving up the rankings. It won't last long, however. The Cougars and Red Raiders meet in Week 11 in Lubbock in a matchup that will carry postseason implications.

The two other ranked Big 12 teams — Utah and Cincinnati — squared off on Saturday. The Utes rolled past the Bearcats, outscoring their conference foe 45-14. Cincinnati fell from No. 17 to No. 25 as Utah moved up from No. 24 to No. 17.

Houston was knocked out of the rankings after dropping to West Virginia.

Oklahoma's win over Tennessee puts the Sooners in the hunt

Oklahoma kept its playoff hopes afloat on Saturday with a 33-27 road win against Tennessee.

The Sooners held off a fourth-quarter comeback by the Vols, securing a Tennessee-attempted onside kick and promptly responding with a touchdown to pull ahead 33-24.

Oklahoma's defense held a Tennessee offense averaging over 40 points a game to 27 points and picked off quarterback Joey Aguilar twice.

The Sooners improved to No. 11, their highest ranking since Week 6. The Vols dropped to their lowest ranking since the preseason, coming in at No. 23.

AP Top 25 temperature check

Heating up: BYU (8), Texas Tech (9), Notre Dame (10), Oklahoma (11), Virginia (12), Texas (13), Louisville (14), Utah (17), USC (20), Memphis (22), Washington (24).

Cooling off: Vanderbilt (15), Georgia Tech (16), Miami (18), Tennessee (23), Cincinnati (25).

Steady: Ohio State (1), Indiana (2), Texas A&M (3), Alabama (4), Georgia (5), Oregon (6), Ole Miss (7), Missouri (19), Michigan (21).

Hear from a voter: How is Oklahoma ranked ahead of Texas?

By KIRK BOHLS

It makes no sense to me that Oklahoma is ranked two spots ahead of Texas.

The Longhorns crushed the Sooners in mid-October and have won four straight games while OU not only lost to Texas but also to Ole Miss. I'll give OU credit for surviving at Tennessee, too, but the Volunteers were their own worst enemy for much of the game with more than 100 yards more offense than the crimson and cream.

OU does, however, have a great kicker with a bionic leg.

Hear from a voter: Thoughts on Notre Dame's record and playoff prospects?

By KIRK BOHLS

I dropped the Irish from my Top 25 after they fell to 0-2. I don't care if you're the Kansas City Chiefs, if you go 0-2, you're out.

Obviously, ND had plenty of time and opportunity to jump back into the rankings as it has. As a rule, I always keep a very fluid ballot, especially in September. I remember putting Appalachian State in my top 5 after they knocked off Michigan that year because they proved it on the field.

Now I'm ready to drop a team that has a huge upset if it doesn't follow that up with more wins, but I always try to keep an open mind. Back to Notre Dame, I think they could stumble against Pitt, which I have at No. 24 after being the only voter to have Pitt in my poll last week.

Top rankings are static, though changes come in spots 8 to 10

The highest changes in this week's college football AP Top 25 came at spot Nos. 8 through 10.

BYU moved up to No. 8 despite having the week off. Texas Tech improved to No. 9 after a convincing 43-20 win against Kansas State paired with losses by Georgia Tech, Vanderbilt and Miami.

Notre Dame moved up to No. 10, its highest ranking since Week 2, following a 25-10 win over Boston College.

AP Top 25 poll rankings

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. Ohio State

2. Indiana



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3. Texas A&M
4. Alabama
5. Georgia
6. Oregon
7. Ole Miss
8. BYU
9. Texas Tech
10. Notre Dame
11. Oklahoma
12. Virginia
13. Texas
14. Louisville
15. Vanderbilt
16. Georgia Tech
17. Utah
18. Miami (Fla.)
19. Missouri
20. USC
21. Michigan
22. Memphis
23. Tennessee
24. Washington
25. Cincinnati

Manning impresses with Texas' win vs. Vanderbilt

Arch Manning earned his highest passer rating of the season (189.2) in the Longhorns' 34-31 win against Vanderbilt.

Manning looked sharp after spending much of the week in concussion protocol. He completed 25 of 33 passes for 328 yards and three touchdowns.

Saturday's win marked the fourth straight SEC victory for the Longhorns and improved their record to 7-2 on the season, poising them to jump in this week's rankings.

Top five likely to hold steady

No. 1 Ohio State's defense rose to the occasion during the second half against Penn State. The Buckeyes kept the Nittany Lions scoreless in the third and fourth quarters, while putting up 21 points of their own to win it 38-14.

No. 2 Indiana improved to 9-0 on the season after cruising past Maryland in a 55-10 rout.

No. 5 Georgia narrowly came out on top in a historic rivalry game against Florida. No. 4 Alabama was idle this week, and has a head-to-head win against Georgia already in the books, likely keeping the Bulldogs at No. 5 for another week.

No. 3 Texas A&M had the week off.

How the top 10 fared

Four top 10 teams came out on top of their matchups this week, but three lost games.

Ohio State (1), Indiana (2), Georgia (5) and Ole Miss (7) notched conference wins on Saturday.

The remaining top 10 teams weren't as fortunate. NC State outscored No. 8 Georgia Tech 48-36, handing the Yellow Jackets their first loss of the season. No. 9 Vanderbilt dropped 34-31 to No. 20 Texas. And No. 10 Miami suffered its second defeat in the past three games, falling 26-20 to SMU in overtime.

Texas (3), Alabama (4), Oregon (6) and BYU (T-10) were idle.

Who votes in the poll and how does it work?

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

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AP employees don't vote themselves, but they do choose the voters. AP Top 25 voters comprise around 60 writers and broadcasters who cover college football for AP members and other select outlets. The goal is to have every state with a Football Bowl Subdivision school represented by at least one voter.

Voting is a straight points system: A first-place vote is worth 25 points, a second-place vote is worth 24 points, down to 1 point for a 25th-place vote.

Then it's just a summary of which teams are 1-25 based on the totals. Others receiving votes are also noted.

Voting is done online, and the tabulation is automated.

## **Trump's testing plans for US nuclear weapons won't include explosions, energy secretary says**

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — New tests of the U.S. nuclear weapons system ordered up by President Donald Trump will not include nuclear explosions, Energy Secretary Chris Wright said Sunday.

It was the first clarity from the Trump administration since the president took to social media last week to say he had "instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis."

"I think the tests we're talking about right now are system tests," Wright said in an interview on Fox News' "Sunday Briefing." "These are not nuclear explosions. These are what we call noncritical explosions."

Wright, whose agency is responsible for testing, added that the planned testing involves "all the other parts of a nuclear weapon to make sure they deliver the appropriate geometry and they set up the nuclear explosion."

The confusion over Trump's intention started minutes before he held a critical meeting in South Korea with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Trump took to his Truth Social platform and appeared to suggest he was preparing to discard a decades-old U.S. prohibition on testing the nation's nuclear weapons.

Later that day, as he made his way back to Washington, Trump was coy on whether he really meant to say he was ordering the resumption of explosive testing of nuclear weapons — something only North Korea has undertaken this century — or calling for the testing of U.S. systems that could deliver a nuclear weapon, which is far more routine.

He remained opaque on Friday when asked by reporters about whether he intended to resume underground nuclear detonation tests.

"You'll find out very soon," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One on Friday, as he headed to Florida for a weekend stay.

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

Trump announced his plans for nuclear tests after Russia 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 nuclear testing comments 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.

## **SNAP benefits cut off during shutdown, driving long lines at food pantries**

By SUSAN HAIGH and DYLAN LOVAN Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — People across the country formed long lines for free meals and groceries at food pantries and drive-through giveaways Saturday, after monthly benefits through the federal Supplemental

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Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, were suddenly cut off because of the ongoing government shutdown.

In the New York borough of the Bronx, about 200 more people than usual showed up at the World of Life Christian Fellowship International pantry, many bundled in winter hats and coats and pushing collapsible shopping carts as they waited in a line that spanned multiple city blocks. Some arrived as early as 4 a.m. to choose from pallets of fruits, vegetables, bread, milk, juice, dry goods and prepared sandwiches.

Mary Martin, who volunteers at the pantry, also relies on it regularly for food to supplement her SNAP payments. She said she usually splits her roughly \$200 a month in SNAP benefits between herself and her two adult sons, one of whom has six children and is especially dependent on the assistance.

"If I didn't have the pantry to come to, I don't know how we would make it," Martin said.

"I'm not gonna see my grandkids suffer."

The Department of Agriculture planned to withhold payments to the food program starting Saturday until two federal judges ordered the administration to make them. However it was unclear as to when the debit cards that beneficiaries use could be reloaded after the ruling, sparking fear and confusion among many recipients.

In an apparent response to President Donald Trump, who said he would provide the money but wanted more legal direction from the court, U.S. District Judge John J. McConnell in Rhode Island ordered the government to report back by Monday on how it would fund SNAP accounts.

McConnell, who was nominated by President Barack Obama, said the Trump administration must either make a full payment by that day or, if it decides to tap \$3 billion in a contingency fund, figure out how to do that by Wednesday.

The delay in SNAP payments, a major piece of the nation's social safety net that serves about 42 million people, has highlighted the financial vulnerabilities that many face. At the Bronx food pantry, the Rev. John Udo-Onkon said "people from all walks of life" are seeking help now.

"The pantry is no longer for the poor, for the elderly, for the needy. The pantry now is for the whole community, everybody," Udo-Onkon said. "You see people will drive in their car and come and park and wait to see if they can get food."

In Austell, Georgia, people in hundreds of cars in drive-through lanes picked up nonperishable and perishable bags of food. Must Ministries said it handed out food to about 1,000 people, more than a typical bimonthly food delivery.

Families in line said they worried about not getting SNAP benefits in time for Thanksgiving.

At a drive-through food giveaway at the Calvary Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky, SNAP recipient James Jackson, 74, said he is frustrated that people are being hurt by decisions made in Washington and lawmakers should try harder to understand challenges brought by poverty and food insecurity.

"If you've never been poor, you don't know what it is to be poor," Jackson said. "I hope that it turns around. I hope that people get their SNAP benefits, and I hope we just come together where we can love each other and feed each other and help each other."

While there is typically a long line for Calvary Baptist Church's drive-through events, the Rev. Samuel L. Whitlow said, the walk-in food pantry has seen increased demand recently with roughly 60 additional people showing up this week.

And in Norwich, Connecticut, the St. Vincent De Paul soup kitchen and food pantry had 10 extra volunteers working Saturday to help a wave of expected newcomers, making sure they felt comfortable and understood the services available. Besides groceries and hot meals, the site was providing pet food, toiletries and blood pressure checks.

"They're embarrassed. They have shame. So you have to deal with that as well," director Jill Corbin said. "But we do our best to just try to welcome people."

## UK police release 1 of 2 men arrested over train stabbings and laud 'heroic' rail worker

By PAN PYLAS and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British police said Sunday that one of two men arrested in connection with a mass stabbing attack that spread fear and panic on a London-bound train a day earlier has been released without charge, and that one person, a "heroic" member of the railway staff, remains in a life-threatening condition.

In a statement Sunday evening, police said the only remaining suspect is a 32-year-old British man who remains in custody on suspicion of attempted murder. A second man initially arrested as a suspect was released without charge after it was determined the 35-year-old was not involved.

Police said they are not treating the stabbings as an act of terror and are confident they are not looking for anyone else in connection with the attack. They have not disclosed a possible motive or the type of knife used.

"Our investigation is moving at pace and we are confident we are not looking for anyone else in connection to the incident," said Deputy Chief Constable Stuart Cundy of the British Transport Police.

"As would be expected, specialist detectives are looking into the background of the suspect we have in custody and the events that led up to the attack," he added.

Six people remained in hospitals Sunday, one of them in a life-threatening condition. Police said he is a staff member of the train's operator, London North Eastern Railway, or LNER, which operates the East Coast Mainline services in the U.K.

"Having viewed the CCTV from the train, the actions of the member of rail staff were nothing short of heroic and undoubtedly saved people's lives," said Cundy.

The five others injured during the attack on Saturday evening have been discharged from hospitals.

The two men were arrested eight minutes after the first emergency calls were made at 7:42 p.m. Saturday from aboard the train, where passengers had reported scenes of panic and chaos, with many running through the carriages and some seeking safety in the toilets.

Police said the suspect is from Peterborough and that he boarded the train at the town's station, just a few minutes before it was forced into an emergency stop in Huntingdon, a market town around 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of London.

The attack took place as the 6:25 p.m. train from Doncaster in northern England to London's King's Cross station was about halfway through its two-hour journey, having just departed Peterborough.

Bloodied and confused passengers spilled out of the train at Huntingdon as dozens of police waited, some of them armed. A knife was recovered by officers at the scene.

During the immediate response to the attack, police said that "Plato," the national code word used by police and emergency services when responding to what could be a "marauding terror attack," was initiated. That declaration was later rescinded.

Passenger Olly Foster told the BBC he heard people shouting "run, run, there's a guy literally stabbing everyone," and initially thought it might have been a Halloween prank — Saturday was the day after Halloween. But as passengers pushed past him to get away, he noticed his hand was covered in blood from a chair he had leaned on.

Following reports that some of those on board the train put themselves in harm's way to protect others, Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood praised the "exceptional bravery of staff and passengers on the train."

King Charles III said he and his wife, Queen Camilla, sent their sympathies and thoughts to those affected and that they were "truly appalled and shocked to hear of the dreadful knife attack."

Passengers across the U.K.'s rail network saw a heightened police presence on Sunday, both on trains and at stations.



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## BYU, Texas Tech give Big 12 two top 10 teams for 1st time in 2 years ahead of their Top 25 showdown

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

The Big 12 had two teams in the top 10 of The Associated Press Top 25 college football poll for the first time in two years Sunday, Notre Dame was back in the top 10 after a two-month absence and Oklahoma and Texas made the biggest upward moves.

The top seven teams were unchanged in the final poll before the College Football Playoff committee releases its first rankings Tuesday night to kick off the run-up to the CFP bracket release Dec. 7.

No. 1 Ohio State, which pulled way in the second half to beat Penn State, is at the top of the AP poll for a 10th straight week. Indiana, which scored 50-plus points against a Big Ten opponent for the third time while hammering Maryland, is No. 2 for a third straight week.

The Buckeyes and Hoosiers again were followed by Texas A&M, Alabama, Georgia, Oregon and Mississippi. Losses by Georgia Tech, Vanderbilt and Miami shuffled the Nos. 8, 9 and 10 spots, now held by BYU, Texas Tech and Notre Dame.

The distribution of first-place votes was the same as last week. Ohio State received 54, Indiana got 11 and Texas A&M one.

No. 8 BYU and No. 9 Texas Tech gave the Big 12 two teams in the top 10 for the first time since Oct. 29, 2023. The Cougars, who were idle, have their highest ranking of the season. The Red Raiders won at Kansas State and re-entered the top 10 for the first time in three weeks. The two teams face each other this weekend.

Notre Dame, winner of six straight, was pushed by a one-win Boston College on the road before it won by 15 points and moved up two spots to No. 10. The Fighting Irish were last in the top 10 in Week 3, at No. 8, before a home loss to Texas A&M dropped them to 0-2 and dropped them to No. 24.

No. 11 Oklahoma and No. 13 Texas received seven-spot promotions for their wins Saturday. The Sooners beat Tennessee on the road and the Longhorns knocked off Vanderbilt at home. Tennessee took the biggest fall, dropping nine spots to No. 23.

In and out

— No. 24 Washington, which was idle, is in the poll for the first time since it finished the 2023 season at No. 2 following its loss to Michigan in the national championship game. The Huskies' only losses are to No. 1 Ohio State at home and to a then-unranked Michigan on the road.

— Houston, whose No. 22 ranking last week was its first Top 25 appearance since 2022, dropped out after losing at home to West Virginia.

Poll points

— BYU has risen in the poll six straight weeks since making its debut on Sept. 21. The Cougars have gone from No. 25 to No. 8 over that span.

— Miami's losses to two then-unranked opponents in three weeks have caused a 16-spot plummet, from No. 2 to No. 18.

— Ohio State is in the Top 25 for a 90th straight poll, third-most on the active list. Notre Dame is in a 50th straight time, fifth on the active list.

— Texas made its 800th appearance in the poll, seventh all-time.

Conference call

SEC (9 teams) — Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 19, 23.

Big Ten (6) — Nos. 1, 2, 6, 20, 21, 24.

Big 12 (4) — Nos. 8, 9, 17, 25.

ACC (4) — Nos. 12, 14, 16, 18.

American (1) — No. 22.

Independent (1) — No. 10.

Ranked vs. ranked

— No. 8 BYU (8-0, 5-0 Big 12) at No. 9 Texas Tech (8-1, 5-1): The game of the year in the Big 12. The

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Red Raiders have lost 16 straight against top-10 teams.

— No. 3 Texas A&M (8-0, 5-0 SEC) at No. 19 Missouri (6-2, 2-2): The Aggies embarrassed Missouri in College Station last year, getting out to a 34-0 lead and winning 41-7.

## **What to know about the 4 suspects in the Louvre crown jewels heist**

By SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Four suspects in the Louvre heist have been handed preliminary charges and incarcerated, including three believed to be members of the team who forced its way into the museum, leaving with \$102 million worth crown jewels.

Paris prosecutor Laure Beccau noted the apparent “closeness” of the suspects. Two of them were convicted in 2015 in the same theft case and all are based in Paris’ northern suburbs.

Authorities said the jewelry has not been recovered and the fourth member of the so-called “commando” is still at large. Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez said investigators are also looking for whoever might have ordered the crime.

Neither names nor extensive biographical details have been made public, in line with French law that provides that information about investigations is meant to be secret, in part to avoid compromising police work.

Here’s what to know so far about the suspects:

Man aged 34 arrested at Paris airport

A 34-year-old Algerian national who has been living in France since 2010 is suspected of being one of the two thieves who entered the Apollo Gallery with disc cutters to cut into the display cases and steal the jewels.

He was arrested on Oct. 25, six days after the heist, at Charles de Gaulle airport as he was about to fly to Algeria with no return ticket.

The Algerian national lives in a suburb north of Paris named Aubervilliers and is known to police mostly for road traffic offenses and one theft. His DNA matched a scooter used in the getaway.

He told investigators he currently has no job but used to work as a garbage collector and delivery man. He faces preliminary charges of theft by an organized gang and criminal conspiracy.

Another suspect believed to have entered the Apollo Gallery

A 39-year-old man was also arrested on Oct. 25 at his home in Aubervilliers, where he was born. He is believed to be the second man who entered the Apollo Gallery. His DNA was found on one of the glass cases where the jewels were displayed and on items the thieves left behind.

He is known to police for several thefts.

The 39-year-old is to go on trial later this month for damaging a mirror and the door of the prison cell he was being detained in as part of a separate theft investigation, in which he was later cleared. He told investigators he works as a taxi driver operating illegally.

He faces preliminary charges of theft by an organized gang and criminal conspiracy.

Beccau said both men gave “minimalist” statements and “partially admitted” their involvement in the Louvre heist.

A 37-year-old man with a record of theft

A 37-year-old man was arrested on Wednesday, 10 days after the heist.

He is believed to be the third member of the team of four who arrived at the Louvre with a lift truck, simulating renovation work to stop the vehicle at the foot of the museum. The four left on two scooters headed toward eastern Paris.

His DNA was found inside the basket lift.

The Paris prosecutor said he denied involvement.

His criminal record contains 11 previous convictions, 10 of them for theft. He was convicted in 2015 in Paris in the same theft case as the 39-year-old suspect.

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He faces preliminary charges of theft by an organized gang and criminal conspiracy.

A 38-year-old woman accused of being an accomplice

A 38-year-old woman arrested Wednesday is the longtime partner of the 37-year-old suspect. They have children together. The couple lives in La Courneuve, another northern suburb of Paris close to Aubervilliers.

The woman denied any involvement, her lawyer said.

A small amount of her DNA was found on the basket lift which could possibly be due to "DNA transfer" according to the Paris prosecutor — that is DNA she may have left on someone or on some item that later transferred on the basket lift.

She faces preliminary charges of complicity in theft by an organized gang and criminal conspiracy.

## **Government shutdown threatens to delay home heating aid for millions of low-income families**

By SUSAN HAIGH and MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Jacqueline Chapman is a retired school aide who relies on a \$630 monthly Social Security check to get by. She was navigating the loss of her federal food aid benefits when she learned the assistance she receives for heating her Philadelphia apartment may also be at risk.

"I feel like I'm living in scary times. It's not easy to rest when you know you have things to do with limited accounts, limited funds. There isn't too much you can do," said Chapman, 74.

Chapman relies on the \$4.1 billion Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps millions of low-income households pay to heat and cool their homes.

With temperatures beginning to drop in areas across the United States, some states are warning that funding for the program is being delayed because of the federal government shutdown, now in its fifth week.

The anticipated delay comes as a majority of the 5.9 million households served by the federally funded heating and cooling assistance program are grappling with the sudden postponement of benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which helps about 1 in 8 Americans buy groceries. Money is running out for other safety net programs as well and energy prices are soaring.

"The impact, even if it's temporary, on many of the nation's poor families is going to be profound if we don't solve this problem," said Mark Wolfe, executive director of the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, which represents state directors of the program. Commonly called LIHEAP, it serves all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories and federally recognized tribes.

"These are important income supports that are all potentially heading toward a cliff at the same time," Wolfe said. "And I can't point to a similar time in recent history where we've had this."

States are warning applicants about a funding delay

LIHEAP, created in 1981, assists families in covering utility bills or the cost of paying for fuels delivered to homes, such as home heating oil. It has received bipartisan congressional support for decades.

States manage the program. They receive an allotment of federal money each year based on a formula that largely takes into account state weather patterns, energy costs and low-income population data.

While President Donald Trump proposed zero funding for the program in his budget, it was anticipated that Congress would fund LIHEAP for the budget year that began Oct. 1. But since Congress has not yet passed a full 2026 spending bill, states have not gotten their new allocations yet.

Some states, including Kansas, Pennsylvania, New York and Minnesota, have announced their LIHEAP programs are being delayed by the government shutdown.

In Pennsylvania, Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro's administration said it cannot front the \$200 million-plus in federal LIHEAP aid it had expected to help pay heating bills for some 300,000 low-income households. It is predicting payments will not go out until at least December, instead of November, as is customary.

Minnesota's energy assistance program is processing applications but the state's Department of Commerce said federal LIHEAP dollars will likely be delayed by a month. The agency does not plan to pay recipients' heating bills until the shutdown ends.

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"As temperatures begin to drop, this delay could have serious impacts," the agency said. The program services 120,000 households, both homeowners and renters, that include many older adults, young children and people with disabilities.

Connecticut has enough money to set aside to pay heating bills through at least the end of November or December, according to the group that helps administer LIHEAP. But the program faces uncertainty if the shutdown persists. Connecticut lawmakers are considering covering the cost temporarily with state budget reserves.

"The situation will get much more perilous for folks who do need those resources as we move later into the heating season," said Rhonda Evans, executive director of the Connecticut Association for Community Action. More than 100,000 households were served last year.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the assistance program, blamed the federal shutdown and the delay in LIHEAP payments on congressional Democrats and said the Trump administration is committed to reopening the government.

"Once the government reopens, ACF will work swiftly to administer annual awards," the spokesperson said, referring to the Administration for Children and Families, an agency within HHS. The spokesperson did not directly answer whether the timing could be affected by the administration's earlier decision to fire workers who run the LIHEAP program.

Wolfe, from the group that represents state program directors, predicts there could be delays into January. He noted there are questions over who will approve states' program plans and how the money will be released when it becomes available.

"Once you've fired the staff, things just slow down," he said.

Low-income families face mounting obstacles

Chapman, the retired school aide, may be eligible for a program through her gas utility to prevent being shut off this winter. But the roughly 9% of LIHEAP recipients who rely on deliverable fuels such as heating oil, kerosene, propane and wood pellets, typically do not have such protections.

Electric and natural gas companies are usually regulated by the state and can be told not to shut people off while the state waits to receive its share of the LIHEAP money, Wolfe said. But it is different when it involves a small oil or propane company, fuels more common in the Northeast.

"If you're a heating oil dealer, we can't tell that dealer, 'Look, continue to provide heating oil to your low-income customers on the possibility you'll get your money back,'" Wolfe said.

Mark Bain, 67, who lives in Bloomfield, Connecticut, with his son, a student at the University of Connecticut, started receiving financial assistance for his home heating oil needs three years ago.

"I remember the first winter before I knew about this program. I was desperate. I was on fumes," said Bains, who is retired and relies on income from Social Security and a small annuity. "I was calling around to my social services people to find out what I could do."

He has been approved this year for \$500 in assistance but he has a half tank of oil left and cannot call for more until it is nearly empty. By that point, he is hoping there will be enough federal money left to fill it. He typically needs three deliveries to get through a winter.

Bains said he can "get by" if he does not receive the help this year.

"I would turn the heat down to like 62 (degrees) and throw on another blanket, you know, just to get through," he said.

## **'Regretting You' and 'Black Phone 2' neck-in-neck on slow Halloween box office weekend**

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

The movie exhibition business is closing out one of its slowest Octobers in over 25 years with a sluggish Halloween weekend. Studios avoided opening any major new films with the holiday falling on a Friday. Instead, there were several re-releases including "Back to the Future," which is celebrating its 40th anniversary, and the Netflix phenomenon "KPop Demon Hunters."



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But even with a top 10 in which no films earned more than \$10 million, there was still a bit of excitement as two studios claimed the No.1 spot Sunday. Universal's horror sequel "Black Phone 2" was largely expected to top the charts in its third weekend in theaters, and the studio reported that it was going to be in first place with an estimated \$8 million. About 30 minutes later, Paramount reported that its romantic drama "Regretting You" had earned an estimated \$8.1 million, which would place it in the top spot instead. Box office tracker Comscore went by the numbers and gave the first place title to "Regretting You." Sunday numbers are based on estimates and projections, however, and sometimes Monday actuals tell a different story.

"Regretting You" is the latest Colleen Hoover adaptation to open in theaters since "It Ends With Us" became a runaway hit in theaters. With a running domestic total of \$27.5 million, this newest film is not going to match its predecessor, which made \$50 million its first weekend.

In three weekends "Black Phone 2" has made \$61.5 million domestically and \$104.7 million globally. Universal also handled the nationwide re-release of Robert Zemeckis's "Back to the Future" which earned \$4.7 million from 2,290 theaters – enough to snag a fifth-place spot on the North American charts. The 1985 time travel classic now has a domestic total of \$221.7 million.

Though there were plenty of HUNTR/X costumes on the streets this weekend, "KPop Demon Hunters" didn't do as well as it did when it played in theaters in August. That weekend, the streaming hit sold between \$16 and \$20 million in movie tickets. This weekend, it's estimated to have earned somewhere in the \$5 million range from 2,890 screens. Two distribution executives shared numbers on the condition of anonymity because Netflix has a policy of not reporting ticket sales.

Sony Pictures and Crunchyroll's "Chainsaw Man – The Movie: Reze Arc" dropped a steep 67% in its second weekend and is projected to add \$6 million from 3,003 locations, bringing its total to \$30.8 million.

Focus Features also launched "Bugonia" into wide release after several weeks in limited. With an estimated \$4.8 million from 2,043 theaters, it marks filmmaker Yorgos Lanthimos's best wide break to date. The darkly comedic thriller stars Emma Stone and Jesse Plemons and is expected to be an awards season player.

"Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere" landed in sixth place, behind "Back to the Future," and down 57% in its second weekend. It earned \$3.8 million, putting its domestic total at \$16.3 million and its global tally at \$30.6 million.

"This was a truly scary weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore's head of marketplace trends. "It was this imperfect storm of Halloween on a Friday and the World Series on Friday and Saturday. But the studios and theaters knew this was on the horizon and they planned for it."

The weekend may net out to be one of the lowest grossing of the year, closing out an unusually slow October. With the exception of October 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the month's total ticket sales (\$443 million) have not been this low since 1998 (\$455.5 million).

The next two weekends may bring some energy back to multiplexes, however, with releases like "Predator: Badlands" and "Now You See Me: Now You Don't," but the industry will likely have to wait until closer to Thanksgiving for a real blockbuster when "Wicked: For Good" and "Zootopia 2" enter the mix.

"This was always going to be a tough weekend. The audience was truly fragmented," Dergarabedian said. "There are weekends where the movie theaters are the focus of the attention, and those are coming."

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:

- 1."Regretting You," \$8.1 million.
- 2."Black Phone 2," \$8 million.
- 3."Chainsaw Man – The Movie: Reze Arc," \$6 million.
- 4."Bugonia," \$4.8 million.
- 5."Back to the Future," \$4.7 million.
- 6."Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere," \$3.8 million.
- 7."Tron: Ares," \$2.8 million.

- 8. "Stitch Head," \$2.1 million.
- 9. "Good Fortune," \$1.4 million.
- 10. "One Battle After Another," \$1.2 million.

## Trump says China's Xi has assured him that he won't take action on Taiwan during Republican's term

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump says that Chinese President Xi Jinping has given him assurances that Beijing would take no action toward its long-stated goal of unifying Taiwan with mainland China while the Republican leader is in office.

Trump said that the long-contentious issue of Taiwan did not come up in his talks with Xi on Thursday in South Korea that largely focused on U.S.-China trade tensions. But the U.S. leader expressed certainty that China would not take action on Taiwan, while he's in office.

"He has openly said, and his people have openly said at meetings, 'We would never do anything while President Trump is president,' because they know the consequences," Trump said in an excerpt of an interview with the CBS' program "60 Minutes" that aired Sunday.

U.S. officials have long been concerned about the possibility of China using military force against Taiwan, the self-ruled island democracy claimed by Beijing as part of its territory.

The 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, which has governed U.S. relations with the island, does not require the U.S. to step in militarily if China invades but makes it American policy to ensure Taiwan has the resources to defend itself and to prevent any unilateral change of status by Beijing.

Asked if he would order U.S. forces to defend Taiwan if China attacked, Trump demurred. The United States, both Republican and Democratic administrations, have maintained a policy of "strategic ambiguity" on Taiwan — trying not to tip their hands on whether the U.S. would come to the island's aid in such a scenario.

"You'll find out if it happens, and he understands the answer to that," Trump said of Xi.

Liu Pengyu, spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Washington, did not respond directly to a query about whether Trump has received any assurances from Xi or Chinese officials about Taiwan. He insisted in a statement that China "will never allow any person or force to separate Taiwan from China in any way."

"The Taiwan question is China's internal affair, and it is the core of China's core interests. How to resolve the Taiwan question is a matter for the Chinese people ourselves, and only the Chinese people can decide it," the statement added.

The White House also did not provide further details about when Xi or Chinese officials have conveyed to Trump that military action on Taiwan was off-the-table for the duration of the Republican's presidency.

The "60 Minutes" interview was taped on Friday at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. It marked Trump's first appearance on the show since he settled a lawsuit this summer with CBS News over the newsmagazine's interview with Kamala Harris.

The rest of the interview is scheduled to air later Sunday.

## Fire and explosion at store in northwestern Mexico leave at least 23 dead and a dozen injured

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A fire and explosion at a convenience store in northwestern Mexico killed at least 23 people, including children, and injured 12 others, state authorities said.

The fire occurred Saturday in downtown Hermosillo, the capital of Sonora state, Sonora Gov. Alfonso Durazo said in a video posted on social media.

Six people remained hospitalized on Sunday morning, according to Sonora's prosecutor's office. Sonora Attorney General Gustavo Salas Chávez said preliminary investigations showed the deaths were caused

by inhalation of toxic gases.

Images circulating on social media show a massive fire engulfing the Waldo's store. One video showed a burned man collapsing onto the asphalt a few meters (yards) from the store entrance.

Prosecutors said they believe the fire originated in a transformer but the exact cause is under investigation.

Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum sent her "deepest condolences" to the families and loved ones of the victims. She said she was in touch with the state governor to provide support and instructed Interior Secretary Rosa Icela Rodríguez to send a team to assist victims' families and the injured.

The store Waldo's also lamented the deaths on social media and said it was collaborating with authorities.

## Fears grow for thousands trapped in Sudan's el-Fasher as few reach safety

By NOHA ELHENNAWY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Only a few thousand Sudanese have reached the nearest camp for displaced people in the days since Sudan's paramilitary forces seized el-Fasher city, raising fears over tens of thousands who might still be trapped as survivors described killings and other atrocities, an aid group said Sunday.

The Rapid Support Forces took control of the western Darfur region last week, after ousting the rival Sudanese army from the city that was besieged for 18 months. Since then, reports and videos have circulated of RSF atrocities against civilians including beatings, killings and sexual assaults, according to testimonies by civilians and aid workers. The dead included at least 460 killed in the hospital, according to the World Health Organization.

The U.N. migration agency said Sunday it estimates that more than 8,000 people were displaced from el-Fasher on Saturday and Sunday. A total of 70,894 people have been displaced since the RSF took control, it said.

However, less than 6,000 have made it to the nearest camp in Tawila, 65 kilometers (40 miles) away, said Shashwat Saraf, Sudan director for the Norwegian Refugee Council, which runs the camp.

Almost 1,000 people arrived in the last three days, he said.

"The numbers are still very few. We are not seeing the hundreds of thousands that we were expecting. If people are still in el-Fasher, it will be very difficult for them to survive," he told The Associated Press by phone from Tawila.

Survivors describe dodging gunmen as they fled el-Fasher

The fall of el-Fasher marked a new turning point in the war between the RSF and Sudan's armed forces, which erupted in April 2023. More than 40,000 people have been killed, according to U.N. figures, but aid groups say the true number could be many times higher. The war has also displaced more than 14 million people and unleashed outbreaks of diseases, killing thousands.

"We feel that a lot of people are stuck in locations from where it is not safe for them to move, and they need to pay to move and they don't have money to pay," Saraf said.

Survivors who made the journey on foot have shared harrowing details of having to dodge gunmen shooting at them as they fled.

"People arriving in the camp are mostly disoriented and dehydrated with bruises all over. Sometimes they do not even remember their names, they have to be taken to the hospital and have IV fluids," Saraf said.

Saraf also said that around 170 unaccompanied children, some of whom as young as 3 years old, trekked to Tawila without knowing where their family members were. They came along with older children or adults who were not their relatives.

Sudan's official accuses UAE of backing a "terrorist organization"

In a news conference on Sunday, Sudan's ambassador in Cairo, Imadeldin Mustafa Adawi, accused the RSF of carrying out war crimes in el-Fasher.

Adawi said that his government would not negotiate with the RSF, urging the international community to designate the group as a terrorist organization.

"The government of Sudan is calling on the international community to act immediately and effectively

rather than just make statements of condemnation," Adawi said.

Adawi renewed his government's accusations that the United Arab Emirates has been arming the RSF, insisting that the Gulf state should not be involved in any mediation efforts.

The UAE has backed the RSF and opposed the Sudanese military, pointing to the army's ties to Islamic forces that Abu Dhabi has long opposed. The UAE has denied the accusations despite evidence to the contrary.

When asked earlier on Sunday about his country's support for the RSF, senior UAE diplomat Anwar Gargash did not directly answer the question while attending the annual Manama Dialogue security summit in Bahrain. He said that the international community made a "critical mistake" in supporting both the military leader, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and his rival, RSF commander Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, when the army ousted a Western-backed power-sharing government in 2021.

"We all made the mistake when the two generals who are fighting the civil war today overthrew the civilian government," Gargash said. "That was, in my opinion, looking backward was a critical mistake. We should have put our foot down -- all of us collectively."

The UAE supports a three-month humanitarian ceasefire, with the two parties negotiating and a civilian transitional government formed in nine months, he said.

There are mounting fears that the RSF may expand its military campaign toward the country's center once again, buoyed by its seizure of the entire Darfur region.

Twelve people were killed, including at least five children, in RSF attacks on two camps sheltering displaced people in the central Kordofan region, the Sudan Doctor Network, a medical group tracking the war, said on Saturday.

## **Video shows immigration agent punching restrained man after car collision turns into confrontation**

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

Police in a Chicago suburb are collecting videos and other evidence to send to the Illinois attorney general's office after a car crash involving a U.S. Border Patrol vehicle led to a violent arrest caught on video showing an agent repeatedly punching a man in the head while pinned to the ground.

Immigration agents arrested three people after a sedan collided with the rear of the U.S. Border Patrol vehicle around noon Friday in the city of Evanston. The episode drew a crowd of onlookers and quickly escalated.

Videos posted to social media show some in the crowd appearing to try to interfere with the arrests. Federal agents are seen at times deploying pepper spray, punching a man who approaches the officers, and pointing a gun in the direction of another woman who opened the agents' vehicle door, where a detainee had been placed.

Federal agents have been spreading throughout Evanston in recent days as part of President Donald Trump's immigration enforcement activities in the Chicago region. In response some Evanston community members have set up "rapid response" teams, organizing to warn residents when federal agents are spotted and working to slow the agents as they travel through the region.

One agent who was restraining a man on the ground Friday appeared to punch him in the head as it was pressed against the asphalt. The Department of Homeland Security later said the officer delivered "defensive strikes" after the man "grabbed the agent's genitals and squeezed."

Some witnesses claimed online that the agents caused the crash by suddenly braking in front of the sedan, though federal officials disputed that account. City leaders swiftly condemned the agents' actions.

In a news conference shortly after the episode, Mayor Daniel Biss said immigration agents had "beaten people up" and "abducted them."

"It is an outrage," Biss said. "Our message for ICE is simple: Get the hell out of Evanston."

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that the agents were being "aggressively



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tailgated" and the sedan hit them as they tried to make a U-turn.

"A hostile crowd then surrounded agents and their vehicle, verbally abusing and spitting on them," the agency said. "One physically assaulted a Border Patrol agent and kicked an agent. As he was being arrested, he grabbed the agent's genitals and squeezed them. The agent delivered several defensive strikes to free himself."

The mayor has urged more people to join the rapid response team, and city officials have passed ordinances declaring city property to be "No ICE Zones." This week the Evanston Police Department began sending a supervisor to any reported immigration enforcement scene to document what happens and collect evidence for the Illinois attorney general's Civil Rights Division, Police Cmdr. Ryan Glew said.

Glew said officers received calls from both federal agents and bystanders. A supervisor arrived after the arrests were made, and several people were treated by paramedics for exposure to pepper spray.

"When we responded those efforts were focused on stabilizing the situation and preventing further conflict between ICE agents and community members," he said.

Allie Harned, a social worker at Chute Middle School, was part of the crowd that formed after the collision.

"This was awful. There were ICE agents and CBP agents pointing guns at community members, spraying pepper spray in the face of community members," she said at the news conference.

"This was terrifying to community members," Harned said. "It was horrifying to a student who happened to be in a car and witnessed it. It is not OK."

## 2 people killed in Ukraine's Odesa region as Russia continues to target power grid

By VOLODYMYR YURCHUK Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — At least two people were killed in a drone attack in Ukraine's southwestern Odesa region, authorities said Sunday. Meanwhile, Russia and Ukraine continued to target each other's infrastructure.

A Russian drone attack on a car park in the Odesa region, on Ukraine's Black Sea coast, in the early hours of Sunday killed two people, according to the State Emergency Service. Odesa regional head Oleh Kiper said that three others were wounded.

Tens of thousands of homes were left without power after Russia attacked the front-line Zaporizhzhia region overnight with drones and missiles.

Zaporizhzhia regional head Ivan Fedorov said nearly 60,000 people faced power outages and that two people were wounded in the attacks. He posted photos on Telegram of buildings reduced to rubble.

As a result of attacks on Ukraine's power grid, several regions faced rolling power cuts on Sunday, Ukraine's national energy operator, Ukrenergo, said.

Ukraine's Energy Ministry said Sunday that the partially occupied Donetsk region was without electricity, as well as parts of the Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, and Chernihiv regions.

The strikes were the latest in Russia's sustained campaign on Ukraine's energy infrastructure as winter temperatures approach.

Ukrainian cities use centralized public infrastructure to run water, sewage and heating systems, and blackouts stop them from working.

Attacks aim to erode Ukrainian morale as well as disrupt weapons manufacturing and other war-related activity almost four years after Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbor.

Analysts and officials say Moscow has shifted tactics this year, targeting specific regions and gas infrastructure.

The attacks have grown more effective as Russia launches hundreds of drones, some equipped with cameras that improve targeting, overwhelming air defenses — especially in regions where protection is weaker.

In Russia, a Ukrainian drone strike set an oil tanker and infrastructure ablaze at Tuapse port, regional officials said Sunday.

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Images on social media appeared to show flames engulfing terminal structures and a tanker at the Black Sea port, with multiple blazes visible across the port area. The Associated Press was unable to independently confirm the footage.

A Ukrainian intelligence official told the AP that Ukrainian forces struck a tanker, loading infrastructure and port buildings.

The official said five drone strikes were recorded and the operation was carried out by special forces of Ukraine's Security Service and other defense forces. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose operational details.

Local Russian authorities said "two foreign civilian ships" were damaged.

Tuapse is home to a major oil export terminal and a refinery belonging to state-owned Russian oil company Rosneft.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said long-range strikes on refineries inside Russia have reduced Moscow's oil refining capacity by 20%, citing intelligence from Western governments.

Oil exports play a key role in funding Russia's invasion of its neighbor Ukraine. While Ukrainian weapons take aim at the refineries, new sanctions from the U.S. and the European Union are aiming to cut into Moscow's oil and gas export earnings.

## **East Wing ballroom donations by corporate owners create awkward moments for news outlets**

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

President Donald Trump's razing of the White House's East Wing to build a ballroom has put some news organizations following the story in an awkward position, with corporate owners among the contributors to the project — and their reporters covering it vigorously.

Comcast, which owns NBC News and MSNBC, has faced on-air criticism from some of the liberal cable channel's personalities for its donation. Amazon, whose founder Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post, is another donor. The newspaper editorialized in favor of Trump's project, pointing out the Bezos connection a day later after critics noted its omission.

It's not the first time since Trump regained the presidency that interests of journalists at outlets that are a small part of a corporate titan's portfolio have clashed with owners. Both the Walt Disney Co. and Paramount have settled lawsuits with Trump rather than defend ABC News and CBS News in court.

"This is Trump's Washington," said Chuck Todd, former NBC "Meet the Press" host. "None of this helps the reputations of the news organizations that these companies own, because it compromises everybody."

Companies haven't said how much they donated, or why

None of the individuals and corporations identified by the White House as donors has publicly said how much was given, although a \$22 million Google donation was revealed in a court filing. Comcast would not say Friday why it gave, although some MSNBC commentators have sought to fill in the blanks.

MSNBC's Stephanie Ruhle said the donations should be a concern to Americans, "because there ain't no company out there writing a check just for good will."

"Those public-facing companies should know that there's a cost in terms of their reputations with the American people," Rachel Maddow said on her show this week, specifically citing Comcast. "There may be a cost to their bottom line when they do things against American values, against the public interest because they want to please Trump or buy him off or profit somehow from his authoritarian overthrow of our democracy."

NBC's "Nightly News" led its Oct. 22 broadcast with a story on the East Wing demolition, which reporter Gabe Gutierrez said was paid for by private donors, "among them Comcast, NBC's parent company."

"Nightly News" spent a total of five minutes on the story that week, half the time of ABC's "World News Tonight," though NBC pre-empted its Tuesday newscast for NBA coverage, said Andrew Tyndall, head of ADT Research. There's no evidence that Comcast tried to influence NBC's coverage in any way; Todd said the corporation's leaders have no history of doing that. A Comcast spokeswoman had no comment.

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Todd spoke out against his bosses at NBC News in the past, but said he doubted he would have done so in this case, in part because Comcast hasn't said why the contribution was made. "You could make the defense that it is contributing to the United States" by renovating the White House, he said.

More troubling, he said, is the perception that Comcast CEO Brian Roberts had to do it to curry favor with the Trump administration. Trump, in a Truth Social post in April, called Comcast and Roberts "a disgrace to the integrity of Broadcasting!!!" The president cited the company's ownership of MSNBC and NBC News.

Roberts may need their help. Stories this week suggested Comcast might be interested in buying all or part of Warner Bros. Discovery, a deal that would require government approval.

White House cannot be 'a museum to the past'

The Post's editorial last weekend was eye-opening, even for a section that has taken a conservative turn following Bezos' direction that it concentrate on defending personal liberties and the free market. The Oct. 25 editorial was unsigned, which indicates that it is the newspaper's official position, and was titled "In Defense of the White House ballroom."

The Post said the ballroom is a necessary addition and although Trump is pursuing it "in the most jarring manner possible," it would not have gotten done in his term if he went through a traditional approval process.

"The White House cannot simply be a museum to the past," the Post wrote. "Like America, it must evolve with the times to maintain its greatness. Strong leaders reject calcification. In that way, Trump's undertaking is a shot across the bow at NIMBYs everywhere."

In sharing a copy of the editorial on social media, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt wrote that it was the "first dose of common sense I've seen from the legacy media on this story."

The New York Times, by contrast, has not taken an editorial stand either for or against the project. It has run a handful of opinion columns: Ross Douthat called Trump's move necessary considering potential red tape, while Maureen Dowd said it was an "unsanctioned, ahistoric, abominable destruction of the East Wing."

In a social media post later Saturday, Columbia University journalism professor Bill Grueskin noted the absence of any mention of Bezos in the Post editorial" and said he wrote to a Post spokeswoman about it. In a "stealth edit" that Grueskin said didn't include any explanation, a paragraph was added the next day about the private donors, including Amazon. "Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns The Post," the newspaper said.

The Post had no comment on the issue, spokeswoman Olivia Petersen said on Sunday.

In a story this past week, NPR reported that the ballroom editorial was one of three that the Post had written in the previous two weeks on a matter in which Bezos had a financial or corporate interest without noting his personal stakes.

In a public appearance last December, Bezos acknowledged that he was a "terrible owner" for the Post from the point of view of appearances of conflict. "A pure newspaper owner who only owned a newspaper and did nothing else would probably be, from that point of view, a much better owner," the Amazon founder said.

Grueskin, in an interview, said Bezos had every right as an owner to influence the Post's editorial policy. But he said it was important for readers to know his involvement in the East Wing story. They may reject the editorial because of the conflict, he said, or conclude that "the editorial is so well-argued, I put a lot of credibility into what I just read."

## Hegseth in Vietnam to strengthen defense ties and reassure a cautious partner

By ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth was in Vietnam on Sunday, reaffirming a partnership built on healing the scars of the Vietnam War in a trip that will test whether Washington can reassure a vital but wary partner.

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Hegseth said addressing the legacies of the war, which ended 50 years ago in April, remains the foundation and a top priority of the countries' defense relationship.

At the end of his talks with Vietnamese Defense Minister Phan Van Giang, Hegseth handed over a leather box, a belt and a small knife — wartime artifacts once taken by U.S. soldiers during the Vietnam War.

Such returns have become part of broader reconciliation efforts between the two countries, with similar relics — including letters, identification tags and photographs — handed back to the U.S. in recent years.

"Today we will exchange artifacts and information from the war with the goal of helping family members in both countries find peace," Hegseth said.

Hegseth's visit also marks 30 years of diplomatic ties between the former foes and two years since they upgraded relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Vietnam's highest diplomatic status. He arrived in Hanoi from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he attended a meeting of counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Cooperation on postwar issues remains key to U.S.-Vietnam relations. Since normalizing ties in 1995, the two countries have worked together to clear unexploded ordnance, recover remains of missing service members and clean up dioxin — the toxic chemical used in Agent Orange — from former U.S. air bases that continue to affect communities.

There were concerns about the future of these efforts when U.S. funding for several programs was slashed, temporarily halting some cleanup work before resuming.

The visible recommitment to these projects could help stabilize relations and "create space" for further defense cooperation, said Nguyen Khac Giang, a visiting fellow in the Vietnam Studies Program at Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

"War legacy cooperation is the foundation enabling deeper defense ties," he said. "For Washington, it demonstrates long-term responsibility and goodwill to solve lingering war consequences. For Hanoi, it provides essential political cover for expanding relations with a former adversary."

Giang said the U.S. defense chief's visit comes at a crucial moment. Vietnam's Communist Party chief, To Lam, visited North Korea in early October — the first such trip in nearly two decades — while reports suggest Hanoi may pursue the purchase of 40 Russian Su-35 fighter jets. "Vietnam is hedging against doubts about U.S. reliability in the Indo-Pacific," he said.

The Associated Press has previously reported that Moscow and Hanoi have explored ways to maintain financial transactions despite U.S. sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

"Hegseth's visit demonstrates Vietnam's deliberate deepening of defense ties with the U.S., but strictly on Hanoi's terms," Giang said.

## **Canada and Philippines sign a defense pact to boost drills and deter China's aggression**

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Canada and the Philippines, both staunch critics of China's increasingly coercive actions in the disputed South China Sea, signed a key defense agreement on Sunday to boost combat drills and expand security alliances to deter aggression, officials said.

Canada and other Western nations have been bolstering their military presence in the Indo-Pacific to help promote the rule of law and expand trade and investment in the region. The strategy dovetails with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s efforts to build defense ties with other countries to help the Philippines' underfunded military face a militarily superior China in the disputed waters.

There was no immediate comment from China, which has accused the Philippines of being a "troublemaker" and a "saboteur of regional stability" following joint patrols and combat drills with the United States and other countries in the South China Sea.

Beijing claims the waterway, a major trade route, virtually in its entirety, despite a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated those claims based on a 1982 U.N. convention.

China has dismissed the ruling and has employed powerful water cannons and dangerous blocking



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maneuvers against Philippine coast guard and other vessels, resulting in collisions and injuries to crew. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have been involved in the long-simmering territorial disputes.

Philippines says China wants to expand its territory

Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. signed the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement with his Canadian counterpart, David McGuinty, after a closed-door meeting in Manila on Sunday.

McGuinty said the agreement will boost joint military training, information-sharing and cooperation in addressing emergencies, including responding to natural disasters.

Teodoro told reporters the agreement will be key to fostering a rules-based international order in a region threatened by China's aggression. "Who is hegemonic? Who wants to expand their territory in the world? China," Teodoro said.

Such agreements provide a legal framework for visits by foreign troops for joint large-scale exercises in either country.

The Philippines signed the first such defense pact with the U.S. in 1998, followed by a similar accord with Australia nine years later. The agreement with Canada was the third signed under Marcos, after similar ones with Japan and New Zealand.

Talks are ongoing with France and Singapore for similar agreements. Efforts are also underway to launch negotiations with Britain and possibly with Germany and India, Teodoro and other officials said.

Beijing faces backlash over plans for disputed shoal

At the annual meeting of defense ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations with Asian and Western counterparts on Saturday in Malaysia, Teodoro condemned China's recent announcement that it would establish a "nature reserve" in the Scarborough Shoal, a rich fishing area claimed by Manila and Beijing.

"This, to us, is a veiled attempt to wield military might and the threat for use of force, undermining the rights of smaller countries and their citizens who rely on the bounty of these waters," Teodoro said.

Canada criticized China's plan when it was announced in September, saying it opposes "attempts to use environmental protection as a way to take control" of Scarborough Shoal. Canada in September also criticized China's "dangerous" use of water cannons, which injured one Filipino official aboard a government vessel.

Canadian Ambassador to Manila David Hartman has said his country has "been vocal in confronting the provocative and unlawful actions" of China in region's waters and "will continue to do so."

Last year, Canada signed an agreement on defense cooperation with the Philippines. Another agreement signed in Ottawa in 2023 gave the Philippines access to data from Canada's "Dark Vessel Detection System," which harnesses satellite technology to track illegal vessels even if they switch off location-transmitting devices.

The Philippine coast guard has used the Canadian technology to track Chinese coast guard ships and fishing vessels in the South China Sea.

## Who is Zico Kolter? A professor leads OpenAI safety panel with power to halt unsafe AI releases

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

If you believe artificial intelligence poses grave risks to humanity, then a professor at Carnegie Mellon University has one of the most important roles in the tech industry right now.

Zico Kolter leads a 4-person panel at OpenAI that has the authority to halt the ChatGPT maker's release of new AI systems if it finds them unsafe. That could be technology so powerful that an evildoer could use it to make weapons of mass destruction. It could also be a new chatbot so poorly designed that it will hurt people's mental health.

"Very much we're not just talking about existential concerns here," Kolter said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We're talking about the entire swath of safety and security issues and critical topics that come up when we start talking about these very widely used AI systems."

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OpenAI tapped the computer scientist to be chair of its Safety and Security Committee more than a year ago, but the position took on heightened significance last week when California and Delaware regulators made Kolter's oversight a key part of their agreements to allow OpenAI to form a new business structure to more easily raise capital and make a profit.

Safety has been central to OpenAI's mission since it was founded as a nonprofit research laboratory a decade ago with a goal of building better-than-human AI that benefits humanity. But after its release of ChatGPT sparked a global AI commercial boom, the company has been accused of rushing products to market before they were fully safe in order to stay at the front of the race. Internal divisions that led to the temporary ouster of CEO Sam Altman in 2023 brought those concerns that it had strayed from its mission to a wider audience.

The San Francisco-based organization faced pushback — including a lawsuit from co-founder Elon Musk — when it began steps to convert itself into a more traditional for-profit company to continue advancing its technology.

Agreements announced last week by OpenAI along with California Attorney General Rob Bonta and Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings aimed to assuage some of those concerns.

At the heart of the formal commitments is a promise that decisions about safety and security must come before financial considerations as OpenAI forms a new public benefit corporation that is technically under the control of its nonprofit OpenAI Foundation.

Kolter will be a member of the nonprofit's board but not on the for-profit board. But he will have "full observation rights" to attend all for-profit board meetings and have access to information it gets about AI safety decisions, according to Bonta's memorandum of understanding with OpenAI. Kolter is the only person, besides Bonta, named in the lengthy document.

Kolter said the agreements largely confirm that his safety committee, formed last year, will retain the authorities it already had. The other three members also sit on the OpenAI board — one of them is former U.S. Army General Paul Nakasone, who was commander of the U.S. Cyber Command. Altman stepped down from the safety panel last year in a move seen as giving it more independence.

"We have the ability to do things like request delays of model releases until certain mitigations are met," Kolter said. He declined to say if the safety panel has ever had to halt or mitigate a release, citing the confidentiality of its proceedings.

Kolter said there will be a variety of concerns about AI agents to consider in the coming months and years, from cybersecurity — "Could an agent that encounters some malicious text on the internet accidentally exfiltrate data?" — to security concerns surrounding AI model weights, which are numerical values that influence how an AI system performs.

"But there's also topics that are either emerging or really specific to this new class of AI model that have no real analogues in traditional security," he said. "Do models enable malicious users to have much higher capabilities when it comes to things like designing bioweapons or performing malicious cyberattacks?"

"And then finally, there's just the impact of AI models on people," he said. "The impact to people's mental health, the effects of people interacting with these models and what that can cause. All of these things, I think, need to be addressed from a safety standpoint."

OpenAI has already faced criticism this year about the behavior of its flagship chatbot, including a wrongful-death lawsuit from California parents whose teenage son killed himself in April after lengthy interactions with ChatGPT.

Kolter, director of Carnegie Mellon's machine learning department, began studying AI as a Georgetown University freshman in the early 2000s, long before it was fashionable.

"When I started working in machine learning, this was an esoteric, niche area," he said. "We called it machine learning because no one wanted to use the term AI because AI was this old-time field that had overpromised and underdelivered."

Kolter, 42, has been following OpenAI for years and was close enough to its founders that he attended its launch party at an AI conference in 2015. Still, he didn't expect how rapidly AI would advance.

"I think very few people, even people working in machine learning deeply, really anticipated the current

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state we are in, the explosion of capabilities, the explosion of risks that are emerging right now," he said.

AI safety advocates will be closely watching OpenAI's restructuring and Kolter's work. One of the company's sharpest critics says he's "cautiously optimistic," particularly if Kolter's group "is actually able to hire staff and play a robust role."

"I think he has the sort of background that makes sense for this role. He seems like a good choice to be running this," said Nathan Calvin, general counsel at the small AI policy nonprofit Encode. Calvin, who OpenAI targeted with a subpoena at his home as part of its fact-finding to defend against the Musk lawsuit, said he wants OpenAI to stay true to its original mission.

"Some of these commitments could be a really big deal if the board members take them seriously," Calvin said. "They also could just be the words on paper and pretty divorced from anything that actually happens. I think we don't know which one of those we're in yet."

## **5 German mountaineers die in northern Italy after being hit by avalanche**

ROME (AP) — Five German mountaineers died after being hit by an avalanche in South Tyrol, in northern Italy, rescuers said on Sunday.

Three victims — two men and a woman — had already been recovered dead on Saturday, while the bodies of two other missing people, a man and his 17-year-old daughter, were found on Sunday morning.

"They had been dragged to the lower part of the gully where the avalanche occurred," said Alpine rescue spokesman Federico Catania. "Rescue teams are now returning to the valley, also considering the worsening weather conditions at high altitude."

The mountaineers, all Germans, were hit by the avalanche at about 4 p.m. on Saturday while climbing near the Cima Vertana, in the Ortles mountains, at an altitude of more than 3,500 meters (11,500 feet). It is unknown why the climbers were still on their way up at this relatively late hour, rescuers said.

According to initial information, the climbers were in three groups and were traveling independently of each other. Two men survived the accident and were taken by helicopter to a hospital in the near city of Bolzano.

South Tyrol is a popular region for mountaineering among tourists from Germany. The region's highest peak is Ortles, which rises to 3,905 meters.

Avalanche accidents are a persistent issue in the Italian Alps, with the country registering one of the higher 10-year average annual death tolls among major ski nations. Victims are frequently ski mountaineers or freeriders.

Some analysis suggests that the number of accidents has increased in recent years possibly due to more people heading to backcountry areas immediately after fresh snowfall.

## **Iraq's foreign minister calls for disarmament of 'PKK elements' in the north**

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein on Sunday called on Kurdish separatist fighters who have withdrawn to the country's north after waging a decades-long insurgency in Turkey to disarm.

Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, began laying down its arms in July in a symbolic ceremony in northern Iraq after withdrawing its fighters from Turkey to Iraq as part of a peace effort with Ankara.

But armed "PKK elements" remain in northern Iraq, notably in Sinjar and Makhmur, according to Hussein. Speaking on Sunday during a joint news conference in Baghdad with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan, Hussein said: "We support the agreement between Turkey and the PKK and look forward to the implementation of this agreement and the resolution of the PKK issue."

He said the matter of the "PKK elements" in northern Iraq was discussed with Fidan.

Turkey hopes that the PKK will end its armed operations in Iraq and withdraw from there, as well as in

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parts of Iran and Syria, Fidan said.

"We are working closely with Iraq, and I thank both Iraq and the Kurdistan region for their cooperation in this regard," he said.

Sabri Ok, a member of the Kurdish umbrella organization, the Kurdistan Communities Union, this week said all PKK forces in Turkey were being withdrawn to areas in northern Iraq "to avoid clashes or provocations."

Hussein said 26 bilateral memorandums of understanding were being signed related to energy and security, as well as a critical water rehabilitation agreement, following talks last month.

Flights between Iraq and Turkey are set to resume on Monday, ending a suspension that lasted over two years, an official at Sulaymaniyah International Airport told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The PKK announced in May that it would disband and renounce armed conflict, bringing to an end four decades of hostilities with Turkey. The move came after PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been imprisoned on an island near Istanbul since 1999, urged his group in February to convene a congress and formally disband and disarm.

## **AP has declared winners in elections for nearly 180 years. This is why and how race calls are made**

By MAYA SWEEDLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Will Zohran Mamdani be elected New York City mayor? Who will be the next governor of New Jersey? Will California adopt a new congressional map?

Those are among the questions The Associated Press will answer when the news organization tabulates votes and declares winners in hundreds of races that are on ballots nationwide Tuesday.

It's a role the AP has filled for nearly 180 years, since shortly after its founding.

Determining a winner involves a careful and thorough analysis of the latest available vote tallies and a variety of other election data. The ultimate goal is to answer this question: Is there any circumstance in which the trailing candidate can catch up to the candidate who is leading the race. If the answer is no, then the leading candidate has won.

Here's a look at the AP's role and its process for determining the outcome of elections, also known as calling a race:

**Why AP calls races**

The United States does not have a nationwide body that collects and releases election results. Elections are administered locally, by thousands of offices, following standards set by the states. In many cases, the states themselves do not even offer up-to-date tracking of election results.

The AP fills this gap by compiling vote results and declaring winners in elections, providing critical information in the period between Election Day and the official certification of results, which typically takes weeks.

**Collecting the vote**

The AP's vote count brings together information that otherwise might not be available online for days or weeks after an election or is scattered across hundreds of local websites. Without national standards or consistent expectations across states, it also ensures the data is in a standard format, uses standard terms and undergoes rigorous quality control.

The AP hires vote count reporters who work with local election officials to collect results directly from counties or precincts where votes are first counted. These reporters submit them, by phone or electronically, as soon as the results are available. If any of the results are available from state or county websites, the AP will gather the results from there, too.

In many cases, counties will update vote totals as they count ballots throughout the night. The AP is continuously updating its count as these results are released. In a general election, the AP will make as many as 21,000 vote updates per hour.

**Analyzing the vote**

As votes are coming in, the AP will analyze races to determine the winners.



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One key piece that the AP considers is how many ballots are uncounted and from what areas. In cases where official or exact tallies of the outstanding vote are unavailable, the AP estimates the turnout in every race based on several factors and uses that estimate to track how much of the vote has been counted and how much remains.

The AP also tries to determine how ballots counted so far were cast and the types of vote, such as mail ballots or ballots cast in person on Election Day, that remain.

That is because the method that voters choose can be correlated to the party they voted for. Since voting by mail became highly politicized in the 2020 election, Democrats have been more likely to vote by mail, while Republicans have been more likely to vote in-person on Election Day.

In many states, it is possible to know which votes will be counted first, based on past elections or plans announced by election officials. In others, votes are clearly marked by type when released.

This helps to determine if an early lead is expected to shrink or grow. For example, if a state first counts votes cast in person on Election Day, followed by mail-in votes, that suggests that an early Republican lead may narrow as more mail ballots are tabulated. But if the reverse is true and mail ballots are counted first, an early Republican lead could be the first sign of a comfortable victory.

## Calling races

In almost all cases, races can be called well before all votes have been counted. The AP's team of election journalists and analysts will call a race as soon as a clear winner can be determined.

In competitive races, AP analysts may need to wait until additional votes are tallied or to confirm specific information about how many ballots are left to count.

Competitive races where votes are actively being tabulated — for example, in states that count a large number of votes after election night — might be considered "too early to call." A race may be "too close to call" if a race is so close that there is no clear winner even once all ballots except for provisional and late-arriving absentee ballots have been counted.

The AP's race calls are not predictions and are not based on speculation. They are declarations based on an analysis of vote results and other election data that one candidate has emerged as the winner and that no other candidate in the race will be able to overtake the winner once all the votes have been counted.

## **Today in History: November 3, KKK and neo-Nazis kill five in Greensboro massacre**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Nov. 3, the 307th day of 2025. There are 58 days left in the year. Daylight saving time ends today.

### Today in history:

On Nov. 3, 1979, five Communist Workers Party members were killed in a clash with heavily armed Ku Klux Klansmen and neo-Nazis during an anti-Klan protest in Greensboro, North Carolina, in what became known as the Greensboro massacre. State and federal trials subsequently acquitted six defendants of murder and rioting charges.

### Also on this date:

In 1908, Republican William Howard Taft was elected president, outpolling Democrat William Jennings Bryan.

In 1911, the Chevrolet Motor Car Co. was founded in Detroit by Louis Chevrolet and William C. Durant.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt easily won reelection to a second term, losing just two states to the Republican candidate, Kansas Gov. Alf Landon.

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the spacecraft Sputnik 2, carrying the first animal into orbit, a dog named Laika.

In 1961, diplomat U Thant of Burma (now Myanmar) was elected secretary-general of the United Nations following the death of his predecessor, Dag Hammarskjöld, in an airplane crash.

In 1964, Lyndon B. Johnson, who assumed the presidency after John F. Kennedy was assassinated in

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1963, won election as president, defeating Republican Sen. Barry Goldwater.

In 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton was elected the 42nd president of the United States, defeating Republican President George H.W. Bush.

In 2012, the lights went back on in lower Manhattan to the relief of residents who had been plunged into darkness for nearly five days by Hurricane Sandy.

In 2014, 13 years after the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center towers, a new 104-story, 1,776-foot-high skyscraper called the One World Trade Center opened for business at the site, marking an emotional milestone for both New Yorkers and the nation.

In 2020, Democrat Joe Biden won the presidency, though his victory would not be known for more than three days as counting continued in battleground states; Republican President Donald Trump would refuse to concede, falsely claiming that he was a victim of widespread voter fraud.

Today's Birthdays: Former Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis is 92. Economist and Nobel Prize laureate Amartya Sen is 92. Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, is 78. Vogue global editorial director Anna Wintour is 76. Boxing Hall of Famer Larry Holmes is 76. Scientist David Ho is 73. Comedian-actor Roseanne Barr is 73. Actor Kate Capshaw is 72. Comedian Dennis Miller is 72. Singer Adam Ant is 71. Actor Dolph Lundgren is 68. Olympic gold medal figure skater Evgeni Plushenko is 43. Actor Antonia Thomas (TV: "The Good Doctor") is 39. Former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick is 38. TV personality-model Kendall Jenner is 30.