

# Groton Daily Independent

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## **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.

IT'S OUR JOB TO  
**LOVE** PEOPLE.  
THE REST IS IN  
**G**OD'S HANDS



## **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.**

## NYC Election Day

New York City voters head to the polls today to choose their next mayor in a closely watched election. Progressive candidate Zohran Mamdani (D) is polling on average more than 14 points ahead of his rival, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (I).

Turnout is projected to reach nearly 2 million votes, potentially outpacing any NYC mayoral election since 1969 (early voting is already more than four times higher than in 2021). Mamdani—a democratic socialist and Queens state assemblyman—polls higher with younger voters, pledging universal child care, free bus rides, and a rent freeze on rent-stabilized apartments (roughly 44% of NYC rentals). If elected, the 34-year-old will be the city's first Muslim leader and tied for its second-youngest mayor. Cuomo has run a centrist, independent campaign after losing the Democratic primary to Mamdani. Republican Curtis Sliwa trails in third.

Elsewhere, voters in California will decide whether to redistrict mid-decade, while Virginia and New Jersey will elect governors.

## Partial SNAP Funding

The Trump administration said yesterday it will partially fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program this month amid the federal government shutdown—now tied for the longest in US history. The update comes after funding for the program, colloquially known as food stamps, lapsed over the weekend.

The Agriculture Department will use \$4.65B from SNAP's approximate \$5B contingency fund to cover half of the estimated \$8B in monthly benefits for nearly 42 million Americans. Roughly \$450M of the contingency fund will cover states' administrative costs, and \$150M will aid food assistance programs in Puerto Rico and American Samoa. The partial funding excludes new applicants, disaster assistance, and any financial buffer, as the contingency funds will be depleted.

Separately, the Senate reconvened yesterday with no funding vote scheduled. President Donald Trump has urged Senate Republicans to eliminate the filibuster, which requires 60 votes to pass legislation. A House-passed bill previously failed to advance in the Senate 13 times.

## Camouflage Breakthrough

Researchers have devised a method to produce unprecedented quantities of xanthommatin—the pigment that allows octopuses to camouflage and gives monarch butterflies their vibrant wings. Xanthommatin's color-changing power could have broad applications, from defense technology to sunscreen.

Scientists have historically struggled to extract sufficient amounts of xanthommatin from animals or produce enough of the pigment in a lab to harness its properties. But a study published yesterday details how researchers succeeded in producing up to 1,000 times more xanthommatin than previous methods. They genetically engineered a microbe to generate one molecule of xanthommatin for every molecule of formic acid—a compound essential for the bacteria's growth and survival. As the microbe multiplied and required more formic acid, it simultaneously generated more of the pigment.

The study's authors say the technique can be applied to produce other biochemicals, potentially offering a clean, efficient alternative to fossil fuel-based manufacturing.

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## **Sports, Entertainment, & Culture**

Actress Diane Ladd, a three-time Oscar nominee known for "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore" and "Wild at Heart," dies at age 89.

Singer Donna Jean Godchaux-MacKay, the Grateful Dead's only female performer, dies at age 78.

2025 Gold Glove Award, which honors MLB's best defensive players, given to 20 players, including nine first-time awardees.

Comedian Jon Stewart renews "The Daily Show" contract with Comedy Central through December 2026.

## **Science & Technology**

Waymo to expand robotaxi service to Detroit, Las Vegas, and San Diego; Alphabet-owned company aims to offer 1 million trips per week by end of 2026.

Neurologists link roughly 3,000 or more daily steps to slower cognitive decline in older adults at increased risk of developing Alzheimer's disease; benefits plateau around 5,000 to 7,500 daily steps.

Researchers stimulate chromosome errors tied to maternal age in mouse eggs, a step toward understanding and extending women's reproductive longevity.

## **Business & Markets**

US stock markets close mixed (S&P 500 +0.2%, Dow -0.5%, Nasdaq +0.5%); tech-heavy Nasdaq rises on AI optimism.

OpenAI signs \$38B seven-year cloud computing deal with Amazon as part of first partnership between the two; shares of Amazon rise to record high.

Microsoft to invest roughly \$15B in the UAE over next four years.

Huggies and Kleenex manufacturer Kimberly-Clark to acquire Tylenol maker Kenvue in more than \$40B cash-and-stock deal.

## **Politics & World Affairs**

Two US citizens allegedly inspired by ISIS are charged in 72-page complaint, accused of plotting to carry out a thwarted terror attack on Halloween.

Suspect behind UK train attack charged with 11 counts of attempted murder, including over separate same-day incident.

Medieval tower in Rome, known as the Torre dei Conti, partially collapses while under renovation, trapping a worker inside.

The Netherlands' prime minister says the country will return a 3,500-year-old sculpture to Egypt following the Grand Egyptian Museum opening.



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## Groton Area HOSA is kicking off HOSA Week 2025!

Groton HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) started the celebration Monday morning with a special proclamation from Mayor Scott Hanlon, officially declaring this week HOSA Week in Groton, South Dakota!

Groton Area HOSA members are dedicated to health, leadership, and service — and they are excited to celebrate all week long with activities that promote wellness and community spirit. (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)

## Snow Queen Contest Set for November 30th

The 80th Annual Groton Area Snow Queen Contest will be held Sunday, November 30th in the GHS Old Gym at 4 p.m. Look for clues this month in the Groton Independent to solve the Mystery Frosty. The correct guess submitted the evening of the program will receive \$100 Groton Chamber Bucks!!!

## The Life of John Lowary



Memorial services for John Lowary, 73, of Groton will be 10:00 a.m., Thursday, November 6, 2025 at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Rev. Rob Moorlach will officiate. Inurnment will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held for one hour prior to services. Family requests casual dress.

John passed away November 2, 2025 at Sanford Hospital, Aberdeen, SD after injuries from an automobile accident.

John Wesley Lowary was born at St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, SD on May 8, 1952 to Earl and Jean (Hutton) Lowary. He went to Huffton Country School through the 7th grade and then attended Groton High School graduating in 1970. He attended Northern State College in Aberdeen from 1970-1974.

John worked Kessler's Supermarket in Aberdeen for over 30 years. He also worked at Target in Aberdeen, for several Groton farmers and for Groton School District lunch program until he retired in 2016.

John married Anita Fawcett May 10, 1975 at 1st Methodist Church in Aberdeen.

John enjoyed playing cards, bowling, fishing, small game hunting, traveling,

and reading.

John is survived by his wife, Anita; his brother Chuck (Bette) Lowary of Austin, TX; his brother Lee (Clare) Lowary of Boseman, MT; and his sister, Betty (Doug) Norgaard of Brandon, SD and 2 nieces and 3 nephews. Preceding him in death were his parents and nephew Jody Norgaard.

Honorary Urn Bearers will be David Miller, Chuck Padfield, Dave Anderson, Cal Hyenga and LeeRoy Weisenberger.

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## **Groton City Council Meeting Agenda**

November 4, 2025 – 7:00pm

City Hall – 120 N Main Street

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY  
CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1  
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
3. Approval of Kolker Second Subdivision Plat
4. Department Reports
5. Surplus Old Vehicle Lift
6. Soccer Gate Discussion
7. Mayor to Proclaim November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as HOSA Future Health Professionals Week
8. First Reading of Ordinance No. 792 – 2026 Appropriations
9. Begin Accepting Applications for Skating Rink Employment
10. Minutes
11. Bills
12. Announcement: City Offices Closed on November 11, 2025, for Veteran's Day
13. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
14. Adjournment

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**BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA  
GENERAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025, 8:45 A.M.  
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD**

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
  - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes.*
4. Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager
  - a. Bid Opening for Grandstand Concessions during Brown County Fair 2026-2028
  - b. Fair Contracts – Confidential
  - c. Approve & Authorize Chairman to Sign Rodeo Stock Contract
5. Second Reading/Possible Adoption of the following:
  - a. Amended Ordinance #302 – Wind Energy Systems (WES)
  - b. Amended Ordinance #303 – Data Centers
6. Adopt Resolution #2025-55 – Operation Green Light for Veterans 2025
7. Approve Petition for Annexation of the Fairgrounds
8. Consent Calendar
  - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes for October 28, 2025
  - b. Claims/Payroll
  - c. HR Report
  - d. Travel Request
  - e. Centennial Village 2025 Fair Report
9. Other Business
10. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
11. Adjourn

You can join the Brown County Commission Meeting via **your computer, tablet, or smartphone** at <https://meet.goto.com/BrCoCommission>

**You can also dial in using your phone.** United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3311](tel:+18722403311) - Access Code: **601-168-909** #

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>

**Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at** [Commission Meetings | Brown County](#)





**SOUTH DAKOTA  
NEWS WATCH**

Inform. Enlighten. Illuminate.

## Major power line expansions will fuel future growth

**Bart Pfanuch**

**South Dakota News Watch**

BIG STONE CITY, S.D. – This small city in northeastern South Dakota already serves as a major hub for energy – it is home to a coal-fired power plant, a Poet Biofuels ethanol plant and a major electrical substation that is critical to the region's power grid.

A planned multistate, multibillion-dollar expansion of the region's transmission system would make Big Stone City an even bigger spoke for the Upper Midwest's energy economy.

If a proposed 765-kilovolt transmission line through town is built in the next few years as planned, it would easily become the highest-capacity power line in the state. It also would set the stage for new natural gas, wind and solar electricity generation in South Dakota.

"The key piece here is that transmission infrastructure supports all development," said Matt Prorok, an electricity policy analyst for the nonprofit Great Plains Institute, based in Minneapolis. "It's essentially creating access to buying or selling whatever you need when you want to."

That means new jobs and greater need for trained workers, and not just in the state's growing renewable energy economy. More capacity to move electricity through the state will also create opportunities for a wide range of new industrial, commercial and residential growth in the coming decades.

Furthermore, the high-capacity line also would strengthen and stabilize the region's electric grid during weather disasters, generate numerous new jobs in the energy and construction industries and ultimately lower costs for ratepayers, according to Midcontinent Independent System Operator, or MISO, the regional grid operator behind the project.

### Projects part of \$30 billion in plans

South Dakota is expected to see several new transmission line projects in the coming years. The major one through Big Stone City is part of wide-ranging plans by two major power grid operators to expand electric capacity through dozens of Great Plains and Midwestern states over the next 10 to 20 years with a price tag of nearly \$30 billion.

The new transmission line projects will pave the way for growth not only in energy production but also for a variety of commercial, industrial and residential developments, Prorok said.

Prorok said that while planning, forecasting, siting and funding transmission lines is a complex, multi-year process, the benefits can be simplified by comparing the expanded lines to roads in farm country. As new roads are built or existing roads are expanded, it opens the door for more commerce on a wide variety of fronts.

For instance, higher-capacity transmission lines could prepare the way for new power plants and wind farms as well as for industrial plants, residential complexes or new technologies like data centers to be built in South Dakota or neighboring states, he said.

Beyond that, the new transmission lines will protect utility customers by allowing for energy to flow during natural disasters and should ultimately save ratepayers money, Prorok said.



**The coal-fired electricity plant in Big Stone City, S.D., is shown on Sept. 25, 2025.** (Photo: Bart Pfanuch / South Dakota News Watch)



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"Customers will pay less overall, because when transmission projects get approved, they are required to demonstrate a net benefit over time," he said. "The key piece here is that when you spend a dollar on transmission, you're going to save more than a dollar on the production side."

## Two sets of regional projects planned

South Dakota is part of two separate regional transmission organizations that manage the electrical grid in multiple states.

MISO manages energy flow in 15 states, including the northeast portion of South Dakota and in Manitoba, Canada. The Southwest Power Pool, or SPP, oversees energy flow in 14 states, including most of South Dakota.

Both organizations have proposed major transmission line expansions to increase the nation's capacity to generate and move electricity.

MISO has plans for 488 individual projects to be done over the next 10 years at a cost of \$22 billion.

In South Dakota, the MISO expansion — part of an expansive project known as Tranche 2.1 — calls for construction of a 345-kilovolt line from Alexandria, Minnesota, to Big Stone City and development of a new 765-kilovolt line from Big Stone City to White and to the city of Trimont in southwestern Minnesota.

SPP has approved plans for 89 transmission projects to include 2,333 miles of new lines and about 500 miles of rebuilt lines at an overall cost of \$7.7 billion. In its 2024 Integrated Transmission Plan, SPP said that its power network "is facing a generational challenge as the need arises to balance new sources of demand, like data centers, crypto mining, mining, and oil and gas production, with the retirement of conventional resources that use coal and natural (gas) as fuel sources."

The SPP projects in South Dakota would include a new 50-mile, 115-kilovolt line from Carpenter to Lake Preston, reconstruction of an existing power line in Watertown and the construction of a new 345-kilovolt line for 440 miles from Belfield, North Dakota, to New Underwood in western South Dakota and then south to Laramie, Wyoming.

The 345-kilovolt line is needed, according to the SPP plan, "to address the rapid load growth in North Dakota and South Dakota" and to "contribute to SPP's strategic opportunity to develop a robust 'grid of the future.'"

## Adding capacity for wind, other energy projects

The new transmission lines in and out of South Dakota should open the door to future development of energy in the state, especially in regard to sustainable sources such as wind and solar.

South Dakota has been a national leader in rapid expansion of wind energy production over the past decade and has a welcoming environment for greater solar production as well.

As of 2024, South Dakota had 3,600 megawatts of wind energy in production, according to Public Utilities Commission records. About 60% of the wind production has come online since 2020, a five-year period in which the state added about 2,100 megawatts of production by almost 700 new turbines.

However, applications for new wind production facilities have slowed dramatically, largely due to a lack



**These 230-kilovolt power lines carry electricity generated by the Otter Tail Power Company plant in Big Stone City, SD., shown on Sept. 25, 2025. Big Stone City could see development of a 765-kilovolt power line in the coming years.** (Photo: Bart Pfankuch / South

Dakota News Watch)

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of transmission line capacity in the state and Great Plains region.

"We're pretty much stalled right now," PUC Commissioner Chris Nelson told News Watch.

The South Dakota PUC is currently reviewing applications for three new energy projects in the state, Nelson said.

Missouri River Energy wants to build a 130-megawatt natural gas plant near Toronto. Black Hills Energy plans a 98-megawatt natural gas plant in Rapid City. And Philip Wind Partners has applied to build a 300-megawatt wind farm with 87 turbines northwest of Philip.

Those projects were able to find space on the existing power transmission network, Nelson said. But in large part, South Dakota's capacity to build new wind farms, solar fields or power plants is restricted by the fact the existing power grid needs to expand to handle more energy, he said.

"There's still some of these developments happening, but it's certainly slowed down from what we saw five or six years ago as the transmission lines have filled up," Nelson said. "At this point, our capacity is limited, but MISO believes that this large backbone of new transmission lines in the upper Midwest will allow additional generation sources to be sited."

## Energy projects face some headwinds

The energy industry is keeping a close eye on the actions of President Donald Trump's administration, which has canceled funding for numerous energy expansion projects across the country.

The Associated Press reported in early October that Trump had canceled nearly \$8 billion in grants for hundreds of proposed clean-energy related projects, most of them in states that did not vote for him in the last election.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times also reported in October that it had obtained a new list of \$15 billion in clean-energy project cuts being considered by the Trump administration.

Nelson, the South Dakota PUC commissioner, said he is not aware of how those cuts would affect transmission line projects, but added that they could limit development of energy sources that would use expanded transmission capacity and therefore lower the viability of the need for the new lines and expansion of existing lines. Seth Blomeley, a spokesperson for SPP, told News Watch in an email only that SPP will "continue to evaluate the project."

Any grant cancellations would increase the amount of investment required by power companies, which would shift more costs of transmission lines away from government subsidies and further onto ratepayers, Prorok said.

Nelson told News Watch that the main government program aiding energy development in South Dakota are the production tax credits, which may be allowed to expire in the next few years, raising the cost of new projects in the state.

The MISO expansion plan also has been the subject of complaints filed with federal energy regulators arguing that the transmission line plans should be halted because the grid operator overstated the finan-



**This energy substation is part of the transmission system at the Otter Tail Power Co. plant in Big Stone City, S.D., shown on Sept. 25, 2025.** (Photo: Bart Pfankuch / South Dakota News Watch)



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cial benefits of the new lines. Those complaints remain under consideration.

## **Greater stability for future energy needs**

The company supports efforts to expand the power grid in South Dakota and other states where it operates, she said.

"We're part of MISO, who acts as the air traffic controller for the energy grid, ensuring the right amount of electricity for approximately 45 million people," Michael wrote. "We, along with energy companies throughout the region, have been working closely with MISO over many years to develop transmission solutions as the region's grid continues to evolve."

Michael said Otter Tail and other energy producers regularly take steps to ensure a stable workforce, working closely with prospective employees and educational institutions to train and hire employees who are able to have successful careers in the industry.

"We have strong relationships with technical institutes as well as colleges and universities in each of the three states (Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota) we serve. These relationships include providing scholarship funding, serving on program advisory boards, and providing internships for students," she wrote. "During their careers, craft employees often progress through an apprenticeship program, achieving journeyman status. From there, employees can advance to lead or foreman positions. The work is often challenging and rewarding, and our employees live our mission every day."

*This reporting is part of a collaboration between the Institute for Nonprofit News' Rural News Network and MinnPost, South Dakota News Watch, Cardinal News, The Mendocino Voice and The Maine Monitor. Support from Ascendium Education Group made the project possible.*

*This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, an independent, nonprofit organization. Read more stories and donate at [sdnewswatch.org](https://sdnewswatch.org) and sign up for an email to get stories when they're published. Contact investigative reporter Bart Pfankuch at [bart.pfankuch@sdnewswatch.org](mailto:bart.pfankuch@sdnewswatch.org).*



**This high-voltage electricity tower is shown on Sept. 24, 2025 in a farm field near White, S.D.**

(Photo: Bart Pfankuch / South Dakota News Watch)

## **SDDOT Snowplow Naming Contest Returns for Sixth Year**

PIERRE, S.D. – The sixth annual Snowplow Naming Contest hosted by the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) is now open through Friday, Dec. 12, 2025. Over the past five winters, SDDOT has engaged thousands of South Dakotans in naming snowplows across the State. On average, the SDDOT contest draws 700 submissions annually from individuals, classrooms, and businesses.

"Each winter, South Dakotans place their trust in the SDDOT to keep our state highways open. From families traveling statewide for recreational purposes to truck drivers transporting goods that fuel our economy, everyone depends on a reliable and safe public transportation system," said Transportation Secretary Joel Jundt. "Last winter, SDDOT introduced a new text notification service that provides subscribers with direct updates for any winter-related Interstate closure. This free service builds upon our SD511 system, making it even easier for drivers to access current information seamlessly."

### **Snowplow Naming Contest and Blizzard Bracket:**

Find the Snowplow Naming Contest graphic on the SDDOT home page at <https://dot.sd.gov>. This graphic links to the contest page and online entry form. Multiple entries may be submitted through the online form. Once the contest closes in mid-December, SDDOT staff will then vote for their favorite entries. In January, SDDOT will announce one officially named snowplow within each of its 12 SDDOT geographic areas across South Dakota. To date, sixty plows have been officially named through the contest. All named SDDOT snowplows remain in active service.

As part of the contest, SDDOT also creates snowplow and winter driving awareness coloring sheets, crossword puzzles, and word finds for families and classrooms. New materials are available for download on the contest page at <https://dot.sd.gov/snowplow>.

A few years ago, SDDOT added the Blizzard Bracket competition during the March Madness season. The Blizzard Bracket provides additional opportunities to engage with the public and promote winter safety messaging during the often snow-filled spring months. The Blizzard Bracket includes all named plows.

In 2025, SDDOT partnered with the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) to co-host the Dakota Battle of the Blades, featuring top snowplow names from each state. When the final votes were tallied, "Thaw Patrol" (named by the first-grade class at Winner Elementary) was crowned champion over North Dakota's "Plower Ranger." SDDOT hosted a celebration at Winner Elementary for "Thaw Patrol" with Governor Larry Rhoden to celebrate the victory for South Dakota. Find photos and videos from the celebration [here](#).

"While we cannot predict the winter weather, all of us can control how we prepare and respond," Jundt added. "The snowplow naming contest helps us build awareness about SDDOT's winter maintenance operations and the many resources available to the traveling public to make safe travel decisions."





## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **South Dakota won't tap reserve funds to fill federal food assistance gap, governor says**

**Rhoden also says he's unaware of Feeding South Dakota's funding request**

**BY: SETH TUPPER**

RAPID CITY — South Dakota's governor said Monday he does not support using state money to fill a funding gap in a food assistance program during the federal government shutdown, and said he was unaware of a funding request that a hunger relief organization submitted to the Legislature.

Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden made the comments in response to South Dakota Searchlight questions while he was volunteering at Feeding South Dakota's Rapid City food distribution center.

Because Congress has failed to pass a bill to fund and reopen the federal government, the Trump administration has said it won't be able to provide all of this month's benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP.

The program provides about 75,000 low-income South Dakotans with money loaded onto cards they can use to buy food. The cards are loaded on the 10th day of each month.

A full month of benefits in South Dakota requires about \$15 million of federal funding. Rhoden said the state cannot afford to replace a portion or all of those funds.

"First of all, we don't have that kind of coin running around to do that for any extended period of time," Rhoden said. "Second to that, the federal government has made it clear that those dollars won't be reimbursable. And I don't think it's fair to put that on the backs of taxpayers."

### **Democrats ask governor to tap reserves**

Democratic legislators sent Rhoden a letter last week urging him to authorize the use of reserve funds to temporarily cover any lapse in federal SNAP funding.

"Now is the time to rise above federal-level politics and stand united for the people we serve," said the letter, signed by Senate Minority Leader Liz Larson and House Minority Leader Erin Healy, both of Sioux Falls.

The state had \$492 million in reserve when the 2025 fiscal year ended on June 30, according to a report from the governor's budget office. Legislators and Rhoden have since approved a transfer of about \$79 million to help fund construction of a new men's prison in Sioux Falls, leaving over \$400 million in what's commonly described as the state's "rainy day" fund.

State Rep. Erik Muckey, D-Sioux Falls, is a member of the Legislature's budget committee. Muckey said in an interview with Searchlight that he appreciates the governor's devotion to fiscal responsibility and shares Rhoden's wish that Congress would end the federal shutdown.

Muckey disagrees with Rhoden's opposition to using state reserves for SNAP.

"We have the funds to be able to support that if we're needing to," Muckey said. "If feeding hungry South Dakotans at a time when the federal government may not be fully funding it doesn't constitute a 'rainy day,' what does?"

Instead of tapping reserves, the governor is calling for private donations and volunteerism to help food banks and churches fill the need.

"I'm hopeful that people will step up," Rhoden said.

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## Request from Feeding South Dakota

Feeding South Dakota, the largest hunger-relief nonprofit in the state, asked the Legislature's budget committee four months ago to consider a \$3 million appropriation to the organization when lawmakers gather in January for the annual legislative session. The request came in response to federal spending cuts earlier this year that cost the organization more than a million pounds of food.

When Searchlight asked Rhoden on Monday if he plans to include the request in the annual budget he'll propose next month, the governor said he has "not heard any talk about that," adding that he met with legislative leaders about the budget recently and "none of that was brought up."

Asked whether he would support the idea if it's formally proposed to him, Rhoden said, "I wouldn't comment whether I'd support legislation I've not seen yet."

Feeding South Dakota operates multiple distribution centers across the state providing about 14 million pounds of food annually. Lori Dykstra, the organization's CEO, said she was not able to attend Rhoden's visit to the Rapid City center. Afterward, Dykstra said she is "disappointed" to hear that the organization's funding request has not reached the governor.

Since making the request, she said, the organization has seen a steady increase in the demand for food and now needs \$5 million "to meet the moment and to be able to stay ahead of this."

"We have the infrastructure to do the work, but we don't have the food," Dykstra said. "We don't have the resources."

For every one meal that Feeding South Dakota provides to South Dakotans, Dykstra added, SNAP provides nine.

SNAP funding is in peril because Congress is locked in a stalemate over a spending bill and did not appropriate money for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. As recently as last week, Trump administration officials said that without passage of a spending bill, they could not fund SNAP benefits beyond Oct. 31.

On Monday, in response to court rulings in multiple lawsuits, the administration said it will pay for a portion of November benefits from a contingency fund that holds about \$4.65 billion. About \$9 billion is needed to cover a full month of SNAP benefits nationwide, leaving states with choices about whether and how to fill the gap.

North Dakota recently responded by devoting \$1.5 million to address food insecurity, including \$915,000 for the Great Plains Food Bank. Some other states are temporarily providing state-funded assistance directly to SNAP recipients.

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

## Attorney general charges former state employee with computer misuse, child porn, rape solicitation

**Jackley says crime should spur legislative action on AI-generated pornography**

**BY: JOHN HULT**

SIOUX FALLS — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says the indictment of a former driver's license examiner should inspire legislators to make it a state crime to possess pornographic images of real adults created by artificial intelligence.

Mark Charles Rathbun, 67, was a driver's license examiner for the state in Aberdeen until last week.

Last Thursday, he was charged with solicitation of rape, child pornography possession and unauthorized use of computer systems after an investigation by Jackley's office. If convicted on all charges, Rathbun could face up to 37 years in prison.

At a press conference Monday in Sioux Falls, Jackley said detectives found imagery of confidential driver's licensing information on Rathbun's computer while doing an investigation into suspected child pornography. Rathbun allegedly took pictures of the information and shared it with third parties, for purposes not yet made clear by Jackley or court documents.

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The tip on that case, submitted by Microsoft, was one of around 3,000 that come to the state's Internet Crimes Against Children task force each year.

Officers found 30 personal electronic devices in Rathbun's home, Jackley said. One of those devices contained "over a million images," some of which were allegedly child pornography. Other images, Jackley said, were generated by artificial intelligence to put the faces of real adults into pornographic situations.

The investigation also turned up evidence that Rathbun had asked someone to commit forcible rape against an adult victim, Jackley said. The criminal complaint against Rathbun says he'd been involved in a "domestic relationship" with the victim. The victim is identified by initials.

The unauthorized use of a computer charge applies to a victim with different initials. Jackley said he anticipates "additional victims in additional counties" to be found as the case moves forward.

Jackley would not say what the driver's licensing information that was allegedly photographed and shared was used for. He said only that the collection of personal information from the driver's license database and remaining charges were "part of the same scheme," which ran from August 2024 through last month.

Possession of AI-generated child pornography has been a crime in South Dakota since 2024, when lawmakers passed a bill folding it into the definition of child pornography. At the time, Jackley pushed to create a prohibition against the possession of nonconsensual, AI-generated pornography of adults, but the bill did not pass. Distribution of such imagery is a misdemeanor, but possession remains legal under state law. Since May, the creation or publication of AI-generated, nonconsensual images of adults has been illegal under federal law.

Jackley said he hopes lawmakers will work with him to change state law and make possession of such images "a serious felony" at the state level.

He said Rathbun worked for the Department of Public Safety as a senior driver's license examiner. A statement from the spokesman for the Department of Public Safety did not offer specific details on Rathbun's duties, but said that they "included all customer service aspects of the Driver's License program."

"The Department of Public Safety fully cooperated with and assisted law enforcement throughout the investigation leading to his arrest," the statement read.

The charges are the latest in a string of criminal cases brought against former state employees since 2024 across multiple South Dakota agencies. The most costly to taxpayers involved the misappropriation of \$1.78 million by a former Department of Social Services employee.

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

## **Trump administration to pay about half of November SNAP benefits amid shutdown**

**BY: JACOB FISCHLER AND SHAUNEEN MIRANDA**

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture will pay about half of November benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, though benefits could take months to flow to recipients, the department said Monday in a brief to a federal court in Rhode Island.

A four-page report from the USDA answered U.S. District Chief Judge John J. McConnell Jr.'s order that President Donald Trump's administration pay at least a portion of benefits to the 42 million people who receive assistance through the program by the end of Wednesday, despite the government shutdown.

The USDA action does not address what would happen if the shutdown stretches beyond November.

Leading Democrats in Congress blasted the administration's decision to pay only part of the month's benefits, saying Trump was willfully denying food assistance to needy Americans. "Providing partial benefits is not enough, is not compliant with the law, and it's particularly cruel of Trump with the Thanksgiving season around the corner," said Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

McConnell on Saturday laid out two options for the administration: pay for partial benefits by the end

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of Wednesday through a contingency fund which currently has about \$4.65 billion available, or pay for a full month of benefits by tapping other reserve sources such as the child nutrition program by the end of Monday.

USDA opted to use the contingency fund, giving the department until the end of Wednesday to pay out benefits.

But a declaration from Patrick A. Penn, USDA's deputy under secretary for food, nutrition and consumer services, said the administrative hurdles in calculating and delivering a half-month's portion of benefits could take "anywhere from a few weeks to up to several months."

The department was complying with McConnell's order by starting the process of resuming payments Monday, according to the status report signed by U.S. Justice Department officials.

USDA "will fulfill its obligation to expend the full amount of SNAP contingency funds today by generating the table required for States to calculate the benefits available for each eligible household in that State," they said. "USDA will therefore have made the necessary funds available and have authorized the States to begin disbursements once the table is issued."

## **Delayed SNAP benefits in shutdown**

McConnell's order acknowledged that calculating reduced benefits would take the government some time, which he explained was why he gave USDA until Wednesday if the department chose that path.

But Penn said Monday that was not nearly enough time, in part due to some states' outdated systems for processing benefits.

The federal government would provide states with updated tables for benefits at the partial funding level by Monday, he said. States will then need to send updated files to the vendors that process benefits and add them to beneficiaries' debit-like EBT cards to be spent on groceries.

Monday marked the 34th day of the federal government shutdown, which began Oct. 1 when Congress failed to appropriate money for federal programs or pass a stopgap spending bill.

The U.S. Senate was expected to hold another procedural vote to move forward the House-passed GOP stopgap bill that would fund the government at fiscal 2025 levels until Nov. 21.

Democrats have voted against that measure in a bid to force negotiations on expiring tax credits for people who buy health insurance on the Affordable Care Act marketplace.

On Tuesday, the funding lapse will tie for the longest shutdown in history, which took place between 2018 and 2019.

## **Contingency fund dispute**

Leading up to the end of October, the administration had warned it could not pay SNAP benefits for this month amid the shutdown, saying it was legally forbidden from using the contingency fund that was supposed to be for natural disasters and similar emergencies.

But two federal judges ruled Oct. 31 that USDA not only could use the fund, but was obligated to in order to keep SNAP benefits flowing.

Saturday marked the first lapse in benefit payments in the modern history of the program that dates to part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty agenda.

Lawmakers, advocates and SNAP experts said users of the program would see a delay in November benefits as the administration worked to restart it.

The administration's insistence it could not use its contingency fund, originally appropriated by Congress at \$6 billion, was a reversal from a Sept. 30 USDA plan on how to operate in a shutdown, which explicitly called for use of the fund to keep issuing benefits.

A month of SNAP benefits costs the federal government about \$9 billion.

While USDA would not use the contingency fund to pay for regular benefits, it did spend about \$750 million of the original \$6 billion for other uses in October, according to a Monday declaration to the court by Penn.



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The department spent about \$450 million for state administrative expenses and \$300 million for block grants to Puerto Rico and American Samoa, Penn wrote.

The department would again allocate \$450 million for administrative expenses in November, and \$150 million for the block grants to territories, he added.

That left \$4.65 billion available for November benefits, Penn wrote.

## **No use of child nutrition funds**

Penn also explained USDA's decision not to use a fund for a child nutrition program to cover shortfall for SNAP benefits.

The administration wanted to keep that fund fully stocked, he said.

"Child Nutrition Program funds are not a contingency fund for SNAP," he said. "Using billions of dollars from Child Nutrition for SNAP would leave an unprecedented gap in Child Nutrition funding that Congress has never had to fill with annual appropriations, and USDA cannot predict what Congress will do under these circumstances."

The child nutrition program funds school meals, summer meals for children and summer EBT benefits for low-income families with children. The school lunch program alone serves about 29 million children per day, Penn said.

## **Democrats call USDA plan 'not acceptable'**

Democrats expressed dismay that the administration opted not to fully fund November benefits.

"Just now paying the bare minimum to partially fund SNAP is not enough, and it is not acceptable," Sen. Patty Murray of Washington state wrote in a social media post Monday.

"Trump should immediately work to fully fund benefits under the law," added Murray, who serves as the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro, ranking member of the House Appropriations panel, said "this was entirely avoidable," noting that Trump "chose to hold hungry children, seniors, and veterans hostage in a selfish and cruel attempt to gain political advantage."

"Now, only partial benefits will be sent out late, and families will go hungry, while this administration continues to host lavish parties for their billionaire donors and political allies," the Connecticut Democrat said.

She added that "we are in this situation because of a lack of political will on the part of the Trump administration" and urged USDA "to put politics aside and use the money they have available to ensure families do not go hungry."

## **Speaker Johnson defends Trump**

At a press conference Monday, U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson continued to defend Trump's handling of the SNAP payments.

The president is "desperate for SNAP benefits to flow to the American citizens who desperately rely upon it," Johnson said.

The Louisiana Republican echoed Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins' Friday claim that sought to justify her agency's refusal to tap into the contingency fund to pay for SNAP.

"The way we always understood it was: The contingency fund could not be used legally if the underlying fund was suspended," Johnson said.

He blamed congressional Democrats for voting against the stopgap spending bill and noted that two judges, McConnell and Indira Talwani in Massachusetts federal court, who separately ordered payments resume, were appointed by Democratic former President Barack Obama.

Talwani ruled Friday that the USDA plan to pause SNAP was illegal — but gave the Trump administration until Monday to respond to her finding before she decides on a motion to force the benefits be paid despite the ongoing government shutdown.

Johnson also acknowledged the complex logistics of releasing the money to states.

"So, it's not as easy as hitting go send on a computer — you gotta go through and recalculate partial payments to the 42 million recipients of the program," Johnson said. "That puts a huge burden on states and on the feds to try to figure that out in short order."

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

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

## **Trump administration guts community finance fund, a move that threatens tribal economies**

**Native CDFIs provide lending services in rural areas that are often banking deserts**

**BY: AMELIA SCHAFER, ICT**

RAPID CITY — Roughly 25 years ago, only 1% of all small businesses on the Cheyenne River Reservation in northwestern South Dakota were Native owned despite Native people making up more than 90% of the reservation population. That all changed when Four Bands Community Fund, a Native Community Development Financial Institution, came to town.

As of October 2025, more than 15% of small businesses on Cheyenne River are Native owned, funded by micro-loans, which are loans under \$50,000, to Native entrepreneurs delivered by Four Bands.

"We've done every loan product except vehicle loans," said Lakota Vogel, executive director of Four Bands and Cheyenne River Lakota. "Mortgages, home renovations — we are serving all of that."

In 2024 alone, the nonprofit lender distributed 493 loans totaling \$31,876,043 to entrepreneurs across South Dakota, according to its 2024 financial report.

The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund is a program under the U.S. Treasury that provides support and funding to Community Development Financial Institutions in the "nation's most distressed communities."

But that newfound economic stability and empowerment is threatened by a reduction-in-force notice issued on Oct. 10 from the Office of Management and Budget, stating the CDFI fund no longer aligned with President Donald Trump's priorities.

In the letter, the entire CDFI fund staff was issued notice that their jobs would be terminated and the fund would be abolished in the midst of an ongoing government shutdown.

While the termination notice isn't directly tied to the shutdown, it follows Trump threats prior to Oct. 1 that a shutdown would come with reduction-in-force notices to the federal workforce — a workforce that's currently operating without pay.

Terminating the CDFI Fund is a move that's come with immense pushback by leaders at the National Congress of American Indians and other experts, who warn the termination would be detrimental to lending and economic development in Indian Country.

"Without CDFIs, there would be literally no form of funding available to start a small business, purchase homes, and provide technical assistance in rural communities," said Pete Upton, who is from the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and the chief executive officer of the Native CDFI Network and Native360 Loan Fund. "Sometimes the Native CDFI is the only form of financial institution for miles."

The Native CDFI Network serves as a national voice and advocate for Native CDFIs.

Over 48% of Indian Country is a banking desert, Upton said, so without CDFIs there would be no form of funding available for many Native communities on tribal lands.

CDFIs function a lot like a bank does, except they don't actually offer checking and savings account services. A CDFI's purpose is solely for funding. CDFIs grant loans, which means they fund small business owners and provide mortgages on homes.

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Instead of waiting potentially decades to get off a tribal housing list, community members are able to go to a CDFI, take out a loan, and purchase a home.

"We've put 100 homes on Cheyenne River, and it's been great," Vogel said of the Four Bands Community Fund. "We have no delinquency within that product, we need more people to begin serving and building homes in our rural communities."

They also provide to traditionally underserved communities, communities who in the past may not have been able to secure a loan due to systemic racism, a lack of capital or extreme rural location.

Native CDFIs are often crucial parts of rural, reservation communities. In some areas they're the only way to provide funding to small businesses and homeowners. Often, they're one of the only ways to finance property on trust land.

If the CDFI Fund goes away, so does that support.

"It's really hard when you're just trying to get started, and for many banks you look too risky to them, no matter if you're Native or not," Vogel said. "If we're going to be shifting sort of the landscape of what entrepreneurship looks like across America, you need a chance for the new guys to enter the market, and so I think that's what we do."

And Native CDFIs don't just finance rural areas, they can fund businesses in urban settings too.

In 2013, Four Bands expanded to service all of South Dakota, a move that's created new businesses in cities like Rapid City. Independent Ale House, a bar and restaurant in downtown Rapid City, is a Native-owned business funded by Four Bands, Vogel said.

"But it varies," she said. "We do everything from prairie dog eradication business to trucking to restaurants. We don't specify by industry."

Overall, CDFIs have for decades been a way to fund small businesses for Native entrepreneurs, but that will all change if funding and staff aren't reinstated, Upton said.

Upton and others from the Native CDFI fund traveled to Washington, D.C., in late October to meet with legislators across the aisle and raise awareness about the services CDFIs provide, services that he said align perfectly with the administration's priorities.

"I think it's just a matter of being able to have a dialogue with the current administration or the OMB," Upton said. "We're still hopeful, and we're hoping that once the government shutdown is over, that we can have dialogue with both sides of the aisle, and it's always been supported by both Republicans and Democrats. So it's a program that is fully bipartisan, and it's been that way for years."

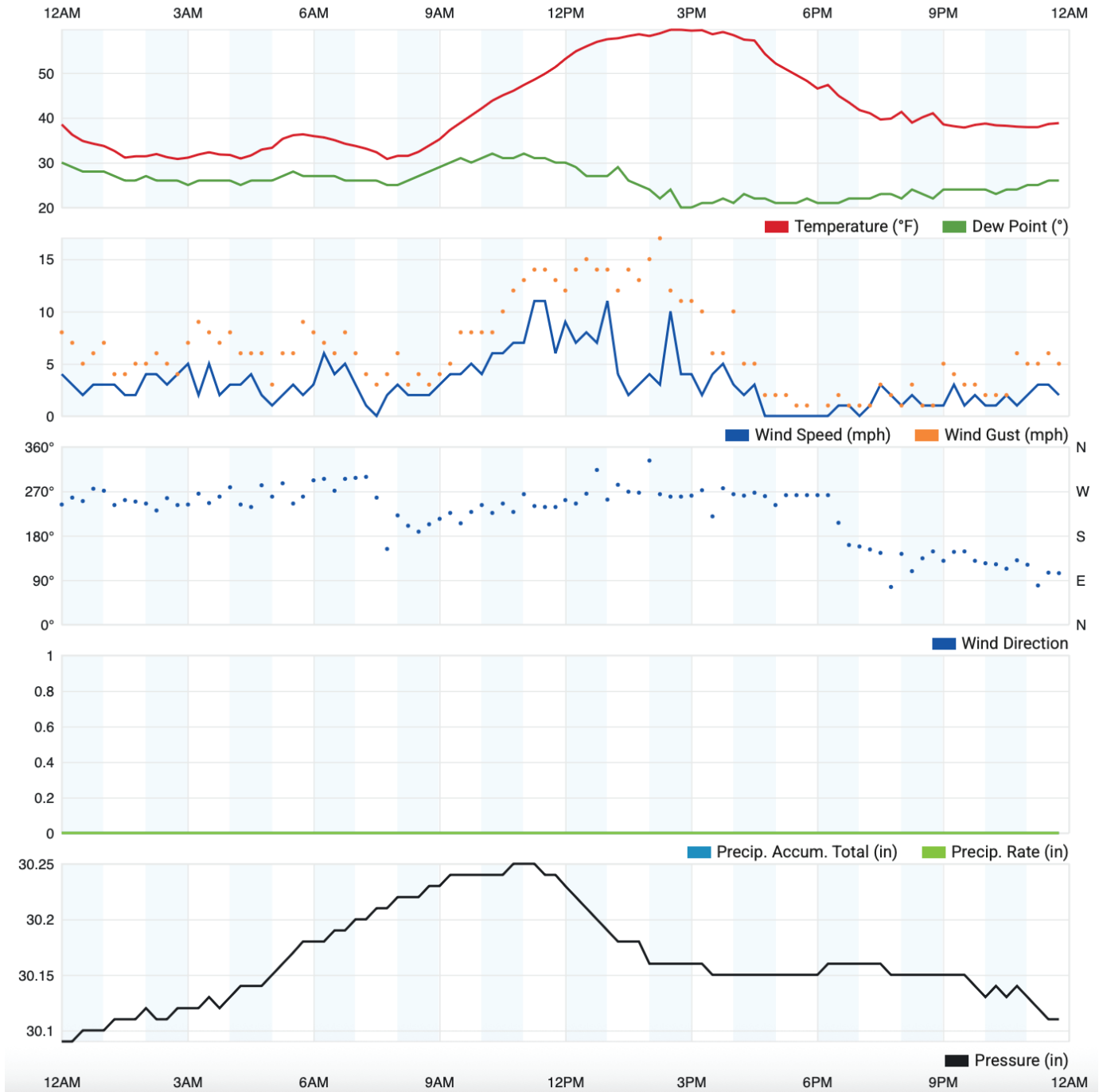
*Amelia Schafer is the Indigenous Affairs reporter for ICT and is based in Rapid City. She is of Wampanoag and Montauk-Brothertown Indian Nation descent.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

November 3, 2025





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Today



High: 58 °F

Partly Sunny

Tonight



Low: 29 °F

Decreasing  
Clouds

Wednesday



High: 52 °F

Increasing  
Clouds

Wednesday  
Night



Low: 38 °F

Mostly Cloudy  
then Mostly  
Cloudy and  
Breezy

Thursday



High: 59 °F

Mostly Cloudy  
and Breezy  
then Partly  
Sunny



## Rest of the Week Forecast

November 4, 2025  
3:15 AM

Temperatures

**Tuesday**



High:

58-65°

Overnight Low:

28-34°

Winds:

S → NW  
10-15 mph

**Wednesday**



High:

49-53°

Overnight Low:

34-40°

Winds:

N → S  
5-10 mph

**Thursday**



High:

55-64°

Overnight Low:

33-40°

Winds:

S → W  
15-25 mph  
Gusts to 30-35 mph

**Friday**



High:

42-52°

Overnight Low:

25-35°

Winds:

NW  
10-15 mph  
Gusts to 25 mph



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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Temperatures to remain above normal through Thursday, with no precipitation expected for the rest of the work week. Thursday and Friday will feature some strong winds, potentially up to 35 miles per hour Thursday morning and afternoon.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 60 °F at 2:52 PM**

**Low Temp: 31 °F at 2:41 AM**

**Wind: 18 mph at 12:02 PM**

**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 78 in 2020

Record Low: -2 in 1991

Average High: 49

Average Low: 25

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.14

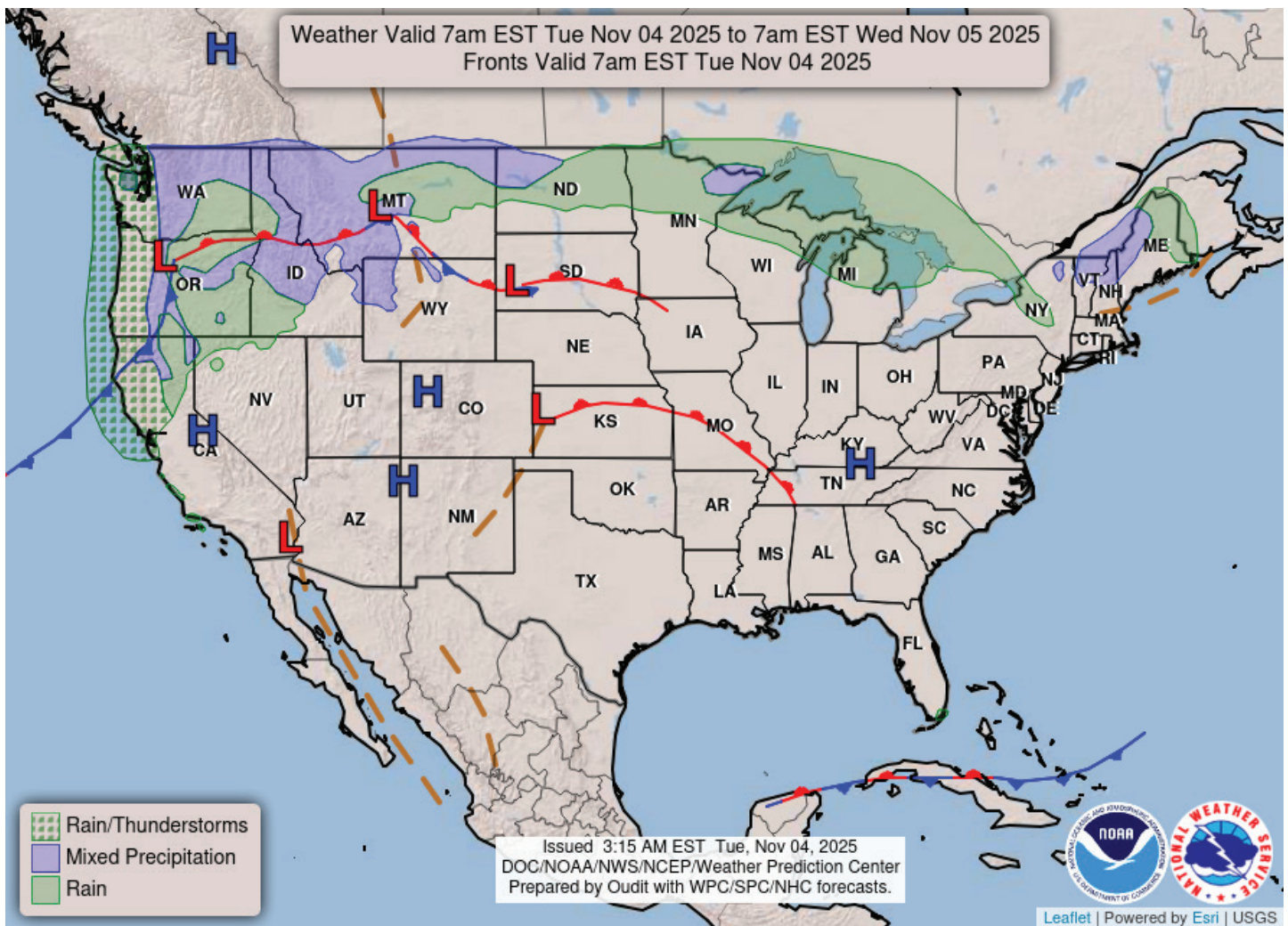
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.61

Precip Year to Date: 23.51

Sunset Tonight: 5:15 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:17 am



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## Today in Weather History

November 4th, 1992: Significant snow blanketed much of the state except the southwest between November 1st and November 4th. The snow and slush caused numerous minor traffic accidents and further delayed the fall harvest in many areas. The highest snowfall amounts included over a foot in north-central and northeast South Dakota, and the northern Black Hills, generally 3 to 7 inches reported elsewhere. Some of the more significant storms total snowfall reports were 25.2 inches at Lead, 15 inches at Eureka, 14 inches near Summit, 13 inches near Victor, 12.6 inches at Roscoe, and 12 inches in Leola and 23 miles north of Highmore.

1927 - A great Vermont flood occurred. Tropical rains deluged the Green Mountain area of Vermont causing the worst flood in the history of the state. Torrential rains, up to 15 inches in the higher elevations, sent streams on a rampage devastating the Winooski Valley. Flooding claimed 200 lives and caused 40 million dollars damage. The town of Vernon reported 84 deaths. Flooding left up to eight to ten feet of water in downtown Montpelier VT. (2nd-4th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1935: Called the Yankee Hurricane, this Category 2 storm affected the Bahamas and South Florida. The storm remains the only tropical cyclone to hit Miami from the Northeast in November.

1959: A rare F0 tornado caused minor damage near Cape St. Elias Light Station on Kayak Island, Alaska.

1985: Heavy rains from the remnants of tropical storm Juan dropped 10 to 19 inches of rain on West Virginia and surrounding states, causing 62 deaths. A maximum rainfall amount of 19.77 inches was recorded near Montebello in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. The flood in West Virginia was considered the worst in the state's history.

1985 - A super wet Gulf storm dumped upwards of fifteen inches of rain in the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia causing devastating damage and claiming forty lives. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thirty-two cities in the eastern and south central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 74 degrees at Portland ME and 86 degrees at Fort Smith AR equalled November records. It was the fourth day of record warmth for Beckley WV, Memphis TN and Paducah KY. A cold front ushered much colder air into the north central U.S. Gale force winds lashed all five Great Lakes. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a fast moving cold front produced severe weather over the Tennessee Valley and the Central Gulf Coast States during the afternoon and evening hours, and into the next morning. Thunderstorms spawned nineteen tornadoes, including eleven in Mississippi. The last of the nineteen tornadoes killed a woman in her mobile home in Lee FL. A tornado in Culbert AL injured sixteen people, and caused two million dollars damage. Thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail in Alabama. Unseasonably hot air prevailed south of the cold front. McAllen TX was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow and high winds plagued parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Winds gusted to 71 mph near Wheatland WY, and reached 80 mph west of Fort Collins CO. Up to five inches of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park WY closing many roads. Snow also blanketed northern Minnesota, with seven inches reported at Baudette. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm D





## The Source of Our Hope

**Because of Jesus, we always have hope for a better tomorrow.**

Colossians 1:21-28: 21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of[a] your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

### Paul's Labor for the Church

24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

Learning something new or navigating an unfamiliar situation can feel overwhelming. How should we begin? How do we know we're doing the right things or heading in the correct direction? Without guidance, it's easy to get lost and lose hope.

In today's passage, the apostle Paul described the "hope of the gospel," of which he was made a minister (v. 23). That hope had once been a "mystery ... hidden from the past ages and generations" but was now "manifested to His saints" (v. 26). These verses teach us that we have a way forward. We're no longer lost, wandering in the dark. Jesus came to us—and became like us—so that we could become like Him.

As children of the heavenly Father, we were birthed into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:3). Because of our Savior, we now experience acceptance rather than condemnation and are destined for eternal life with God in heaven instead of spiritual death. We have His indwelling Spirit to comfort and guide us in tough times, and the wisdom of His Word is there to instruct us.

As Christians, we're eternally secure because of our loving Savior, in whom we are made complete (Colossians 1:28). Jesus Christ is our companion, our friend, and our constant source of hope.

*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: 17 Hrs 28 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.03.25

7 11 19 25 50 10

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$6,200,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 43 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.03.25

1 31 32 34 37 13

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 58 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.01.25

1 2 12 34 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$70,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 58 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.03.25

11 27 55 62 68 2

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 27 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.03.25

3 32 40 43 57 18

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$438,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 27 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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

### Jackson scores 23, South Dakota State beats Merrimack 75-66 to open season

By The Associated Press undefined

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Jaden Jackson had 23 points in South Dakota State's 75-66 win against Merrimack on Monday.

Jackson also contributed five rebounds for the Jackrabbits. Matthew Mors scored 16 points and added nine rebounds and three steals. Damon Wilkinson had 10 points.

The Warriors were led by Tye Dorset, who recorded 19 points. Ernest Shelton added 15 points and three steals for Merrimack. Andres Marrero had 13 points.

### PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Rapid City Central def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-21, 25-10, 22-25, 13-25, 15-7

SDHSAA Playoffs=

Class B=

Quarterfinal=

Region 6=

Highmore-Harrold def. Sully Buttes, 25-10, 25-17, 25-17

Class B=

First Round=

Region 1=

Leola-Frederick High School def. Tiospa Zina, 25-7, 25-16, 25-11

Waverly-South Shore def. Wilmot, 25-12, 25-10, 25-15

Region 2=

Iroquois-Lake Preston def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland, 25-16, 25-18, 25-19

Wessington Springs def. James Valley Christian School, 25-14, 25-8, 25-11

Region 3=

Canistota def. Flandreau Indian, 25-18, 25-22, 25-10

Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Howard, 25-13, 25-11, 25-2

Region 4=

Viborg-Hurley def. Menno, 25-15, 25-16, 25-19

Region 5=

Kimball-White Lake def. Mitchell Christian, 25-7, 25-5, 25-16

Lower Brule def. Colome, 25-13, 25-21, 25-9

Region 6=

Gettysburg def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-3, 25-0, 25-15

Sunshine Bible Academy def. Wakpala, 25-19, 25-10, 25-22

Region 7=

New Underwood def. Oelrichs, 25-11, 25-12, 25-8

Wall def. Crazy Horse, 25-3, 25-11, 25-13

Region 8=

McLaughlin def. Takini, 25-12, 25-12, 25-15

Timber Lake def. Dupree, 25-9, 25-13, 24-26, 23-25, 15-11

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

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## **Meyer scores 19 as Wyoming defeats Northern State 99-75**

By The Associated Press undefined

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — Nasir Meyer's 19 points off the bench helped Wyoming to a 99-75 victory against Northern State on Monday.

Meyer had six rebounds for the Cowboys. Khaden Bennett added 14 points and seven rebounds. Adam Harakow had 12 points and finished 5 of 8 from the field.

Marshawn Smith led the way for the Wolves with 15 points and two steals. James Glenn added 14 points for Northern State. Cameron Mercadel finished with 12 points.

Wyoming took the lead for good with 10:07 left in the first half. The score was 50-40 at halftime, with Harakow racking up 10 points. Wyoming outscored Northern State by 14 points over the final half, while Meyer led the way with a team-high nine second-half points.

## **Quinn scores 20 as Drake beats Northern Arizona 77-71**

By The Associated Press undefined

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Jalen Quinn scored 20 points to help Drake defeat Northern Arizona 77-71 on Monday.

Quinn shot 7 of 14 from the field and went 5 for 7 from the line for the Bulldogs. Jaehshon Thomas went 7 of 12 from the field to add 15 points. Wilguens Jr. Exacte shot 5 for 12 and 3 of 3 from the free-throw line to finish with 14 points.

The Lumberjacks were led by Zack Davidson, who posted 29 points and nine rebounds. Ryan Abelman added 18 points and seven rebounds, and Arne Osojnik had 10 points and five assists.

Thomas scored 11 points in the first half and Drake went into the break trailing 31-28. Quinn scored 17 points in the second half.

## **Jackson scores 24, Murray State defeats Omaha 85-77**

By The Associated Press undefined

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Javon Jackson scored 24 points to help Murray State defeat Omaha 85-77 on Monday in a season opener.

Jackson shot 6 of 13 from the field, including 2 for 6 from 3-point range, and went 10 for 10 from the line for the Racers. Roman Domon scored 14 points, shooting 2 for 8 from the field and 10 of 10 from the free-throw line. Layne Taylor finished with 12 points.

Lance Waddles, Tony Osburn and Khamani Cooper each scored 13 points for Omaha. Waddles added 10 rebounds.

Murray State took the lead with 45 seconds left in the first half and did not trail again. Murray State used a 17-2 run in the second half to build a 17-point lead at 54-37 with 12:20 left.

## **Worker dies after 11 hours trapped within partially collapsed medieval tower in Rome**

By DAVID BILLER and TRISHA THOMAS Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Firefighters late Monday finally managed to extract a worker from beneath rubble inside a medieval tower that partially collapsed during renovation work in the heart of Italy's capital, but the joy of that rescue proved short-lived.

The man didn't withstand the trauma he suffered and died soon after.

"I express deep sorrow and condolences, on behalf of myself and the government," Italy's Premier Giorgia Meloni said in a statement after midnight, confirming his death. "We are close to his family and colleagues at this time of unspeakable suffering."

The Romanian foreign affairs ministry identified the man as Octav Stroici in a statement Tuesday morning, and thanked rescuers for their determination as they worked 11 hours for his extraction. Another



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Romanian was successfully removed and is out of danger, the statement said.

Rescuers had faced a complex task as they tried to use a first-floor window to get near the trapped worker. But they were forced to retreat in a cloud of debris as the structure continued to give way. Another approach on two ladders was also aborted, and a drone sent up in their stead.

As dusk approached, firefighters lifted on a crane used giant tubes to suck rubble out of the second-floor window. They continued the work late into the night.

A trio of rescuers eventually loaded the trapped worker, Stroici, onto a telescopic aerial ladder, before descending and wheeling him on a stretcher into an ambulance.

"The operation lasted a long time because every time a part of the body was freed there was additional rubble that covered it," Lamberto Giannini, prefect of Rome, told reporters.

Rome Mayor Roberto Gualtieri had told reporters earlier that the worker was speaking to rescuers and using an oxygen mask. He added that rescuers were working with extreme caution in "a very delicate extraction operation" to avoid further collapses.

Three workers were rescued unharmed after the initial midday incident, said firefighter spokesperson Luca Cari. Another worker, age 64, was hospitalized in critical condition; RAI reported he was conscious and had suffered a broken nose.

No firefighters were injured in the ensuing operation.

The Torre dei Conti was built in the 13th century by Pope Innocent III as a residence for his family. The tower was damaged in a 1349 earthquake and suffered subsequent collapses in the 17th century.

Hundreds of tourists had gathered to watch as firefighters used a mobile ladder to bring a stretcher to the upper level of the Torre dei Conti during the first rescue attempt. Suddenly, another part of the structure crumbled, sending up a cloud of debris and forcing firefighters to quickly descend.

The first collapse struck the central buttress of the structure's southern side, and caused an underlying sloped base to fall. The second damaged part of the stairwell and roof, cultural heritage officials said in a statement.

Queen Paglinawan, 27, was attending to a client in a gelato parlor next door when the tower first started coming apart.

"I was working and then I heard something falling, and then I saw the tower collapse in a diagonal way," Paglinawan, 27, told The Associated Press as yet more rubble crashed down.

The tower, which has been closed since 2007, is undergoing a 6.9 million euro (nearly \$8 million) restoration, that includes conservations work, the installation of electrical, lighting and water systems and a new museum installation dedicated to the most recent phases of the Roman Imperial Forum, officials said.

Before the latest phase was started in June, structural surveys and load tests were carried out "to verify the stability of the structure, which confirmed the safety conditions necessary" to proceed with work, including asbestos removal, officials said. The current work, carried out at a cost of 400,000 euros (\$460,000), was just about complete.

Italian prosecutors arrived at the scene as the rescue operation was underway, and were investigating possible charges for negligent disaster and negligent injuries, Italian media reported. It is common in Italy for investigations to begin while an event is ongoing and before possible suspects are identified.

German student Viktoria Braeu had just finished a tour at the nearby Colosseum and was passing by the scene during the firefighters' initial rescue attempt.

"And then we were like, 'It's probably not long until it's going to go down,' and then it just started erupting," said Braeu, 18.

Romanian President Nicusor Dan posted a statement to X on Tuesday expressing his "profound sadness" after learning Stroici had died in the hospital, and sent condolences to his loved ones.

## **Philippine air force helicopter carrying 5 crashes while en route to help in typhoon response**

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A Philippine air force helicopter with five personnel on board crashed Monday in the country's south while flying to help respond to the devastation wrought by Typhoon Kalmaegi, which has already left at least five people dead and set off widespread floodings that trapped residents on roofs in some central villages.

The Super Huey chopper crashed near Loreto town in southern Agusan del Sur province and efforts were underway to locate the air force personnel aboard who were deployed to help provide humanitarian assistance to provinces affected by the typhoon, the military's Eastern Mindanao Command said in a statement.

Military officials didn't immediately provide other details about the crash, including the condition of the five air force personnel aboard and what could have caused the crash.

Kalmaegi was last spotted over the coastal waters of Jordan town in the central province of Guimaras with sustained winds of 130 kph (81 mph) and gusts of up to 180 kph (112 mph). It was forecast to blow away into the South China Sea late Tuesday or early Wednesday after hitting the western province of Palawan.

An older villager drowned in floodwaters in Southern Leyte, where a provincewide power outage was also reported, and another person died after being hit by a fallen tree in central Bohol province, officials said.

Three other people died in central Cebu province, where officials reported flooding in several towns and villages.

Gwendolyn Pang, secretary-general of the Philippine Red Cross, said that an unspecified number of residents were trapped on their roofs by floodwaters in the coastal town of Liloan in Cebu, and added that cars either were submerged in floods or floated in another Cebu community.

"We have received so many calls from people asking us to rescue them from roofs and from their houses, but it's impossible," Pang told The Associated Press on Tuesday morning. "There are so many debris, you see cars floating so we have to wait for the flood to subside."

Cebu province was still recovering from a 6.9 magnitude earthquake on Sept. 30 that left at least 79 people dead and displaced thousands when houses collapsed or were severely damaged.

In Eastern Samar, one of the east-central provinces first lashed by Kalmaegi early Tuesday, fierce wind either ripped off roofs or damaged about 300 mostly rural shanties on the island community of Homonhon, which is part of the town of Guiuan, but there were no reported deaths or injuries, Mayor Annaliza Gonzales Kwan said.

"There was no flooding at all, but just strong wind," Kwan told the AP by telephone. "We're OK. We'll make this through. We've been through a lot, and bigger than this."

In November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful tropical cyclones on record, slammed ashore into Guiuan. It then raked across the central Philippines, leaving more than 7,300 people dead or missing, flattening entire villages and sweeping scores of ships inland. Haiyan demolished about a million houses and displaced more than 4 million people in one of the country's poorest regions.

Before the typhoon's landfall, disaster-response officials said that more than 387,000 people had evacuated to safer ground in eastern and central Philippine provinces. Authorities warned of torrential rains, potentially destructive winds and storm surges of up to three meters (nearly 10 feet).

Interisland ferries and fishing boats were prohibited from venturing into increasingly rough seas, stranding more than 3,500 passengers and cargo truck drivers in nearly 100 seaports, the coast guard said. At least 186 domestic flights were canceled.

The Philippines is battered by about 20 typhoons and storms each year. The country also is often hit by earthquakes and has more than a dozen active volcanoes, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

## **Global shares trade lower after AI darlings prop up Wall Street**

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Global shares retreated Tuesday despite the big lift in overseas markets from optimism over artificial intelligence technology, as traders sold shares to lock in recent profits.

France's CAC 40 lost 1.3% in early trading to 8,007.48, while Germany's DAX dipped 1.5% to 23,780.93. Britain's FTSE 100 slid 0.8% to 9,624.57. U.S. shares were set to drift lower with Dow futures down 0.8% at 47,112.00. S&P 500 futures lost nearly 1.0% to 6,816.50.

In Asia, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 dipped 1.7% to finish at 51,497.20 following a national holiday on Monday.

"Japan market continues to pivot from mean reversion to momentum, with AI/semis driving gains through steep valuation rerating," said Shrikant Kale, strategist at Jefferies Hong Kong.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 shed 0.9% to 8,813.70. South Korea's Kospi dipped 2.4% to 4,121.74, reversing after a rally took it to record highs in recent days.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng erased earlier gains to fall 0.8% to 25,952.40, while the Shanghai Composite lost 0.4% to 3,960.19.

Gains for Nvidia, Amazon and other AI superstars have been pronounced lately on Wall Street. But companies across the U.S. stock market will need to hit expectations for growth in profit to justify the big gains for their stock prices since April.

Criticism has been rising that the broad U.S. market, and AI stocks in particular, have become too expensive and could be inflating into a dangerous bubble similar to the 2000 dot-com bust.

For the most part, companies have been meeting the high expectations for profits. Four out of every five companies in the S&P 500 have topped analysts' forecasts so far this reporting season, according to FactSet.

In other dealings early Tuesday, U.S. benchmark crude fell 63 cents to \$60.42 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, declined 67 cents to \$64.22 a barrel.

The U.S. dollar slipped to 153.61 Japanese yen from 154.21 yen. The euro cost \$1.1524, inching down from \$1.1525.

## **Rescuers in Nepal search for climbers' bodies after deadly avalanche**

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Rescuers were digging through ice and snow on a mountain in Nepal on Tuesday to recover the bodies of seven climbers who were killed by an avalanche a day earlier, officials said.

The avalanche pounded the base camp at Mount Yalung Ri, located at 4,900 meters (16,000 feet), on Monday morning. Snowstorms prevented rescuers from reaching the site on the day.

Improving weather allowed a helicopter to reach the base camp Tuesday and rescuers were able to begin shifting through the snow and ice.

Dolkha district Police Chief Gyan Kumar Mahato said four climbers who were injured in the avalanche were rescued by the helicopter and flown to the capital, Kathmandu, for treatment.

Two French nationals were getting treated at the Era Hospital in Kathmandu for their injuries.

Isabelle Solange Thaon, 54, said she lost her husband, identified as Christian Manfred, in the avalanche but was lucky to have survived with another French climber, Didier Armand.

"We were lucky because we were on the left," Thaon said from her hospital bed. "And we leap (over the) rocks and we swim along and after we were in the snow and after someone came immediately (to help)."

Unfortunately, Christian died. ... It was not possible because of rocks hit his head," she said, adding she was lucky because she was not covered by the snow piled by the avalanche.

"The other people were under the snow, they said they think it was six meters (20 feet) under snow so it was completely dead in front. It was not possible to help them."

Also among those killed were two Nepali mountain guides, but the identity of the remaining four was still unclear.

At least three bodies were pulled out of the snow by Tuesday afternoon, the police official said. It was not clear when they would be brought out of the mountains.

Mount Yalung Ri is a 5,600-meter (18,370-foot) peak considered suitable for novice mountaineers.

## **Victor Conte, who sold undetectable steroids to elite athletes in baseball and track, has died at 75**

By AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

Victor Conte, the architect of a scheme to provide undetectable performance-enhancing drugs to professional athletes including baseball stars Barry Bonds and Jason Giambi and Olympic track champion Marion Jones decades ago, has died. He was 75.

Conte died Monday, SNAC System, a sports nutrition company he founded, said in a social media post. It did not disclose his cause of death.

The federal government's investigation into another company Conte founded, the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, yielded convictions of Jones, elite sprint cyclist Tammy Thomas, and former NFL defensive lineman Dana Stubblefield along with coaches, distributors, a trainer, a chemist and a lawyer.

Conte, who served four months in federal prison for dealing steroids, talked openly about his famous former clients. He went on television to say he had seen three-time Olympic medalist Jones inject herself with human growth hormone, but always stopped short of implicating Bonds, the San Francisco Giants slugger.

The investigation led to the book "Game of Shadows." A week after the book was published in 2006, baseball Commissioner Bud Selig hired former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell to investigate steroids.

The Steroids Era

Conte said he sold steroids known as "the cream" and "the clear" and advised on their use to dozens of elite athletes, including Giambi, a five-time major league All-Star, the Mitchell report said.

"The illegal use of performance-enhancing substances poses a serious threat to the integrity of the game," the Mitchell report said. "Widespread use by players of such substances unfairly disadvantages the honest athletes who refuse to use them and raises questions about the validity of baseball records."

Mitchell said the problems didn't develop overnight. Mitchell said everyone involved in baseball in the prior two decades — including commissioners, club officials, the players' association and players — shared some responsibility for what he called "the Steroids Era."

The federal investigation into BALCO began with a tax agent digging through the company's trash.

Conte wound up pleading guilty to two of the 42 charges against him in 2005 before trial. Six of the 11 convicted people were ensnared for lying to grand jurors, federal investigators or the court.

Bonds' personal trainer Greg Anderson, pleaded guilty to steroid distribution charges stemming from his BALCO connections. Anderson was sentenced to three months in prison and three months of home confinement.

Bonds was charged with lying to a grand jury about receiving performance-enhancing drugs and went on trial in 2011. Prosecutors dropped the case four years later when the government decided not to appeal an overturned obstruction of justice conviction to the Supreme Court.

A seven-time National League MVP and 14-time All-Star outfielder, Bonds ended his career after the 2007 season with 762 homers, surpassing the record of 755 that Hank Aaron set from 1954-76. Bonds denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs but has never been elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Bonds didn't respond to an email seeking comment.

Conte told The Associated Press in a 2010 interview that "yes, athletes cheat to win, but the government agents and prosecutors cheat to win, too." He also questioned whether the results in such legal cases justified the effort.

Conte's attorney, Robert Holley, didn't respond to an email and phone call seeking comment. SNAC



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System didn't respond to a message sent through the company's website.

Defiant about his role

After serving his sentence in a minimum security prison he described as "like a men's retreat," Conte got back in business in 2007 by resuscitating a nutritional supplements business he had launched two decades earlier called Scientific Nutrition for Advanced Conditioning or SNAC System. He located it in the same building that once housed BALCO in Burlingame, California.

Conte remained defiant about his central role in doling out designer steroids to elite athletes. He maintained he simply helped "level the playing field" in a world already rife with cheaters.

To Dr. Gary Wadler, a then-member of the World Anti-Doping Agency, Conte may as well have been pushing cocaine or heroin.

"You are talking about totally illegal drug trafficking. You are talking about using drugs in violation of federal law," Wadler said in 2007. "This is not philanthropy and this is not some do-gooding. This is drug dealing."

The hallway at SNAC System was lined with game jerseys of pro athletes, and signed photographs, including athletics stars Tim Montgomery, Kelli White and CJ Hunter, all punished for doping.

Conte wore a Rolex and parked a Bentley and a Mercedes in front of his building. He told the AP in 2007 he wouldn't drive over the speed limit.

"I'm a person who doesn't break laws anymore," he said. "But I still do like to look fast."

Years later, he met with the then-chairman of the World Anti-Doping Agency, Dick Pound.

"As someone who was able to evade their system for so long, it was easy for me to point out the many loopholes that exist and recommend specific steps to improve the overall effectiveness of their program," Conte said in a statement after the meeting.

He said that some of the poor decisions he made in the past made him uniquely qualified to contribute to the anti-doping effort.

SNAC System's social media post announcing Conte's death called him an "Anti-Doping Advocate."

## **Israel hands over bodies of 45 Palestinians after Hamas returns the remains of 3 soldiers**

By WAFAA SHURAFU and JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel handed over the bodies of 45 Palestinians on Monday, the Red Cross said, a day after militants returned the remains of three hostages. Israeli officials identified the three as soldiers who were killed in the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023 that triggered the war in Gaza.

The exchange marked another step forward for the tenuous, U.S.-brokered ceasefire intended to end the deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and Hamas.

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

For each Israeli hostage returned, Israel has been releasing the remains of 15 Palestinians. With Monday's return, the bodies of 270 Palestinians have been handed back since the start of the ceasefire.

Slow identification process in Gaza

The Red Cross said it had facilitated the transfer of 45 Palestinian bodies to Gaza on Monday morning. Zaher al-Wahidi, a spokesperson at the Gaza Health Ministry, told The Associated Press that Nasser Hospital received the bodies around noon.

Only 78 of the bodies returned so far have been identified, the ministry said. Forensic work is complicated by a lack of DNA testing kits in Gaza, it added. The ministry posts photos of the remains online, in the hope that families will recognize them.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office identified the three hostages, whose bodies were returned to Israel on Sunday night, 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.

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Neutra was 21 when Hamas militants abducted his tank crew during the 2023 attack. In December 2024, the military announced Neutra had been killed in the attack.

Daniel, 19, was part of the tank crew and was taken into Gaza. Nimrod Cohen, who was also in the tank, was released alive earlier, as was the body of one of the other crew members.

"Our hearts are shattered, yet at last we can begin the process of bringing Omer to his final resting place in the land he loved and defended," Neutra's mother, Orna, told reporters Monday in Tel Aviv.

She and husband Ronen thanked Israeli troops, U.S. President Donald Trump and U.S. negotiators, who played a leading role in brokering the ceasefire. But they did not thank Netanyahu, who many families of hostages blame for prolonging the conflict and endangering captives.

"The IDF soldiers and the U.S. administration fought for his life," Ronen Neutra said.

Hamami, commander of Israel's southern brigade in the Gaza division, was killed during the 2023 attack while fighting to defend Kibbutz Nirim and his body was taken into the Palestinian territory.

Militants have released one to three bodies every few days. Israel has pushed to speed up the returns and in certain cases has said the remains were not those of hostages. Hamas has said the work is complicated by widespread devastation.

**Arrests of 2 ex-military figures rock Israel**

A political scandal continued to rock Israel involving the military's former legal chief, Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, who admitted to leaking a video of Israeli soldiers sexually assaulting a Palestinian detainee and resigned from office.

Far-right politician Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israel's national security minister, said Tomer-Yerushalmi was arrested Sunday night. At a court hearing Monday, the judge extended her detention until Wednesday, according to a copy of the decision. It said she is being held on suspicion of offenses including fraud, breach of trust and obstruction of justice. The investigation continues while she is held in a women's prison in central Israel.

Police conducted a frantic search for Tomer-Yerushalmi on Sunday after her family raised concerns about her safety and police found her abandoned car near the beach in Tel Aviv, Israel's Channel 12 reported. Police said she was found soon after the search began.

Israeli media reported that former chief military prosecutor Col. Matan Solomesh was also arrested overnight and his detention was also extended.

The Palestinian detainee who was the subject of sexual abuse in the video leaked by Tomer-Yerushalmi last year was released and returned to Gaza on Oct. 13, according to documentation from the military prosecutor's office obtained by the AP.

**2 Palestinians killed in the West Bank**

Two Palestinians, one of them a teenager, were killed by Israeli gunfire Sunday night in separate incidents in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry in Ramallah.

Jamil Hanani, 17, was killed in the town of Beit Furik, the ministry said Monday. Israel's military said soldiers opened fire at Palestinians hurling rocks, hitting one person. Hanani's death extends a surge in military killings of Palestinian youth in the West Bank during an upswing in violence since the start of the war.

Also Sunday, Ahmed Al-Atrash, 32, was fatally shot by an Israeli settler at an entrance to the city of Hebron, the ministry said. Israel's military referred the AP to the police, who did not immediately comment. Hundreds of hard-line settlers live in fortified enclaves under military protection in the city of more than 200,000 Palestinians.

**Efforts to ramp up Gaza aid and a vaccination campaign**

U.K. Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper will be in Jordan on Monday, with plans 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

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support for Gaza, provided by the U.N. Population Fund.

Also Monday, Gaza's Health Ministry announced that a campaign to vaccinate some 40,000 Palestinian children under 3 years old against preventable diseases like measles, polio and meningitis will kick off next week. It will focus on children who missed routine vaccinations or received only partial doses due to the war, Dr. Nedal Ghoneim, the Health Ministry's public health manager, told the AP.

The Hamas-led attack on southern Israel two years ago killed about 1,200 people and saw 251 taken 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.

## **Trump's strength, Democrats' message and the shutdown effect. What to watch on Election Day 2025**

By STEVE PEOPLES and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tuesday marks the nation's first major Election Day since President Donald Trump returned to the White House, and his leadership and policies dominated the debate in almost every race — even though the Republican was absent from the campaign trail.

The biggest contests are in Virginia and New Jersey, the only states electing governors this year. Trump lost both last fall, but voters in each have a history of electing Republicans for statewide office. The GOP candidates have closely aligned themselves with the president, betting that his big win last year can still provide a path to victory this time, even if the party occupying the White House typically suffers in off-year elections.

Strong Democratic showings, meanwhile, could provide the party a pathway back to national relevance — even if its top candidates have taken very different approaches, from adhering to a moderate line to wholeheartedly embracing government spending to improve voters' lives.

In New York City, a self-described democratic socialist who already has been a target of Trump's criticism could emerge as a national star if elected mayor. And California voters will decide whether to redraw the state's House map, as Democrats look to counter a push by Trump to reshape the balance of congressional power.

Here's what to watch:

A referendum on Trump

The president did not set foot in either Virginia or New Jersey to campaign with Republican gubernatorial candidates Winsome Earle-Sears or Jack Ciattarelli, but both contests will likely be viewed as a referendum on Trump's job so far.

Over the last year, his tariffs rocked the global economy, his "big, beautiful" budget bill threatened rural hospitals and health insurance coverage for millions, he enacted massive cuts to the federal workforce and he sent the National Guard to multiple American cities.

The president endorsed Ciattarelli in New Jersey's governor's race, but held only a pair of tele-town halls on his behalf, including one Monday night. Trump also did an Election Night eve tele-town hall for Virginia Republican candidates, but he did not mention Earle-Sears, speaking mostly in favor of the GOP candidate for attorney general. Earlier in the campaign, Trump gave Earle-Sears only a half-hearted endorsement, saying he supported the GOP candidate for governor though he did not use her name. Earle-Sears was nonetheless a fierce defender of Trump and his policies, just as Ciattarelli was in New Jersey.

Despite Trump's distance, a good night for Republicans would almost certainly be viewed as a political victory for Trump and his "Make America Great Again" policies. A bad night for the GOP would give Democrats a strong — though perhaps fleeting — start heading into midterms that are still a year away.

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A new Democratic playbook?

Tuesday offers a test of two very different Democratic philosophies on display from candidates: toeing a moderate line or fully embracing far-left progressivism. But it also presents a scenario where both, or neither, could be successful — making drawing conclusions going forward more difficult.

The party's candidates for governor, New Jersey Rep. Mikie Sherrill and former Rep. Abigail Spanberger of Virginia, have focused largely on the economy, public safety and health care, distancing themselves from some of the Democratic Party's far-left policies.

A growing collection of Democratic leaders believe the moderate approach holds the key to the party's revival after the GOP won the White House and both congressional chambers last year. Tuesday could be a key indicator of whether they're right.

Both Sherrill and Spanberger have downplayed their support for progressive priorities, including LGBTQ rights and resistance against Trump's attack on American institutions. Spanberger rarely even mentions Trump's name on the campaign trail.

Both also have resumes that might appeal to the middle.

Sherrill spent a decade as an active-duty helicopter pilot for the Navy before entering Congress, while Spanberger is a former CIA case officer who spent years abroad working undercover. They have played up their public safety backgrounds as a direct response to the GOP's attack that Democrats are soft on crime.

Above all, the Democrats have focused on rising costs such as groceries, energy and health care, which Trump has struggled to control.

A new star for Democrats (and Republicans) in New York City

That approach is far different from New York City's mayoral race, where progressives are energized by Zohran Mamdani, a 34-year-old Muslim state legislator who identifies as a democratic socialist and backs radical changes to address economic inequality.

His bold agenda and inspirational approach have attracted thousands of volunteers in New York and brought the likes of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to campaign on his behalf. It has also spooked some business leaders and voices in the Jewish community, who otherwise support Democrats but oppose some of Mamdani's past statements about personal wealth accumulation and Israel.

Mamdani has been locked in a caustic race against former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who is running as an independent after losing the Democratic primary to Mamdani. Republican Curtis Sliwa is looking for a huge upset.

And while many progressives are thrilled, some Republicans in Washington are also quietly rooting for a Mamdani victory. Republican campaign committees have already launched attack ads against more than a dozen vulnerable House Democrats in New York and New Jersey linking them to Mamdani and his far-left politics.

Trump endorsed Cuomo, posting online Monday evening: "Whether you personally like Andrew Cuomo or not, you really have no choice. You must vote for him, and hope he does a fantastic job. He is capable of it, Mamdani is not!"

That's after Trump derided Mamdani nearly every day. GOP operatives are also giddy about the opportunity to use him to attack many more Democrats closer to next year's midterm elections — just as they have done with progressive Democrats such as House "squad" members like Ocasio-Cortez and Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar.

The shutdown effect

Election Day comes in the midst of a federal government shutdown that has already spanned more than a month. Both parties in Congress blame each other, and there is no end in sight.

Will it matter?

Virginia is home to more than 134,000 federal workers, many of whom have been furloughed or are being forced to work without pay. New Jersey has nearly 21,000 federal employees, according to the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service, out of a total of more than 2 million such government employees nationwide.

Either number is more than enough to swing a close election.



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At the same time, millions of people may be losing critical food assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, offering voters another urgent reason to express their displeasure.

Polling shows that Republicans, who control Congress and the White House, are getting slightly more blame than Democrats — though there is plenty of frustration aimed at both sides.

Trump has taken the extraordinary step of calling on the Senate to scrap filibuster rules requiring a 60-vote minimum on major legislation to try and force the government to reopen — even though his party's leadership considers that a nonstarter.

A test for the Trump realignment

While Trump lost Virginia and New Jersey last fall, there were significant shifts to the right in both states. In New Jersey, Trump's 16-point loss in 2020 shrunk to less than 6 points in 2024.

Those shifts were fueled by Trump's increasing popularity among traditional Democratic loyalists: labor union members, Black men, Hispanic voters and younger people. Democrats are particularly vulnerable in New Jersey, which has among the largest percentage of labor union households in the nation.

If those pro-Trump trends continue this week, Democrats could be in trouble.

But Trump is not on the ballot, of course. And the Trump coalition — especially lower-propensity voters — has not typically shown up in the same numbers in non-presidential years.

Democrats are cautiously optimistic given that Trump did not campaign aggressively in either state, a move driven both by the president's weak standing and his allies' concerns about the Republican candidates' viability — especially in Virginia.

At the same time, the biggest star in Democratic politics, former President Barack Obama, rallied voters in New Jersey and Virginia over the weekend.

Pennsylvania and California and the future of elections

Pennsylvania voters will decide whether three state Supreme Court justices supported by Democrats will serve another term.

The outcome may shape the seven-member high court in the nation's most populous swing state, and may have implications for key cases involving redistricting and balloting for midterm elections and the 2028 presidential race.

The incumbents aren't listed by party affiliation. The ballot merely asks voters to cast a yes-or-no vote. But spending on the race is likely to exceed \$15 million, indicating how important it is to Democrats and Republicans in Pennsylvania and beyond.

In California, Gov. Gavin Newsom, frequently mentioned as a 2028 presidential hopeful, is leading a charge to redraw congressional maps to give Democrats as many as five more House seats in upcoming elections.

The push is the centerpiece of a Democratic effort to counter new Republican maps in Texas and elsewhere that were drawn to boost the GOP's chances in next year's fight to control Congress. In order for the new maps to count in 2026, however, voters will first have to approve a yes-or-no ballot question known as Proposition 50.

## **Mamdani and Cuomo face off as New York City chooses new mayor, while Sliwa hopes for an upset**

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City's voters are deciding the outcome of a generational and ideological divide that will resonate across the country Tuesday as they choose the next mayor to run the nation's largest city.

Zohran Mamdani, who won the Democratic primary earlier this year, faces former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who is running as an independent, and perennial Republican candidate Curtis Sliwa, who is trying to land a massive upset.

A victory for Mamdani would give the city its first Muslim mayor and its youngest leader in generations, while elevating the democratic socialist to political stardom and giving his brand of economic populism

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one of the most visible political perches in America.

If Cuomo comes out on top, he will have staged a remarkable political comeback four years after resigning as governor over a barrage of sexual harassment allegations.

For Sliwa — the creator of the Guardian Angels crime patrol group and a longtime New York tabloid fixture — a win would put a Republican in charge of the nation's largest city at a time when many New Yorkers are seeking a leader who can keep President Donald Trump at bay.

The race has made Mamdani a national figure as he has drawn the ire of Trump and other Republicans, who have tried to cast him as the face of a new, more radical Democratic Party. Trump has also threatened to take over the city if Mamdani wins, as well as arrest and deport the state assemblymember, who was born in Uganda but is a U.S. citizen.

Trump reluctantly endorsed Cuomo on the eve of the election, saying Mamdani would bring "disaster" to the city and encouraging Sliwa backers to vote for the former governor instead.

A rematch with key differences

Mamdani, a 34-year-old state lawmaker, already defeated Cuomo once in the Democratic primary, energizing progressives to score a surprise victory over the once-powerful former governor with a campaign that focused on lowering the cost of living in one of the country's most expensive cities.

This time, Cuomo is counting on support from moderates and Republicans to win. And he's hoping incumbent Mayor Eric Adams' late exit from the race and eventual endorsement will give him a boost among their overlapping bases of centrists, Black voters and ultra-Orthodox Jews. He's also received the endorsement of former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a billionaire who donated \$1.5 million to a super PAC supporting Cuomo in the final days of the contest.

Mamdani has generated national buzz and won endorsements from big-name progressives, including U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders and U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. He has promised to raise taxes on the richest New Yorkers and use the money to make city buses free and provide free, universal child care. He has also promised to freeze rent for people living in about 1 million rent-regulated apartments.

At the same time, Mamdani's past criticism of the city's police department and the Israeli government's military actions in Gaza — which he has called genocidal — have unnerved some centrists who see him as a potential setback in their effort to broaden the party's national appeal. Some Jewish leaders have also seized on his refusal to support Israel as a Jewish state, calling him a danger to Jews.

While Mamdani has distanced himself from some of his past rhetoric, some top New York Democrats remain concerned and have either been slow to endorse him or outright refused to.

Tuesday's general election is being conducted as a traditional one, meaning the candidate who gets the most votes wins. The city's party primaries were determined using ranked-choice voting, which allowed voters to rank candidates in order of preference.

Sliwa's path to victory is narrow in the overwhelmingly Democratic city, resting on his ability to secure the GOP vote with his tough-on-crime message and Noo Yawk attitude, while picking up moderates who don't want to elevate Mamdani or return Cuomo to power.

Sliwa, 71, has ignored pressure from within his own party to suspend his campaign and create a one-on-one race between Cuomo and Mamdani. Trump himself dismissed Sliwa as "not exactly prime time." In the race's final weeks, Cuomo appealed to Sliwa's supporters, arguing that a vote for the Republican was a vote for Mamdani.

Cuomo runs on his record, but is dogged by his past

Trump and other Republicans have eagerly painted a dire picture of New York under Mamdani's potential leadership.

Cuomo, 67, has carried a similar message. Running on an independent party line, he has positioned himself as a seasoned executive capable of managing the city's vast bureaucracy, drawing a contrast with Mamdani's relative inexperience.

Cuomo's experience as governor is perhaps also his biggest vulnerability.

He resigned in 2021 following a report from the attorney general that concluded that Cuomo had sexually harassed at least 11 women. Some of the women complained about unwanted touches, flirting, kisses

and suggestive comments. One aide filed a police report accusing him of groping her breast, though a district attorney declined to prosecute.

Cuomo initially apologized for some of his behavior, saying he had fallen out of step with what is considered appropriate workplace conduct. However, in recent months, he has been defiant — calling his accusers liars and blaming his downfall on political adversaries.

## **North Korea's longtime ceremonial head of state Kim Yong Nam has died**

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Kim Yong Nam, a longtime North Korean ceremonial head of state best known for his trademark propaganda-filled speeches with a deep, booming voice in support of the ruling Kim dynasty, has died, state media reported Tuesday.

The Korean Central News Agency said that Kim Yong Nam, former president of the Presidium of North Korea's rubber-stamp Supreme People's Assembly from 1998 to 2019, died Monday of multiple organ failure at the age of 97.

KCNA said that leader Kim Jong Un visited the bier of Kim Yong Nam early Tuesday to express deep condolences over his death. Kim Yong Nam is not related to Kim Jong Un, the third generation of his family to rule North Korea since its foundation in 1948.

"Comrade Kim Yong Nam faithfully upheld the party's ideology and leadership and displayed his distinctive competence and experience on the international stage, making notable contributions in the history of our country's politics and diplomacy," KCNA said.

KCNA said North Korea will hold a state funeral for him on Thursday. It released a list of 100 funeral committee members with Kim Jong Un's name at the top.

Ceremonial head of state for 2 decades

Born in 1928 into "a patriotic family" resisting then Japanese colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, Kim Yong Nam held a string of top posts since he joined the ruling Workers' Party in the mid-1950s, according to KCNA. His tenure as head of North Korea's parliament made him the country's nominal head of state and allowed him to appear frequently in state media greeting visiting foreign dignitaries.

But the true power was held by the Kim family, which maintains absolute control of North Korea's 26 million people. Kim Jong Un, grandson of state founder Kim Il Sung, took power upon his father Kim Jong Il's death in 2011 in the country's second hereditary power transfer.

In February 2018, Kim Yong Nam traveled to South Korea with Kim Jong Un's influential sister, Kim Yo Jong, to attend the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics as North Korea sought better ties with South Korea and the U.S. after years of heightened animosities on the Korean Peninsula. At the opening ceremony, Kim Yong Nam and Kim Yo Jong sat within feet of then-U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, though the two sides made no apparent contact.

That Pyeongchang trip made Kim Yong Nam the highest-level North Korean official to visit South Korea since 2014. North Korea's temporary diplomatic openness peaked when Kim Jong Un met U.S. President Donald Trump three times from 2018-19, before the high-stakes summitry collapsed due to wrangling over U.S.-led sanctions on North Korea. Trump recently expressed his desire to meet Kim Jong Un again during his trip to South Korea last week, but North Korea didn't respond.

South Korean Unification Minister Chung Dong-young, a supporter of greater reconciliation with North Korea, expressed his condolences over Kim Yong Nam's death.

"He contributed to opening South-North Korea dialogue by coming to South Korea as head of a North Korean delegation to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in 2018," Chung said in a statement. "I also recall I had meaningful talks with him about peace on the Korean Peninsula and development of South-North Korea relations" during meetings in 2005 and 2018, both in Pyongyang.

Kim Yong Nam's influence was seen as waning due to his age. In April 2019, he was replaced by Choe

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Ryong Hae, one of Kim Jong Un's close confidants who had previously served as the top political officer of North Korea's 1.2 million-member military.

Quintessential bureaucrat

Kim Yong Nam's career epitomized that of a successful North Korean bureaucrat. He survived major political purges through the 1970s. He was appointed to the powerful Politburo in 1978 and served 15 years as foreign minister, starting in 1983. He was left intact even when Kim Jong Un orchestrated a series of purges and executions, including the spectacular 2013 killing of his powerful uncle, in the early years of his rule in an apparent bid to remove his potential rivals from the old guard.

North Korea watchers also say Kim Yong Nam had an expertise in third-world diplomacy. He was a frequent participant in gatherings of nations that consider themselves independent from major power blocs, including the 2012 Non-Aligned Movement summit in Iran.

People who met Kim Yong Nam described him as mild-mannered but staunch in his opinions.

"I found Kim Yong Nam a puzzling figure. In greetings before business began, he was cordial and relaxed, but once at work, he relentlessly followed his script in a way that reminded of former Soviet foreign minister Andrei Gromyko," former Washington Post reporter Don Oberdofer wrote in his book, "The Two Koreas."

In a testament to his loyalty to the ruling dynasty, Kim Yong Nam read an elegy to Kim Il Sung when he died in 1994. Kim Yong Nam also undertook the job of formally nominating Kim Jong Il to be chairman of the National Defense Commission after the son observed a three-year mourning period.

A native of Pyongyang, Kim Yong Nam studied at Kim Il Sung University and Moscow State University.

## **G2 or not G2: Trump's new favorite term for US-China relations carries a lot of history's baggage**

By DIDI TANG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In diplomacy, even short words matter. And with a brief Truth Social post, President Donald Trump may have revealed his approach to the U.S.-China relationship — to the delight of reputation-conscious Beijing but to the worries of U.S. allies concerned with China's ascending global power.

"The G2 WILL BE CONVENING SHORTLY!" Trump wrote moments before he headed into a widely watched summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Oct. 30 in South Korea, reviving a phrase that dates to the early 2000s but had been rejected by Washington for at least the past decade — including during Trump's first term.

G2, or Group of Two, was first proposed by American economist C. Fred Bergsten in 2005 to urge what he considered the necessity for the two major economies to talk to each other. It has come to imply a power equilibrium between the two nations — something that Beijing has long coveted as it ascended from regional powerhouse to pivotal global player.

But that equilibrium, and how China might approach it, stirs fears among U.S. allies and partners.

"The G2 concept implies that China and the United States are peers on the global stage and their positions should be given equal weight," said Neil Thomas, a fellow on Chinese politics at the Asia Society Policy Institute.

Trump's use of the once-discarded term has come at a time when observers and analysts, including those advising Beijing, are deciphering his administration's China policy, which has yet to crystallize in the face of a more assertive Chinese government.

It's spreading

To understand the term's significance beyond diplomatic circles, it's important to look into China's past.

From the beginning of the 20th century, even before its communist government took power, China objected to Western attempts to "contain" it. After World War II, the "containment policy" became a common way of describing a strategy the Chinese government felt was an institutionalized way of keeping it disempowered and in its place.

Much of Chinese diplomacy during the early 2000s was keyed to upending this pillar of the world order.



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Even today, China's vaunted "Belt and Road" initiative is designed to spread Chinese influence and, in part, combat what used to be called containment.

In a weekend post, Trump called his "G2 meeting with President Xi of China" a great one for both countries, and wrote: "This meeting will lead to everlasting peace and success. God bless both China and the USA!" Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth repeated the term in an X post after he spoke with Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun.

Mira Rapp-Hooper, a former Biden administration official, warned that Trump's use of the term will likely have "provoked significant anxiety in allied capitals, where allies fear that the Trump administration will cut deals with China that may leave them at a disadvantage."

The term's new rise has pleased Bergsten, who said he never meant for the G2 to supplant other multi-lateral groupings or international organizations — such as the G7 or G20 — but to work out "the necessary cooperation between the two big superpowers."

"It does not mean the U.S. and China telling the rest of the world what to do, or trying to dictate to the rest of the world," he said.

"I think (Trump) was using it as shorthand for the two biggest, most important economies getting together to talk about the whole range of global economic issues," Bergsten told The Associated Press on Friday. "So it really, it is the vision that I had 20 years ago when I proposed the concept."

China reacts to the new G2

Chinese commentators immediately picked up on Trump's use of G2 — and somewhat triumphally.

"Trump's G2, to some extent, is that the U.S. has accepted the reality that it no longer has the unipolar position but wants to build a bipolar world with China," commented Housha Yueguang, a popular blog account known for its nationalist leanings. "It means Europe is no longer important, let alone Japan or India."

The day after Trump posted the remark, a journalist for an Indian news service asked at a Chinese Foreign Ministry daily briefing whether the two countries were working for the creation of a G2 group, which the journalist said could change the world order.

Guo Jiakun, a ministry spokesperson, said the two countries "can jointly shoulder our responsibilities as major countries." Guo adhered to Beijing's line that the country would "continue to practice true multilateralism" and "work for an equal and orderly multipolar world."

Zhao Minghao, a Chinese scholar on China-U.S. relations, said the new G2 "does not mean China and the U.S. co-ruling the world," nor does it mean that cooperation will replace competition in bilateral relations.

"It means the two countries will again examine the importance of the China-U.S. relations and be willing to conduct more communications and coordination," Zhao wrote in an article published on the Hong Kong news site hk01.com.

Washington has rejected the term in the past

Bergsten said he proposed the concept 20 years ago when China was rising rapidly as an economic power and believed it was essential for the two countries — which he predicted would soon be the only two economic superpowers — to get together to "get any kind of progress on international economic issues."

The term was discussed and pursued for a few years but faded when China and the United States diverged after the financial crisis.

Rapp-Hooper, who served as senior director for East Asia and Oceania at the National Security Council in the Biden administration, is now a partner at The Asia Group. She said the term was popularized in the early years of the Obama administration. It came, she said, from some senior officials who thought the two countries should define their relationship through cooperation to address global problems.

While China embraced the term, Washington came to discredit it because it implied that the United States and China would make major global decisions without other U.S. partners present, particularly its allies, she said.

"It is a term that plays very poorly in countries like Japan, Australia and India," Rapp-Hooper said. "They hear the United States deferring to Chinese preferences in Asia, potentially at a cost to their interest."

Kurt Campbell, deputy secretary of state in the Biden administration, said there were "real anxieties in Asia about the way the actual G2 was manifested."

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It wasn't just the notion that the countries were making decisions that would affect the region, said Campbell, now chairman of The Asia Group. "It was how China used the concept or the idea of it to make other surrounding nations feel insecure."

It is a concept, he said, that "has been powerfully delegitimized."

## **NYC mayoral candidates make final push ahead of Election Day**

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

From Coney Island to the Bronx, the candidates in New York City's mayoral race spent Monday crisscrossing the five boroughs in a final, frenzied day of campaigning on the eve of Election Day.

As candidates made final pitch to voters, President Donald Trump urged New Yorkers to cast their ballot for former Gov. Andrew Cuomo over Republican candidate Curtis Sliwa in an effort to defeat Democratic nominee Zohran Mamdani. The president posted that voters "really have no choice."

The campaign hurtled toward its end after more than 735,000 votes were cast during the city's nine days of early, in-person voting — more than four times the number of ballots cast during the only other mayor's race to allow early voting, in 2021.

The tally was well short of the nearly 1.1 million early, in-person votes cast during last year's presidential election, but some voting locations saw large crowds Sunday, the last day of early voting. The line at one polling place in downtown Brooklyn snaked around the building and, at one point, took an hour to cast a ballot.

A frenzied last stretch

Cuomo's schedule was packed Monday, with stops in each of the boroughs for a get-out-the-vote effort. He wasted little time in attacking Mamdani. At one early stop, the former governor likened a potential Mamdani administration to left-wing governments in Latin America.

"Socialism didn't work in Venezuela. Socialism didn't work in Cuba. Socialism is not going to work in New York City," he said.

Cuomo, 67, is trying to make his return to political office after resigning as governor four years ago following a barrage of sexual harassment accusations that he denies. A Democrat running as an independent, he's shifted to wooing Republican voters to bolster his centrist base, pitching himself as the only candidate who can stop Mamdani.

Mamdani kicked off the day by crossing the Brooklyn Bridge at sunrise. By the time the sun went down, he was giving a pep talk to canvassers in Queens.

"With close to just 24 hours until the polls close, let us leave everything out there on the field, my friends," Mamdani told cheering supporters. "Let us do it together. Let us work so hard this evening and tomorrow that we never have to ask ourselves the question: 'What if?'"

Mamdani, a state assemblymember who would be the city's first Muslim mayor, beat Cuomo in the primary with an energetic campaign focused on making the city a more affordable place to live.

Mamdani's busy weekend of campaigning included nightclub appearances, watching the Buffalo Bills at a bar with Gov. Kathy Hochul and attending a Knicks game — in the nosebleed seats, drawing a contrast with Cuomo's courtside view a few weeks earlier.

Sliwa, the red beret-wearing creator of the Guardian Angels crime patrol group, visited a subway stop in Brooklyn, laying a wreath for a woman who died last year after being set on fire at the station, before setting off to rally his supporters in the outer boroughs.

"This will be a race where the billionaires, the influencers, the insiders will not pick the next mayor of the city of New York. The people are going to pick the next mayor," Sliwa told supporters at an evening campaign stop in Brooklyn.

Trump weighs in

Trump, a former New York resident of note, has loomed over the race for months. The Republican president has threatened to arrest Mamdani, deport him and take over the city if he wins.

In a post on Truth Social on Monday, Trump said New Yorkers have "no choice" but to vote for Cuomo,

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throwing his support behind the former governor as he reiterated a threat to withhold federal funds from the city if Mamdani wins.

"Whether you personally like Andrew Cuomo or not, you really have no choice. You must vote for him, and hope he does a fantastic job," Trump wrote.

The president also echoed a line that Cuomo has stressed in the final weeks of his campaign, saying, "A vote for Curtis Sliwa (who looks much better without the beret!) is a vote for Mamdani."

Cuomo was not asked directly about the president's tacit endorsement during an interview Monday evening on WABC Radio but expressed agreement with Trump's comments.

"The president is right. A vote for Sliwa is a vote for Mamdani. And that's why this election is now up to the Republicans," Cuomo said.

Sliwa continued to assert Monday that he was not dropping out of the race.

Mamdani later blasted the "MAGA movement's embrace" of Cuomo. He told his supporters that Trump believes Cuomo will be the best mayor for his administration, not for New Yorkers.

The battle is on social media, too

Cuomo on Friday released another of the AI-generated ads that have been a fixture of his campaign, this time showing a fake Mamdani going trick-or-treating for Halloween. The video has a disclaimer that it is "AI generated."

The former governor has been criticized for his use of artificial intelligence in ads, and in one instance pulled down a fabricated ad depicting Mamdani eating rice with his hands and describing his supporters as criminals. A campaign spokesperson said the video was posted in error.

Mamdani, meanwhile, released a social media video of him speaking Arabic — which, he admits in the ad, "needs some work." He has previously put out videos speaking Spanish and Bengali.

## **Republicans seek to tap into Trump energy on eve of Election Day in New Jersey, Virginia**

By MIKE CATALINI, ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and OLIVIA DIAZ Associated Press

TOTOWA, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey Republicans are trying to ride the coattails of Donald Trump's 2024 electoral momentum, with gubernatorial candidate Jack Ciattarelli courting voters in a key — and traditionally Democratic — stronghold that contributed to the president's gains in the state.

Ciattarelli and Virginia candidate Winsome Earle-Sears are crisscrossing their respective states, while Trump spoke at telephone rallies with voters later Monday. This comes after their opponents, U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill and Abigail Spanberger, campaigned over the weekend alongside former President Barack Obama.

It's a delicate balance for Republicans, who want to catch some of Trump's electoral energy by drawing infrequently voting conservatives to the polls while not dismissing concerns about increasing costs. Democrats are urging voters to see the off-year election as a referendum on Trump's economic policies and his efforts to expand his power.

Trump said Monday that Virginia voters should back "Republicans up and down the ballot" in an effort to make the state more affordable. "Republicans will bring back everything that you want," he said at the virtual town hall alongside Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

Still, the president was seemingly hesitant to assert himself in the race. Despite throwing barbs at Spanberger, Trump avoided key opportunities to endorse Earle-Sears by name. The lieutenant governor did not speak during the call.

On a call for Ciattarelli, Trump was effusive in praising the former Assembly member and business owner who he said loves the state and is fighting for lower costs.

"Mikie Sherrill will send New Jersey into a death spiral," the president said.

Ciattarelli paid a visit to a crowded Irish bar in Passaic County, one of the traditionally blue areas that highlighted Trump's strength in 2024. It's also a county where the Department of Justice is set to send poll watchers.

At the bar, a reporter pointed out the president's absence on the campaign trail and asked Ciattarelli:

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Is Trump a "liability" to him? The candidate was also asked to respond to attacks from his opponent that he would not stand up to the Republican president.

"New Jerseyans know who I am. I will fiercely defend the 9 million citizens of this state every day," Ciattarelli said.

The stop featured a surprise appearance of the candidate's son, Army Capt. Jake Ciattarelli, who flew in from Kuwait and showed up in uniform. Defense Department regulations impose broad restrictions on troops participating in partisan activity, especially in uniform, in an effort to maintain the military's historically apolitical role in American society.

Sherrill, the Democratic opponent, spoke in Morristown, where her first campaign for Congress in 2018 got its start. She tried to cast the contest in New Jersey in clear national terms.

"It's going to be up to the next governor to take on the federal administration to claw back as much money as possible and have them in court if they refuse to run programs that they should be running for the people of New Jersey," Sherrill said. She has seized on the Trump administration's decision to abruptly freeze funding for a project on the Hudson River to replace the aging rail tunnels that connect New Jersey to New York City.

In Virginia, Democratic National Committee chair Ken Martin was knocking on doors for Spanberger and other Democrats. He said he felt confident that Democrats' focus on affordability would pay off on Tuesday.

Martin said he felt the diverse array of candidates, from Spanberger and Sherrill to Zohran Mamdani, the party's New York City mayoral candidate, did well because they put the economy at the forefront of their campaigns.

"People are going to vote their pocketbook issues, their kitchen table issues, their own family anxieties about their future, before any other issue they care about," Martin told The Associated Press.

## **AI darlings prop up Wall Street as most other stocks fall**

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — More gains for Nvidia, Amazon and other AI superstars propped up Wall Street on Monday.

The S&P 500 rose 0.2% and pulled closer to its all-time high set last week, even though the majority of stocks in the index sank. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 226 points, or 0.5%, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 0.5%.

Nvidia was the strongest force lifting the S&P 500, just like it has been for the year so far. The chip company rose 2.2% to bring its gain for the year to date to 54.1%.

Amazon was the No. 2 force pushing the market higher. It rallied 4% after announcing a \$38 billion agreement with OpenAI, which will use Amazon's cloud computing services to run its AI workloads.

IREN, an AI cloud service provider, jumped 11.5% after Microsoft announced a \$9.7 billion contract with it that will give the tech giant access to some of Nvidia's chips.

Palantir Technologies, which came into the day with a stunning 165% gain for the year so far, rose another 3.3%. Traders pushed the AI darling higher in the final hours before the data platform company reported its latest quarterly results after trading closed for the day.

Companies across the U.S. stock market will need to hit expectations for growth in profit to justify the big gains for their stock prices since April. Criticism has been rising that the broad U.S. market, and AI stocks in particular, have become too expensive and could be inflating into a dangerous bubble similar to the 2000 dot-com bust.

For the most part, companies have been meeting the high expectations for profits. Four out of every five companies in the S&P 500 have topped analysts' forecasts so far this reporting season, according to FactSet. With roughly two-thirds of all S&P 500 reports in, companies in the index are on track to deliver healthy growth of nearly 11% versus a year earlier.

On the losing end of Wall Street Monday was Kimberly-Clark, which dropped 14.6% after it said it would buy Kenvue in a deal valuing it at \$48.7 billion. Kenvue, which sells Tylenol, Band-Aids and Listerine, jumped 12.3%.



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Beyond Meat tumbled 16% after the plant-based meat company delayed its report for the latest quarter's results to Nov. 11 from Tuesday. It said it needs more time to assess how big of a non-cash charge it will take due to issues it had previously disclosed with some of its assets.

Beyond Meat's stock has been mostly falling since topping \$4 in July, but it went on a wild ride last month where it suddenly soared from 52 cents to \$3.62 in three days, a nearly 600% surge. It got swept up in the "meme stock" craze, where prices can rise solely due to online hype rather than any change to the company's actual business.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 11.77 points to 6,851.97. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 226.19 to 47,336.68, and the Nasdaq composite rose 109.77 to 23,834.72.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury edged down to 4.10% from 4.11% late Friday.

A discouraging report on U.S. manufacturing said that activity shrank by more last month than economists expected. Several manufacturers told surveyors for the Institute for Supply Management that President Donald Trump's tariffs are creating financial pain.

"Wonder has turned to concern regarding how the tariff threats are affecting our business," a chemical products manufacturer told the survey. "Orders are down across most divisions, and we've lowered our financial expectations for 2025."

"In general, business is really strained," another manufacturer told the survey.

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

South Korea's Kospi jumped 2.8% to another record. SK Hynix soared nearly 11%, helped by recent moves to team up with Nvidia in developing the country's artificial intelligence infrastructure and capabilities.

South Korean shipbuilders also rose after China said it would cancel added port fees on U.S.-invested or U.S. flagged vessels after Trump met last week with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

## **Atlanta Braves hire Walt Weiss as their manager to succeed Brian Snitker**

ATLANTA (AP) — The Atlanta Braves hired Walt Weiss on Monday as their manager, promoting from within for the successor to 2021 World Series winner Brian Snitker.

Weiss, who turns 62 on Nov. 28, has been the Braves' bench coach since 2018 and was on Snitker's staff four years ago when they won the fourth championship in franchise history. Snitker also was an internal hire, coming from Triple-A Gwinnett in 2016, when he replaced Fredi González midseason and then got the full-time job the following year.

This is Weiss' second major league managing job after going 283-365 in four seasons with the Colorado Rockies from 2013-16. They did not make the playoffs during that time.

Weiss got back into a dugout when the Braves hired him in '18. It was a return to Atlanta, where he finished his playing career as a shortstop with the Braves from 1998-2000, including an All-Star Game appearance as a starter during that stint.

A native of Tuxedo, New York, Weiss played parts of 14 seasons with Oakland, Florida, Colorado and Atlanta from 1987-2000. He won the World Series as a player with the Athletics in '89.

Weiss previously worked for the Braves as a special assistant to the general manager from 2002-08.

Snitker, 70, announced in early October that he would not be returning for an 11th year with the club. GM Alex Anthopoulos said at the time that he did not have a list of candidates but wanted to move quickly to make a hire.

Former Braves catcher David Ross said last month he was ready to manage again and that getting the job "would be amazing." It was not clear how seriously, if at all, Ross was considered for the job before Weiss was hired.

Weiss and Anthopoulos are scheduled to hold a joint news conference at Truist Park on Tuesday.

With Weiss's promotion, only San Diego and Colorado remain uncertain about their managerial spots heading into the offseason. Texas hired Skip Schumaker, Baltimore went with Craig Albarnaz, San Francisco pulled Tony Vitello from the college ranks, the Angels picked Kurt Suzuki, Minnesota chose Derek Shelton

and Washington selected Blake Butera.

## **Anatomy of a news story: '60 Minutes' invites audience into the editing process with Trump interview**

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

During his "60 Minutes" interview, President Donald Trump called Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer a "kamikaze," complained about investigators searching through his wife's closet, spoke in detail about ending wars and turned the tables on interviewer Norah O'Donnell to ask about safety in Washington, D.C.

None of that was seen by people who watched the CBS telecast Sunday night.

Less than half of O'Donnell's interview, conducted Friday, actually made it onto the air. But CBS posted a transcript and video of the full 73-minute discussion online, so viewers could see for themselves what the president said that the network deemed worthy for inclusion in the 28-minute on-air segment.

That offered viewers a rare look inside the editing process at one of journalism's best-known institutions, showing the dozens of decisions on clarity and newsworthiness that go into telling the story you see on television.

Beyond "60 Minutes," the process is essentially the same throughout the world of journalism, from local newspapers to The New York Times, from specialty websites to The Associated Press. In short: Much like the old notion that everyone's a critic, with this move everyone can be an editor.

A contrast to how '60 Minutes' has worked throughout its history

Release of the Trump "outtakes" contrasted with CBS' treatment of the "60 Minutes" interview with Kamala Harris last fall. Trump sued CBS, claiming the interview with his Democratic opponent was deceptively edited, based on two different clips that were aired on the newsmagazine and "Face the Nation."

CBS did not release a transcript of its Harris interview for four months, and not until the Trump-controlled Federal Communications Commission had applied public pressure. On a routine basis, "60 Minutes" — and most journalists — don't release raw material in this way.

If CBS News is going to change its practices routinely in the future, one former "60 Minutes" producer said it should be up front with its viewers about it. Tom Bettag, who worked at the broadcast in the 1980s and is now a journalism professor at the University of Maryland, said it's a product of the times in which we live, but there's a downside to the practice of letting people in on the editing.

"I think there's a very good reason not to allow people to do that, in order to avoid the arguments of 'you should have done this' or 'you should have done that,'" Bettag said. "The assumption has been that your audience trusts you to use good judgment and to be fair."

From the very start, the edited Trump interview showed a clear difference from the raw material. On the broadcast, O'Donnell's interview began with discussion of the government shutdown. But when the two actually sat down, she started by asking the president about his just-concluded meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

That's essentially a call journalists make every day in crafting reports: Pick material to emphasize that seems the most newsworthy, or of interest to the most people.

"The newsiest portions made the broadcast, which is why programs edit in the first place," Brian Stelter wrote about the "60 Minutes" interview for CNN's "Reliable Sources" newsletter.

The first words out of Trump's mouth — "Democrats' fault" — came before O'Donnell even completed her question. That clearly showed where Trump was going, and the broadcast interview reflected that. But it was edited several times for length, to avoid tangents and the repetitiveness of partisan attacks.

Of Schumer, Trump said, "He would rather see the country fail than have Trump and the Republicans do well" — a comment left out of the broadcast.

On cutting room floor: Trump says O'Donnell 'should be ashamed'

Trump also told O'Donnell that she "should be ashamed" to be asking him about political retribution.

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That was left off the broadcast. Trump's complaints about New York Attorney General Letitia James and former FBI director James Comey were abbreviated — although his comment that James was a "terrible, dishonest person" was left in.

"I was struck by how much of what didn't air from the interview were the parts that seemed more rant-filled and often confusing," wrote journalist Rick Ellis, who painstakingly compared transcripts of the full interview and what CBS broadcast for the website All Your Screens.

Trump brought up his predecessor, President Joe Biden, more than 40 times in the interview but only six instances made the broadcast, Ellis said. The headline for Ellis' story read, "60 Minutes' Edits (Most of) the Crazy Out of Its Interview with Donald Trump."

CBS edited a handful of fact-checks into the "60 Minutes" story, most notably adding a military official's refutation of Trump's claim that China and Russia were testing nuclear weapons. There were a handful of missed opportunities, such as Trump's claim that he was able to beat all of the legal "nonsense that was thrown at me."

CBS removed an exchange during a discussion of crime in cities in which Trump asked O'Donnell whether she felt safer in Washington, D.C., after the president ordered the National Guard to patrol there. Generally, journalists like to keep the focus off themselves.

"You see a difference?" Trump asked her.

Responded O'Donnell: "I think I've been working too hard. I haven't been out and about that much."

"60 Minutes" pointed out that O'Donnell's interview was conducted exactly a year after Trump filed his lawsuit regarding the Harris interview. But it left out of the broadcast Trump's discussion about management changes at CBS' parent company Paramount since the company agreed to pay him \$16 million to settle the case.

"They paid me a lot of money for that," Trump said. "You can't have fake news. You've gotta have legit news. And I think that's happening." He praised Paramount's new leaders along with the news division's new editor-in-chief, The Free Press founder Bari Weiss.

That editing decision angered a Trump critic, Tim Miller at the Bulwark website. "60 Minutes' did not air the part where Trump discusses his success extorting the network and calls them Fake News," he wrote on X. "This edit is harmful to me and I'm considering suing."

CBS' editing seemed to draw fewer complaints from Trump supporters. The White House's "rapid response" X feed posted copies of both the full interview and what CBS put on the air.

Jorge Bonilla, writing for the conservative media watchdog Newsbusters, wrote that O'Donnell's first interview with the newsmagazine contrasted with its "debacle" with Lesley Stahl five years ago, when Trump walked out.

"It appears," he wrote, "that the Bari Weiss era is now full upon us at CBS News."

## **Two men accused of plotting terror attacks at LGBTQ+ bars in the Detroit area**

By ED WHITE Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Two 20-year-old men who had acquired high-powered weapons and practiced at gun ranges were scouting LGBTQ+ bars in suburban Detroit in September for a possible Halloween attack, authorities said Monday in filing terrorism-related charges.

Mohmed Ali, Majed Mahmoud and co-conspirators were inspired by the Islamic State group's extremism, according to a 72-page criminal complaint unsealed in federal court. Investigators say a minor, identified only as Person 1, was deeply involved in the discussions.

"Our American heroes prevented a terror attack," U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi said on X.

The men, described as too young to drink alcohol, had looked at LGBTQ+ bars in Ferndale for a possible attack, according to the complaint.

Before making arrests Friday, FBI agents had surveilled them for weeks, even using a camera on a pole outside a Dearborn house, according to the court filing. Investigators also got access to encrypted chats

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and other conversations and scoured social media posts.

The FBI said it became interested in Ali, Mahmoud and the third person while investigating another man and picking up information on a group call in July that was recorded by a confidential source.

Ali and Mahmoud were charged with receiving and transferring guns and ammunition for terrorism. They made brief appearances in federal court Monday and will remain in custody at least until a Nov. 10 detention hearing.

Defense attorneys William Swor and Amir Makled declined to comment. Makled over the weekend seemed to wave off the allegations, saying they were the result of "hysteria" and "fear-mongering."

Mahmoud had recently bought more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition that could be used for AR-15-style rifles, and both practiced at gun ranges, the government alleged.

The FBI said the men repeatedly referred to "pumpkins" in their conversations, a reference to a Halloween attack. The court filing says Person 1, the minor, regularly consulted the father of a "local Islamic extremist ideologue" about when to commit a "good deed."

FBI Director Kash Patel had announced arrests Friday, but no details were released at the time while agents searched homes in Dearborn and a storage unit rented by Ali in nearby Inkster.

The searches turned up tactical vests and backpacks, AR-15-style rifles, ammunition, loaded handguns and GoPro cameras, the FBI said.

The criminal complaint doesn't specifically say why Ferndale was a target, though the man who attacked the LGBTQ+-friendly Pulse Nightclub, killing 49 people in Orlando, Florida, in 2016, had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

Ferndale, which is just north of Detroit, attracts tens of thousands of people to its annual Pride parade. Former Mayor Dave Coulter, who is gay, said it was "disturbing" to hear about the alleged plot.

Coulter, who's now the elected Oakland County executive, said the pain of the Pulse Nightclub tragedy "is still deeply felt" in Ferndale.

It's the second case since May involving alleged plots in the Detroit area on behalf of the Islamic State group. The FBI said it arrested a man who had spent months planning an attack against a U.S. Army site in Warren. Ammar Said has pleaded not guilty and remains in custody.

## **Diane Ladd, 3-time Oscar nominee, dies at 89**

OJAI, Calif. (AP) — Diane Ladd, a three-time Academy Award nominee and actor of rare timing and intensity whose roles ranged from the brash waitress in "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore" to the scheming parent in "Wild at Heart," has died at 89.

Ladd's death was announced Monday by daughter Laura Dern, who issued a statement saying her mother and occasional co-star had died at her home in Ojai, California, with Dern at her side. Dern, who called Ladd her "amazing hero" and "profound gift of a mother," did not immediately cite a cause of death.

"She was the greatest daughter, mother, grandmother, actress, artist and empathetic spirit that only dreams could have seemingly created," Dern wrote. "We were blessed to have her. She is flying with her angels now."

A gifted comic and dramatic performer, Ladd had a long career in television and on stage before breaking through as a film performer in Martin Scorsese's 1974 release "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore." She earned an Oscar nomination for supporting actor for her turn as the acerbic, straight-talking Flo, and went on to appear in dozens of movies over the following decades. Her many credits included "Chinatown," "Primary Colors" and two other movies for which she received best supporting nods, "Wild at Heart" and "Rambling Rose," both of which co-starred her daughter. She also continued to work in television, with appearances in "ER," "Touched by Angel" and "Alice," the spinoff from "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," among others.

Through marriage and blood relations, Ladd was tied to the arts. Tennessee Williams was a second cousin and first husband Bruce Dern, Laura's father, was himself an Academy Award nominee. Ladd and Laura Dern achieved the rare feat of mother-and-daughter nominees for their work in "Rambling Rose"



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and they also were memorably paired in "Wild at Heart," a personal favorite of Ladd's and winner of the Palme d'Or at the 1990 Cannes Film Festival. In the dark, farcical David Lynch noir, her character, Marietta, is willing to try anything — including murder — to keep her daughter (Laura Dern) away from her ex-con lover, played by Nicolas Cage. Ladd would be called upon by the director for some Lynchian touches, and countered with some of her own.

"One day, the script said that Marietta gets in bed, curls up with her baby dog, and is sucking her thumb," she told Vulture in 2024. "I looked at him and said, 'David, I don't want to do that.' He said, 'What do you want to do? I said, 'I want to put on a long satin nightgown, I want to stand in the middle of the bed holding a martini and drinking it, and I want to sway to the old music within my head.' He said OK, I did it, and he loved it."

A native of Laurel, Mississippi, Ladd was born Rose Diane Ladner and was apparently destined to stand out. In her 2006 memoir, "Spiraling Through the School of Life," she remembered being told by her great-grandmother that she would one day in "front of a screen" and would "command" her own audiences. Before "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," she had been working in television since the 1950s, when she was in her early 20s, with shows including "Perry Mason," "Gunsmoke" and "The Big Valley."

By the mid-1970s, she had lived out her fate well enough to tell The New York Times that no longer denied herself the right to call herself great.

"Now I don't say that," she said. "I can do Shakespeare, Ibsen, English accents, Irish accents, no accent, stand on my head, tap dance, sing, look 17 or look 70."

Ladd was married three times, and divorced twice — from Bruce Dern and from William A. Shea, Jr. In 1976, around the time her second marriage ended, she told the Times that neither of her husbands knew "how to show love."

"I come from the South and from a man, my father, who gave me rocking chair love. My people pass love around, and why I selected two men who needed someone to give love and didn't know how to give it. ..." She paused. "I hope I won't repeat that again."

Ladd's third marriage, to author-former PepsiCo executive Robert Charles Hunter, lasted from 1999 until his death in August.

## **Trump administration says SNAP will be partially funded in November**

By GEOFF MULVIHILL and KIMBERLEE KRUESI Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — President Donald Trump's administration said Monday that it will partially fund SNAP for November, after two judges issued rulings requiring the government to keep the nation's largest food aid program running.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, had planned to freeze payments starting Nov. 1 because it said it could no longer keep funding it during the federal government shutdown. The program serves about 1 in 8 Americans and is a major piece of the nation's social safety net. It costs more than \$8 billion per month nationally. The government says an emergency fund it will use has \$4.65 billion — enough to cover about half the normal benefits.

Exhausting the fund potentially sets the stage for a similar situation in December if the shutdown isn't resolved by then.

It's not clear exactly how much beneficiaries will receive, nor how quickly they will see value show up on the debit cards they use to buy groceries. November payments have already been delayed for millions of people.

"The Trump Administration has the means to fund this program in full, and their decision not to will leave millions of Americans hungry and waiting even longer for relief as government takes the additional steps needed to partially fund this program," Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell, who led a coalition of Democratic state officials in one of the lawsuits that forced the funding, said in a statement.

The administration also provided an infusion to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women,

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Infants, and Children, which helps low-income mothers buy nutritious staples. WIC received an additional \$450 million in funding, according to a senior administration official who spoke Monday on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the decision publicly. POLITICO first reported on the funding Monday afternoon.

Last month, some states warned they only had enough money to operate their WIC programs until mid-November. The administration last month reallocated \$300 million in unspent tariff revenue to keep the program running.

How will SNAP beneficiaries manage?

People who receive the benefits are trying to figure out how to stretch their grocery money further.

Corina Betancourt, who lives in Glendale, Arizona, already uses a food bank sometimes to get groceries for herself and her three kids, ages 8 through 11. With her SNAP benefits reduced and delayed, she's expecting to use the food bank more and find ways to stretch what she has further.

She is worried that there won't be enough for her children to eat with about \$400 this month instead of around \$800. "We always make things work somehow, some way," she said.

In Camden, New Jersey, Jamal Brown, who is paralyzed after a series of strokes and on a fixed income, said family members asked him for a list of groceries he needs so they can stock him up.

But not everyone has that help.

"How did you expect to live a healthy life if you're not eating the right stuff?" he asked. "If you don't have the access to the food stamps, you're going to go to the cheapest thing that you can afford."

Details on how payments will roll out are still to come

The administration said it would provide details to states Monday on calculating the per-household partial benefit. The process of loading the SNAP cards, which involves steps by state and federal government agencies and vendors, can take up to two weeks in some states. But the USDA warned in a court filing that it could take weeks or even months for states to make all the system changes to send out reduced benefits. The average monthly benefit is usually about \$190 per person.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta said at a news conference that it would take his state about a week to load benefit cards once the funding is made available.

"These are folks who are hungry, and every day matters," Bonta said.

The USDA said last month that benefits for November wouldn't be paid due to the federal government shutdown. That set off a scramble by food banks, state governments and the nearly 42 million Americans who receive the aid to find ways to ensure access to groceries.

The liberal group Democracy Forward, which represented plaintiffs in one of the lawsuits, said it was considering legal options to force full SNAP funding.

Other high-profile Democrats are calling for the government to do that on its own.

"USDA has the authority to fully fund SNAP and needs to do so immediately. Anything else is unacceptable," Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said on social media.

State governments step in

Most states have boosted aid to food banks, and some are setting up systems to reload benefit cards with state taxpayer dollars. The threat of a delay also spurred lawsuits.

Federal judges in Massachusetts and Rhode Island ruled separately but similarly Friday, telling the government in response to lawsuits filed by Democratic state officials, cities and nonprofits that it was required to use one emergency fund to pay for the program, at least in part. They gave the government the option to use additional money to fully fund the program and a deadline of Monday to decide.

Patrick Penn, Deputy Under Secretary Food Nutrition and Consumer Services for USDA, said in a court filing Monday that the department chose not to tap other emergency funds to ensure there's not a gap in child nutrition programs for the rest of this fiscal year, which runs through September 2026.

Advocates and beneficiaries say halting the food aid would force people to choose between buying groceries and paying other bills. The majority of states have announced more or expedited funding for food banks or novel ways to load at least some benefits onto the SNAP debit cards.

New Mexico and Rhode Island officials said Monday that some SNAP beneficiaries received funds over the weekend from their emergency programs. Officials in Delaware are telling recipients that their benefits won't be available until at least Nov. 7.

To qualify for SNAP in 2025, a household's net income after certain expenses can't exceed the federal poverty line. For a family of four, that's about \$32,000 per year.

## **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 stand to 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 that aired Sunday that he "won't be extorted" by Democrats who are demanding negotiations to extend the expiring Affordable Care Act subsidies. Echoing congressional Republicans, the president said on CBS' "60 Minutes" he'll negotiate only when the government is reopened.

Trump said Democrats "have lost their way" and predicted they'll capitulate to Republicans.

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

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

The president 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 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're in the minority.

Trump said that's true, but "we're here right now."

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

With the two parties at a standstill, the shutdown, now in its 34th day and approaching its sixth week, appears likely to become the longest in history. The previous record was set in 2019, when Trump demanded Congress give him money for a U.S.-Mexico border wall.

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've opted instead to stay the course as the consequences of the shutdown become more acute.

Republicans are hoping at least some Democrats will eventually switch their votes 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.

Thune told reporters Monday that he was "optimistic" that the Senate could vote to reopen the government by the end of the week.

But he also added, "If we don't start seeing some progress or some evidence of that by at least the middle of this week, it's hard to see how we would finish anything by the end of the week."

Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, a Democrat, said on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday there's 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 unclear if those talks could produce a meaningful compromise.

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Far apart on health care subsidies

Trump said in the "60 Minutes" interview that the Affordable Care Act — often known as Obamacare because it was signed and championed by then-President Barack Obama — is "terrible" and 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 premiums won't go up for millions of people on Jan. 1.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said last week that "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."

No appetite for bipartisanship

As Democrats have pushed Trump and Republicans to negotiate, Trump has showed little interest in doing so. He 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 Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures" that the president has spoken directly to Thune and Johnson about the filibuster. But a spokesman for Thune said Friday that his position hasn't changed, and Johnson said Sunday that he believes the filibuster has traditionally been a "safeguard" from far-left policies.

Trump said on "60 Minutes" that he likes Thune 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 is now featuring 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 gas in the car, do I pay my rent or do I go to work and not get paid?"

As flight delays around the country increased, New York City's emergency management department posted on Sunday that Newark Airport was under a ground delay because of "staffing shortages in the control tower" and that they were limiting arrivals to the airport.

"The average delay is about 2 hours, and some flights are more than 3 hours late," the account posted.

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.

The Trump administration indicated in court Monday that it will only partially fund SNAP this month by using a \$4.65 billion emergency fund. That left the program in uncertainty with no clear indication of how much beneficiaries will receive or when their cards will be loaded to buy groceries.

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."



## **Trial starts for assault case against DC man who tossed sandwich at federal agent on viral video**

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Throwing a sandwich at a federal agent turned Sean Charles Dunn into a symbol of resistance against President Donald Trump's law-enforcement surge in the nation's capital. This week, federal prosecutors are trying to persuade a jury of fellow Washington, D.C., residents that Dunn simply broke the law.

That could be a tough sell for the government in a city that has chafed against Trump's federal takeover, which is entering its third month. A grand jury refused to indict Dunn on a felony assault count before U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro's office opted to charge him instead with a misdemeanor.

Securing a trial conviction could prove to be equally challenging for Justice Department prosecutors in Washington, where murals glorifying Dunn's sandwich toss popped up virtually overnight.

Before jury selection started Monday, the judge presiding over Dunn's trial seemed to acknowledge how unusual it is for a case like this to be heard in federal court. U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols, who was nominated to the bench by Trump, said he expects the trial to last no more than two days "because it's the simplest case in the world."

Jurors are scheduled to hear attorneys' opening statements on Tuesday. The agent struck by the sandwich is expected to be the government's first witness.

A video that went viral on social media captured Dunn hurling his subway-style sandwich at a Customs and Border Protection agent outside a nightclub on the night of Aug. 10. That same weekend, Trump announced his deployment of hundreds of National Guard troops and federal agents to assist with police patrols in Washington.

When Dunn approached a group of CBP agents who were in front of a club hosting a "Latin Night," he called them "fascists" and "racists" and chanted "shame" toward them. An observer's video captured Dunn throwing a sandwich at an agent's chest.

"Why are you here? I don't want you in my city!" Dunn shouted, according to police.

Dunn ran away but was apprehended. He was released from custody but rearrested when a team of armed federal agents in riot gear raided his home. The White House posted a highly produced "propaganda" video of the raid on its official X account, Dunn's lawyers said. They noted that Dunn had offered to surrender to police before the raid.

Dunn worked as an international affairs specialist in the Justice Department's criminal division. After Dunn's arrest, Attorney General Pam Bondi announced his firing in a social media post that referred to him as "an example of the Deep State."

Before trial, Dunn's lawyers urged the judge to dismiss the case for what they allege is a vindictive and selective prosecution. They argued that the posts by Bondi and the White House prove Dunn was impermissibly targeted for his political speech.

Julia Gatto, one of Dunn's lawyers, questioned why Trump's Justice Department is prosecuting Dunn after the Republican president issued pardons and ordered the dismissal of assault cases stemming from a mob's attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

"It's an obvious answer," Gatto said during a hearing last Thursday. "The answer is they have different politics. And that's selective prosecution."

Prosecutors countered that Dunn's political expressions don't make him immune from prosecution for assaulting the agent.

"The defendant is being prosecuted for the obvious reason that he was recorded throwing a sandwich at a federal officer at point-blank range," they wrote.

Dunn is charged with assaulting, resisting, opposing, impeding, intimidating and interfering with a federal officer. Dozens of Trump supporters who stormed the Capitol were convicted of felonies for assaulting or interfering with police during the Jan. 6 attack. Trump pardoned or ordered the dismissal of charges for all of them.

For several hours on Monday, the judge, prosecutors and defense attorneys individually questioned prospective jurors about their knowledge of the case and other potential biases. A white noise maker prevented courtroom observers from hearing their conversations.

After jury selection started — but before the jurors were seated — Dunn's attorneys asked the judge to restart the process in open court so the public could hear their responses. The judge denied that request, saying it seems "drastic."

## **After mistaken deportation, Abrego Garcia fights smuggling charges. Here's what to know**

By TRAVIS LOLLER Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Kilmar Abrego Garcia, whose mistaken deportation helped galvanize opposition to President Donald Trump's immigration policies, has hearings Dec. 8-9 in the human smuggling case against him in Tennessee.

U.S. District Judge Waverly Crenshaw will hear evidence on motions from the defense asking him to dismiss the charges and throw out some of the evidence. The hearing was originally scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday. An order filed Monday explains the government "needs more time to finish collecting and producing documents." The two sides have been fighting over what documents and testimony the government will be required to provide to Abrego Garcia as he tries to prove the charges against him were motivated by a desire to punish him for the embarrassment of his mistaken deportation.

Here's what to know about the latest developments in the case:

Who is Kilmar Abrego Garcia?

Abrego Garcia is a Salvadoran citizen with an American wife and child who has lived in Maryland for years. He immigrated to the U.S. illegally as a teenager to join his brother, who had become a U.S. citizen. In 2019, an immigration judge granted him protection from being deported back to his home country, where he faces danger from a gang that targeted his family.

While he was allowed to live and work in the U.S. under Immigration and Customs Enforcement supervision, he was not given residency status. Earlier this year, he was mistakenly deported and held in a notoriously brutal Salvadoran prison despite having no criminal record.

Facing mounting public pressure and a court order, Trump's Republican administration brought him back to the U.S. in June, but only after issuing an arrest warrant on human smuggling charges in Tennessee. He has pleaded not guilty to those charges and asked Crenshaw to dismiss them.

What are the charges?

Abrego Garcia is charged with human smuggling and conspiracy to commit human smuggling, with prosecutors claiming he accepted money to transport within the United States people who were in the country illegally.

The charges stem from a 2022 traffic stop in Tennessee for speeding. Body camera footage from a Tennessee Highway Patrol officer shows a calm exchange with Abrego Garcia. There were nine passengers in the car, and the officers discussed among themselves their suspicions of smuggling. However, Abrego Garcia was eventually allowed to continue driving with only a warning.

A Department of Homeland Security agent testified at an earlier hearing that he did not begin investigating the traffic stop until after the U.S. Supreme Court said in April that the Trump administration must work to bring back Abrego Garcia.

What is the motion to dismiss about?

Abrego Garcia has asked Crenshaw to dismiss the smuggling charges on the grounds of "selective or vindictive prosecution."

In a recent ruling, Crenshaw found "some evidence that the prosecution against him may be vindictive" and said many statements by Trump administration officials "raise cause for concern." Crenshaw specifically cited a statement by Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, on a Fox News Channel program, that seemed to suggest the Justice Department charged Abrego Garcia because he won his wrongful-deportation case.

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The two sides have been sparring over whether senior Justice Department officials, including Blanche, can be required to testify in the case.

Acting U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee Rob McGuire has argued in court filings that it doesn't matter what members of the Trump administration have said about Abrego Garcia.

"The relevant prosecutorial decision-maker, the Acting U.S. Attorney, has explained on the record that this prosecution was not brought for vindictive or discriminatory reasons," McGuire writes in a court filing. He adds that any public statements by senior Trump administration officials about Abrego Garcia reflect public safety concerns that are "plainly consistent with a legitimate motivation to prosecute him."

What is the main motion to suppress evidence about?

Another motion from Abrego Garcia asks the judge to suppress evidence in the case. It claims the 2022 traffic stop that ultimately led to the smuggling charges was illegal, so evidence from that stop should not be used at trial.

In support, court filings say the state trooper who pulled him over stated that the speed limit was 65 mph (105 kph) when it was actually 70 mph (113 kph). The trooper accused him of driving at 75 mph (120 kph), but there is no record that the trooper used a radar gun or pacing to gauge the speed. Abrego Garcia said he was driving 70 mph, correctly noting the speed limit.

Attorneys for the government argue that the trooper made an honest mistake. The speed limit decreases to 65 mph about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) farther down the interstate. The attorneys also note that Abrego Garcia was driving in the left lane "consistent with an individual traveling in excess of the posted speed limit." And the trooper, they said, had "no reason or motivation to manufacture a traffic violation against him."

Is he being deported?

Abrego Garcia currently can't be deported to El Salvador thanks to the 2019 settlement that found he had a "well founded fear" of danger there. However, the Trump administration has said he cannot stay in the U.S. Over the past couple of months government officials have said they would deport him to Uganda, Eswatini, Ghana and, most recently, Liberia.

The administration's deportation agreements with so-called third countries have been contested in court by advocacy groups, which have noted that some immigrants are being sent to countries with long histories of human rights violations. But in June, a divided Supreme Court allowed the swift removal of immigrants to countries other than their homelands and with minimal notice.

Abrego Garcia sued the Trump administration in a Maryland court over his earlier deportation, and the judge in that case has temporarily barred his removal. If the judge decides to lift that order, government attorneys have said they are ready to deport him right away.

Meanwhile, Abrego Garcia has applied for asylum in the U.S. in immigration court.

## **Tylenol, Kleenex, Band-Aid and more put under one roof in \$48.7 billion consumer brands deal**

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN AP Business Writer

Kimberly-Clark is buying Tylenol maker Kenvue in a cash and stock deal worth about \$48.7 billion, creating a massive consumer health goods company.

Shareholders of Kimberly-Clark will own about 54% of the combined company. Kenvue shareholders will own about 46% in what is one of the largest corporate takeovers this year. The deal must still be approved by the shareholders of both companies.

The combined company will have a huge stable of household brands under one roof, putting Kenvue's Listerine mouthwash and Band-Aid side-by-side with Kimberly-Clark's Cottonelle toilet paper, Huggies and Kleenex tissues. It will also generate about \$32 billion in annual revenue.

Kenvue has spent a relatively brief period as an independent company, having been spun off by Johnson & Johnson two years ago. J&J first announced in late 2021 that it was splitting its slow-growth consumer health division from the pharmaceutical and medical device divisions.

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Kenvue has since been targeted by activist investors unhappy about the trajectory of the company and Wall Street appeared to anticipate some heavy lifting ahead for Kimberly-Clark.

Kenvue's stock jumped 12% Monday afternoon, while shares of Kimberly-Clark, based outside of Dallas, slumped by nearly 15%.

Kenvue shares have shed nearly 50% of their value since approaching \$28 in the spring of 2023. Morningstar analyst Keonhee Kim said Kenvue's volatile journey as a public company may have been driven in part by poor execution and a lack of experience operating as a stand-alone business.

He said the leadership of a more-established consumer products company like Kimberly-Clark could help unlock some of Kenvue's value.

He also noted that Kenvue brands include Neutrogena, Benadryl and other names that have been in store consumer health aisles for decades. Kim said he thinks Kimberly-Clark may have seen upside in adding those products.

"I think that may have made the deal a lot more attractive ... especially after the past couple of months of Kenvue's stock price decline," he said.

Kenvue and Tylenol have been thrust into the national spotlight this year as President Donald Trump and Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. promoted unproven and in some cases discredited ties between Tylenol, vaccines and the complex brain disorder autism.

Trump then urged pregnant women against using the medicine. That went beyond Food and Drug Administration advice that doctors "should consider minimizing" the painkiller acetaminophen's use in pregnancy — amid inconclusive evidence about whether too much could be linked to autism.

Kennedy reiterated the FDA guidance during a press conference last week. He said that there isn't sufficient evidence to link the drug to autism.

"We have asked physicians to minimize the use to when it's absolutely necessary," he said.

Kenvue has continued to push back on the Trump administration's public statements about Tylenol and acetaminophen, the active ingredient it contains.

"We strongly disagree with allegations that it does and are deeply concerned about the health risks and confusion this poses for expecting mothers and parents," Kenvue said in a statement on its website.

The merger could face other hurdles. Citi Investment Research analyst Filippo Falorni said he is concerned about the deal's size given the recent history in the sector, particularly given the challenges faced by Kenvue.

In July, Kenvue announced that CEO Thibaut Mongon was leaving in the midst of a strategic review, with the company under mounting pressure from activist investors unhappy about growth. Critics say Kenvue has relied too much on its legacy brands and failed to innovate.

Industry analysts also point out the poor track record for mergers involving consumer packaged goods companies. In September, Kraft Heinz said it would break up its decade-old merger. Its net revenue has fallen every year since 2020.

Kimberly-Clark and Kenvue, like Kraft Heinz, are facing increasing competition from cheaper store brands. In 2024, 51% of toilet paper and other household paper products sold in the U.S were store brands, according to Circana, a market research company, while store brands held a 24% share of sales of health products, including medications and vitamins.

On Monday, a bottle of 100 extra-strength Tylenol caplets cost \$10.97 on Walmart's website. A bottle of 100 extra-strength acetaminophen caplets from Walmart's Equate brand cost \$1.98.

Inflation drove some of that buyer behavior, Circana said. Shoppers are also shifting their purchases to stores with more private-label brands, like Aldi and Costco. And stores are improving their offerings and adding more of them; last year, Walmart and Target both launched new store brands to complement their existing ones.

Still, both Kimberly-Clark and Kenvue make name-brand products in segments where consumers are less likely to shift to store brands, including hair care, skin care, feminine products and mouth care, according to Circana. Kenvue owns brands like Aveeno and Neutrogena, for example, while Kimberly-Clark makes Kotex and Depend.



Kimberly-Clark Chairman and CEO Mike Hsu will be chairman and CEO of the combined company. Three members of the Kenvue's board will join Kimberly-Clark's board at closing. The combined company will keep Kimberly-Clark's headquarters in Irving, Texas, but there will be significant operations around Kenvue facilities and locations as well.

The deal is expected to close in the second half of next year. It still needs approval from shareholders of both both companies.

Kenvue shareholders will receive \$3.50 per share in cash and 0.14625 Kimberly-Clark shares for each Kenvue share held at closing. That amounts to \$21.01 per share, based on the closing price of Kimberly-Clark shares on Friday.

Kimberly-Clark and Kenvue said that they identified about \$1.9 billion in cost savings that are expected in the first three years after the transaction's closing.

## **Judge rejects plea deal for funeral home owner accused of stashing nearly 190 decaying bodies**

By JESSE BEDAYN Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A Colorado judge on Monday rejected the plea agreement of a funeral home owner accused of stashing nearly 190 decaying bodies in a bug-infested building after family members of the deceased argued that the agreement's 15- to 20-year sentence was too lenient.

"The sentence negotiated by the parties does not adequately account for the harms that these crimes have caused," said State District Judge Eric Bentley, describing his rare decision to forego an agreement reached by the prosecution and defense for funeral home owner Carie Hallford.

Carie Hallford and her husband, Jon Hallford, owned Return to Nature Funeral Home and are accused of dumping the bodies between 2019 and 2023 in a building in Penrose, Colorado, about a two-hour drive south of Denver, and giving families fake ashes.

In court on Monday, several family members objected to the plea agreement by describing the pain of discovering their relatives' remains weren't in the urn or the ashes they ceremonially spread, but instead were languishing with nearly 190 other bodies, some for four years.

Tanya Wilson said her mother was put on a floor covered in maggots, "leaving her mark on that floor, and leaving a permanent mark on my soul."

Samantha Naranjo said she used to host parties for Halloween. Then she learned her grandmother's body was left decaying with the others.

"It's been hard for me to get excited to decorate my home with skeletons," she said, tears choking her words, "when all I can think of is the building that my grandmother's body laid in."

Both Hallfords pleaded guilty to 191 counts of corpse abuse last year, and Carie Hallford's attorney, Michael Stuzynski, argued Monday that the plea agreement was fair and would bring closure.

But Judge Bentley has now rejected both Hallford's plea agreements. Several family members asked for just under 200 years in prison for Carie Hallford on Monday, which includes a year for each body discovered.

"We are not asking for revenge, we are asking for acknowledgment, for the court to see each victim as the human being that they were," said Derrick Johnson, whose mother was part of the grim toll.

After the judge's decision, Carie Hallford withdrew her guilty plea, setting the stage for a possibly monthslong trial starting next year. Jon Hallford previously withdrew his guilty plea and is scheduled for trial, too.

While Jon Hallford is accused of dumping the bodies, Bentley said that Carie Hallford was allegedly the face of Return to Nature, and "it was her representation to customers that she knew to be false that brought in customers and kept the Hallfords' crimes going."

The harm extended far beyond the 191 victims, said Bentley, referencing both the community's loss of trust and the nearly 1,000 other customers of Return to Nature who now question the fate of their relatives' remains.

Bentley also said he considered the need for deterrence in rejecting the plea agreement. Colorado, for

many years, had some of the weakest funeral home industry regulations in the nation, leading to a slew of abuse cases involving fake ashes, fraud, and even the illegal selling of body parts.

In August, authorities announced that during their first inspection of a funeral home owned by the county coroner in Pueblo, Colorado, they found 24 decomposing corpses behind a hidden door.

That investigation is pending as authorities have reported slow progress in identifying corpses that, in some cases, have languished for more than a decade.

The Return to Nature case helped trigger reforms, including routine inspections.

Both Hallfords have also admitted in federal court to defrauding the U.S. Small Business Administration out of nearly \$900,000 in pandemic-era aid and taking payments from customers for cremations the funeral home never did.

Officials said the two spent lavishly, buying a GMC Yukon, laser body sculpting, vacations, jewelry and cryptocurrency. After pleading guilty in federal court, Jon Hallford was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Carie Hallford's sentencing in the federal case is scheduled for December.

## **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 revealed that he may have stabbed two other people in the 24 hours before the attack.

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 an earlier incident at Pontoon Dock light rail station in London just before 1 a.m. on Saturday, in which a victim "suffered facial injuries after being attacked with a knife" by an assailant who fled the scene.

Another police force, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, said it is investigating whether Williams was involved in three incidents in the city of Peterborough — a Friday evening stabbing in which a 14-year-old boy received minor injuries and two reports of a man with a knife at a barber shop on Friday evening and Saturday morning. In all three cases, the suspect quickly left the scene and police did not detain anyone.

Police say they are not treating the train 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.

Williams, a British citizen living in Peterborough, made a brief appearance at Peterborough Magistrates' Court on Monday.

Flanked by four security officers as he stood in the dock wearing a gray prison tracksuit and handcuffs, was ordered detained until his next hearing on Dec. 1. He was not asked to enter pleas.

The charge of actual bodily harm is for allegedly hitting a police officer and breaking his nose after Williams' arrest.

Passengers describe panic during train attack

The minutes-long stabbing attack 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. Stephen Crean, 61, said he was slashed across his hands, head, back and arms as he tussled with the attacker.

"He asked me, 'Do you want to die?'" Crean said. "He repeated it. Then I remember his knife going into my arm."

Eleven people were treated in hospital. The most seriously wounded victim is a member of train staff

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who tried to stop the attacker and suffered "grievous injuries," Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said. He is hospitalized in critical but stable condition.

"On Saturday he went to work to do his job. Today he is a hero and forever will be," Mahmood told lawmakers in the House of Commons.

Andrew Johnson, the train driver, was hailed by police as a hero for his quick action to divert the train to another track so it could stop at the nearest available station for help.

Johnson, in a statement issued by London North Eastern Railway, deflected the praise and said his colleagues aboard the train, including the seriously injured, were the brave ones.

Four other victims remained in a hospital on Monday, including Jonathan Gjoshe, a player with soccer team Scunthorpe United. The team said he has "non-life threatening injuries."

Security at train stations is stepped up

Williams was arrested when the train made an emergency stop in the town of Huntingdon, about 75 miles (120 kilometers) north of London. 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.

The government rejected calls for increased security measures such as airport-style passenger and baggage screening to be introduced at Britain's 3,500 railway stations, saying that wouldn't be "proportionate or practical."

In the U.K, which has strict gun-control laws, almost half of all homicides involve a knife or sharp instrument. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's center-left government has pledged to reduce knife crime and has tightened rules for purchasing knives and banned some kinds of blades.

It claims to have had some success, with the total number of knife crimes down 5% and knife killings falling 18% in the year to June 2025 from the previous 12 months, according to the Office for National Statistics.

## **Tanzania's president blames foreigners for deadly protests after disputed election**

DODOMA, Tanzania (AP) — Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan on Monday blamed foreigners for last week's deadly protests following a disputed election in which two main opposition candidates were barred from challenging her bid for another term.

A regional African bloc, meanwhile, said the Oct. 29 election had fallen short of its standards for democratic elections.

In her first comments after she was sworn in, Hassan acknowledged the "loss of lives" and asserted that "it was not a surprise that those arrested were from other countries," without giving details. She vowed to unite the country and urged security agencies to ensure that normalcy returns.

Her swearing-in was held on government-owned grounds in the administrative capital of Dodoma, a departure from her previous inauguration at a packed football stadium, as tensions remained high.

It was not clear how many people were killed in the violence around the Oct. 29 election as demonstrators took to the streets of major cities to demand that vote-counting be stopped. The military was deployed to help police quell riots. Internet connectivity has been on and off in the East African nation, disrupting travel and other activities.

Gas stations and grocery shops were still closed Monday in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam, with streets nearly empty. In Dodoma, most people stayed home. The government has postponed the reopening of universities, which had been set for Nov. 3.

A spokesman for the U.N. human rights office, Seif Magango, on Friday said there were credible reports of 10 deaths in Dar es Salaam and Shinyanga and Morogoro towns.

The secretary general of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference, Charles Kitima, asserted to The Associated

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Press that "hundreds" of people died, citing reports from communities.

"The president has been sworn in and we hope justice will be served to those who lost their loved ones and that protesters are not targeted," the Catholic leader said, noting that Tanzania's young people are the most aggrieved.

Observers from a regional bloc Southern African Development Community said in a statement Monday that the Oct. 29 election had fallen short of the bloc's principles and guidelines for democratic elections, citing the barring of opposition candidates.

The bloc also cited delays in accrediting election observers.

The country's main opposition party, Chadema, has rejected the election results, saying in a statement that they "have no basis in reality."

Chadema party leader Tundu Lissu has been imprisoned for several months after being charged with treason for calling for electoral reforms that he said were necessary for a free and fair vote. Another opposition figure, Luhaga Mpina of the ACT-Wazalendo Party, was barred from running.

Internet connections that were shut down in Tanzania on election day resumed Monday, but internet advocacy group Netblocks said there still "widespread restrictions" to many social media and messaging platforms.

Tanzania's government urged public servants to return to work and everyone else to resume their economic activities on Tuesday.

The presidents of Mozambique, Zambia, Burundi and Somalia attended Monday's swearing-in. Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema urged Tanzanians to shun violence.

Kenyan President William Ruto in a statement on Monday called for dialogue in Tanzania to maintain stability. The election violence led to a closure of the main border crossing with Kenya at Namanga, where agricultural goods in trucks have been rotting for days.

## **Powerful 6.3 earthquake hits northern Afghanistan, killing 20 and damaging historic Blue Mosque**

By ABDUL QAHAR AFGHAN and SIDDIQULLAH ALIZAI Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A powerful 6.3 magnitude earthquake shook northern Afghanistan before dawn Monday, killing at least 20 people and injuring more than 640 others, as well as damaging the historic Blue Mosque, officials said.

The numbers of people killed or injured could rise, officials said.

In the town of Khulm, near the epicenter, people dug through the rubble of collapsed mud brick homes with shovels and picked through debris to salvage what belongings they could.

Local resident Ahmad Zia said the air was polluted from all the dust that rose from the ruins of houses. "We pulled the bodies of two people from the rubble, and their funerals will be held today," he said.

Footage on social media from Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, showed several bricks had fallen from the walls of the Blue Mosque but the structure remained intact. The centuries-old site, one of Afghanistan's most revered religious landmarks, is a major gathering place during Islamic and cultural festivals.

The impoverished country often faces difficulty in responding to such natural disasters, especially in remote regions. Buildings tend to be low-rise constructions, mostly of concrete and brick, with homes in rural and outlying areas made from mud bricks and wood, many poorly built.

In August, a quake in eastern Afghanistan killed more than 2,200 people.

Hundreds of houses destroyed

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake's epicenter was located 22 kilometers (14 miles) west-southwest of the town of Khulm, and that it struck at 12:59 a.m. at a depth of 28 kilometers (17 miles).

The deputy spokesman for Afghanistan's National Disaster Management Authority, Qari Taj Mohammad Hemat, said the earthquake had struck Balkh, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, and Kunduz provinces and had left 20 people dead and 643 others injured, of whom 25 were in critical condition.



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Earlier, Sharafat Zaman, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Public Health, said the dead and more than 500 of the injured had been brought to hospitals in Balkh and Samangan provinces. Rescuers were on the scene and the figures were changing, he added.

In the nearby province of Badakhshan, the quake partially or completely destroyed 800 houses in one village in the Shahr-e-Bozorg district, said Ihsanullah Kamgar, spokesperson for the provincial police headquarters. But with a lack of internet in the remote area, there were still no accurate casualty figures, he added.

Yousaf Hammad, a spokesman for Afghanistan's disaster management agency, said most of the injured suffered minor wounds and were discharged after treatment.

Another resident of Khulm, Abdul Mubin, said he had been sleeping in his shop when the earthquake struck. "I saw that everything was destroyed. People had suffered a lot of financial losses," he said. "Many people's houses were destroyed and their household goods were under the rubble."

Rockslide briefly blocks highway

The Ministry of Defense announced that rescue and emergency teams had reached the quake areas in Balkh and Samangan, which suffered the most damage. The teams were transporting the injured and assisting others, it said.

The Taliban government's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, posted on X that government organizations were working to get the help needed.

The quake was also felt in the capital, Kabul, and several other provinces. The Defense Ministry said a rockslide briefly blocked a main mountain highway linking Kabul with Mazar-e-Sharif, but the road was later reopened. It said some people who were injured and trapped along the highway were transported to the hospital.

In Islamabad, Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari expressed his deep sorrow and grief over the loss of lives. In a statement, he offered condolences to the families of the victims, prayed for the swift recovery of the injured, and said that Pakistan stands with the Afghan people in this difficult time.

His statement came as the two countries were engaged in rounds of peace talks amid heightened tension after deadly clashes on the frontier between Afghanistan and Pakistan left dozens of soldiers and civilians dead on both sides. Pakistan accuses the Taliban government of sheltering members of the Pakistani Taliban and failing to curb cross-border attacks. Afghan officials reject the allegations, saying they seek good relations. Another round of peace talks is scheduled for this week in Istanbul, Turkey.

The United Nations in Afghanistan said on X that its teams were on the ground assessing needs and delivering urgent aid.

"We stand with the affected communities and will provide the necessary support," the post said.

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake hit eastern Afghanistan on Aug. 31 near the border with Pakistan, killing more than 2,200 people. On Oct. 7, 2023, a magnitude 6.3 quake followed by strong aftershocks left at least 4,000 people dead, according to the Taliban government.

## **Famine is gripping two regions of war-torn Sudan, a global hunger authority says**

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Two regions of war-torn Sudan are enduring a famine that is at risk of spreading to other areas of the sprawling northeastern African country, where paramilitary fighters have been battling the military for power for more than two years, a global hunger monitoring group said Monday.

Famine is happening in el-Fasher, a major city in the western Darfur region, and the town of Kadugli, in the southern South Kordofan province, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification said in a new report. It is also threatening 20 other areas in Darfur and central Sudan's Kordofan region, where fighting has intensified in recent months, according to the IPC, the leading international authority on hunger crises.

"Famine and the risk of famine are urgent priorities, but they are only the most severe symptoms of a

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far broader and deepening crisis affecting millions across Sudan,” the IPC wrote in its report. “This is a man-made emergency, and all steps needed to prevent further catastrophe are clear.”

The Rapid Support Forces besieged el-Fasher for 18 months, cutting off much of the food and other supplies to tens of thousands of people. Last week, the paramilitary group seized the city, which had been the military’s last major holding in Darfur, and reportedly unleashed attacks that killed hundreds of civilians, though the scope of violence is unclear because communications are poor.

The RSF has also besieged Kadugli town for months, with tens of thousands of people trapped as the group tries to seize more territory from the Sudanese military.

‘Extremely high levels of malnutrition’

The war has been tearing apart Sudan since April 2023. More than 40,000 people have been killed, according to figures kept by the United Nations, which described the war in March as the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. But aid groups say the true death toll could be many times higher. The fighting has driven more than 14 million people from their homes and fueled disease outbreaks.

El-Fasher and Kadugli have experienced “a total collapse of livelihoods, starvation, extremely high levels of malnutrition and death,” according to the latest IPC report.

Famine is determined in areas where deaths from malnutrition-related causes reach at least two people, or four children under age 5, per 10,000; at least one in five people or households severely lack food and face starvation; and at least 30% of children under age 5 suffer from acute malnutrition based on a weight-to-height measurement — or 15% based on upper-arm circumference.

The IPC has confirmed famine only a few times, most recently in northern Gaza earlier this year during Israel’s campaign against Hamas. It also confirmed famine in Somalia in 2011, and in South Sudan in 2017 and 2020.

The IPC previously confirmed famine in five locations in Sudan. There were sprawling refugee camps near el-Fasher that emptied as RSF troops advanced, with most people fleeing into the city or nearby towns. The other locations were in parts of South and West Kordofan provinces that have since also fallen into RSF hands.

The new report said about 375,000 people had been pushed into famine in Darfur and Kordofan as of September, and another 6.3 million people across Sudan face extreme levels of hunger.

Thousands flee el-Fasher

Towns near el-Fasher, including Tawila, Melit and Tawisha, are at risk of famine, according to the IPC. Thousands fleeing el-Fasher have been trickling into those locations in recent days, though aid groups worry about the fate of tens of thousands more who are either trapped in the city or have disappeared as they tried to flee.

Doctors Without Borders said last week that its aid workers in Tawila reported that most of those arriving there were women, children and elderly people “with catastrophic levels of malnutrition.” It said all of the 70 children under 5 who arrived on Oct. 27 were acutely malnourished, with 57% of them severe cases. The next day, one in five of the 120 adult men it screened were malnourished, it said.

Sudanese arriving in Tawila have recounted running out of food during the RSF’s siege of the city and scrounging for animal fodder to eat.

Paramilitary focuses on Darfur

Since Sudan’s military retook the capital, Khartoum, earlier this year, the RSF has turned its focus to the Darfur region in the west, and to taking Kordofan to secure supply lines toward the country’s center.

Save the Children said in September that food supplies had run out in Kadugli, where it said fighting had escalated.

Another Kordofan town, Dilling, has reportedly experienced the same conditions as Kadugli, but the IPC didn’t announce famine there because of a lack of data, according to the new report.

Across Sudan, the IPC said more than 21 million people, or 45% of the population, faced acute food insecurity as of September. That marked a 6% drop from the previous report, which covered the period from December 2024 until this May.

The drop was due to reduced conflict and improved humanitarian access in Khartoum, neighboring Gezira

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province and the eastern province of Sennar after the military regained control of Khartoum and Gezira, allowing more than a million displaced people to return home.

The IPC called for a ceasefire as the sole measure that "can prevent further loss of life and help contain the extreme levels of acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition."

## **Avalanche on Nepal mountain Yalung Ri kills 7 including foreign climbers**

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — An avalanche swept through a camp on Mount Yalung Ri in Nepal on Monday and killed five foreign climbers and two Nepali guides, officials said.

Armed Police Force spokesperson Shailendra Thapa said five other people were hurt at the base camp, located at 4,900 meters (16,070 feet).

The nationalities and identities of the foreign climbers were yet to be confirmed.

Weather has been deteriorating since last week in Nepal, with snowstorms reported on the mountains.

Rescuers were reaching the site on foot. A rescue helicopter attempted to reach the site but bad weather forced it to turn back. Thapa said it will try again Tuesday at dawn.

Mount Yalung Ri is a 5,600-meter (18,370-foot) peak. It is considered a mountain for beginners with no previous experience in climbing high mountains.

Nepal is home to eight of the world's 14 tallest mountains, including Mount Everest. Spring is the most popular climbing season, when weather is favorable on those tall peaks.

However, hundreds of foreign climbers come to climb smaller peaks during the autumn months between the rainy monsoon months and winter.

## **Today in History: November 4 Obama wins presidency in historic election**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 4, the 308th day of 2025. There are 57 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 4, 2008, Democratic Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois was elected the first Black president of the United States, defeating the Republican candidate, Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Also on this date:

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militant students stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; 52 of the hostages were held for 444 days and were released on Jan. 20, 1981.

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan won election to the White House for the first time as he trounced Democratic President Jimmy Carter.

In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, California; attending were President George H.W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard Nixon — the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.

In 1995, Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel, was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a peace rally.

In 2007, King Tutankhamen's face was unveiled for the first time to the public more than 3,000 years after the pharaoh was buried in his Egyptian tomb.

In 2016, the Paris climate accord, reached the previous year, took effect; the first global pact to fight climate change called on the world to collectively cut and then eliminate greenhouse gas pollution but imposed no sanctions on countries that didn't.

Today's Birthdays: Blues musician Delbert McClinton is 86. Former first lady Laura Bush is 79. Author Charles Frazier is 75. Actor Ralph Macchio is 64. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst is 64. Actor Matthew McConaughey is 56. TV personality and entrepreneur Bethenny Frankel is 55. Jazz musician Gregory Porter is 54. Football Hall of Famer Orlando Pace is 50. Football Hall of Famer Devin Hester is 43.