

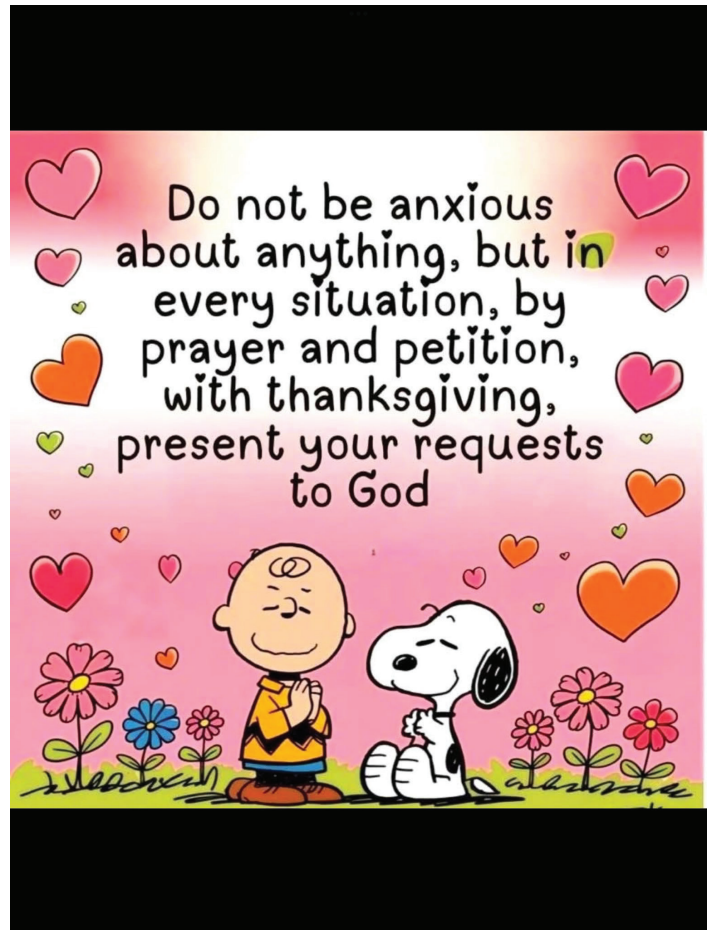
Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 1 of 63

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [4- City Council Story](#)
- [6- Groton schools recognized in U.S. News rankings](#)
- [8- SD News Watch Brief: Fact brief: Is SD's prep football participation at a historic low?](#)
- [9- SD SearchLight: Owner of 'Blind Guy Boards' travels to D.C. on a mission to save services for his community](#)
- [11- SD SearchLight: Governor appoints judge to state Supreme Court](#)
- [11- SD SearchLight: State commission rejects former Rapid City superintendent's open-meetings complaint](#)
- [12- SD SearchLight: A defiant Trump vows no SNAP payments until Democrats cave on shutdown](#)
- [14- SD SearchLight: Congress remains deadlocked, with government shutdown now on day 35](#)
- [16- SD SearchLight: It's small businesses versus Trump in tariff case before the Supreme Court](#)
- [19- SD SearchLight: States Newsroom Washington, D.C., Bureau reporter wins award for coverage of Congress](#)
- [19- SD SearchLight: Domestic violence in Native communities is focus of new survey](#)
- [20- SD SearchLight: Cheney helped shape 'the most consequential issues of his day,' Thune says](#)
- [23- Weather Pages](#)
- [28- Daily Devotional](#)
- [29- Upcoming Events](#)
- [30- Subscription Form](#)
- [31- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [32- News from the Associated Press](#)

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



Do not be anxious
about anything, but in
every situation, by
prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving,
present your requests
to God

6th grade GBB practice, 6 p.m.
4th-6th grade hosts Roncalli, 7:30 .m.

Thursday, Nov. 6

Senior Menu: Beef and potatoes, antigua blend, fruit, beadstick.
School Breakfast: Maple French Toast Bake.
School Lunch: Lasagna bake, corn.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.
FFA at Jackrabbit Invite
Region 1A Volleyball at Groton Area (6 p.m.: Groton Area vs. Britton-Hecla followed by Roncalli vs. Webster)
4th grade GBB practice, 4 p.m.
3rd grade GBB practice, 5 p.m.

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Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 2 of 63

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.

Breaking news: At least seven people are dead and 11 are injured after a UPS cargo plane crashed and exploded while taking off from Muhammad Ali International Airport in Louisville, Kentucky. The number of fatalities is expected to increase.

Mamdani Wins in NYC

Voters in several states cast ballots yesterday in closely watched off-year elections, including races for New York City mayor and governors in Virginia and New Jersey.

In New York City, democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani (50.4%) defeated former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (41.6%)—a centrist Democrat who ran as an independent—and Republican Curtis Sliwa (7.1%). The 34-year-old Mamdani becomes the first Muslim mayor and Asian American mayor of the nation's largest city. More than 2 million people voted in the election, surpassing total votes cast in any previous NYC mayoral race since 1969.

In Virginia's gubernatorial race, Democrat and former US Rep. Abigail Spanberger beat Republican Virginia Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears, becoming the first woman elected to the role. Spanberger held a 57.5%-42.3% lead with 97% of votes in as of this writing. Democrats also won the lieutenant governor's seat and the state's attorney general race.

Meanwhile, in New Jersey, Democratic Rep. Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11) beat Republican Jack Ciattarelli in a closely watched race that tightened in the final weeks in the polls but ended as a double-digit victory. The tally early this morning stood at 56.2%-43.2%.

In California, voters approved an amendment (64%-36%) establishing a temporary new congressional map that could shift as many as five seats to Democrats in the US House in next year's midterms.

Tariffs on Trial

The Supreme Court will hear arguments today on President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs. The ruling, expected before July, could clarify the boundaries of presidential power.

Trump was the first president to invoke the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to levy tariffs, after declaring the inflow of fentanyl and persistent trade deficits as national emergencies. The 1977 law, which authorizes presidents to regulate imports during emergencies, has historically been interpreted to allow presidents to impose sanctions. Former President George W. Bush, for example, used the act to freeze assets following 9/11. The law does not mention tariffs, duties, taxes, or similar terms, leading lower courts to rule that Trump exceeded his authority. The administration argues tariffs are a way to regulate imports, although they traditionally require congressional authorization.

Today's challenge before the Supreme Court was brought by 12 states and several small businesses, including a toymaker that lowered 2025 revenue projections from \$1M to \$400K due to tariffs.

Shein in Paris

Singapore-based e-commerce platform Shein opens its first brick-and-mortar store today in Paris. The debut comes amid fresh regulatory scrutiny and local backlash over its business practices.

Shein is opening in BHV Marais, a nearly 170-year-old building in Paris. The store houses products from legacy fashion brands, including Chanel, Dior, and Givenchy. Several brands, however, have pulled their merchandise in recent weeks, in protest of Shein's fast-fashion business model. Over the weekend, fresh anger erupted as investigators revealed the company had been selling childlike sex dolls online. Shein says

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 3 of 63

it pulled the product—sold by a third-party retailer—from its site. The French government has referred the matter to prosecutors and threatened to bar Shein from selling products in the country.

Shein earned \$38B in global revenue last year, though the company's model has struggled in the face of US tariffs. The company plans to open five additional physical stores throughout France.

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Ohio State tops first edition of 2025 College Football Playoff rankings.

Newspaper publisher Gannett Co. changes name to USA TODAY Co., a nod to its flagship publication.

Condé Nast to fold Teen Vogue into Vogue.com, following Vogue Business' move to the platform last week.

Soccer star David Beckham knighted by King Charles III for contributions to sports and charity.

English actor Jonathan Bailey becomes People magazine's first openly gay Sexiest Man Alive.

Science & Technology

Stability AI largely wins landmark UK intellectual property lawsuit brought by Getty Images.

Amazon threatens legal action against Perplexity AI to block Comet browser from making online purchases on behalf of users.

Scientists observe most distant and powerful flare yet from supermassive black hole—10 billion light-years away and 30 times brighter than previously observed flares.

Researchers determine Antarctic glacier retreated faster than any other in modern history; nearly 50% of the glacier disintegrated in two months, a pace comparable to retreats at the end of the last ice age.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close down (S&P 500 -1.2%, Dow -0.5%, Nasdaq -2.0%).

Pinterest shares fall 20% in after-hours trading after missing earnings-per-share estimates, providing weak guidance.

Norway's wealth fund to reject Elon Musk's \$1T Tesla pay package at annual shareholder meeting scheduled tomorrow.

Papa John's shares close down nearly 10% on reports of Apollo Global withdrawing offer to take the pizza chain private.

Pfizer and Novo Nordisk escalate bidding battle for weight-loss drug startup Metsera.

Politics & World Affairs

Former Vice President Dick Cheney dies at age 84 from complications of pneumonia and cardiac and vascular disease; he was known for his role in advocating for the US war with Iraq and was also defense secretary and a congressman for a decade.

FBI arrests two men in connection with Saturday's explosion at Harvard Medical School; the men, aged 18 and 20, do not attend the university.

Federal government shutdown becomes the longest on record, entering Day 36; see live updates.

Groton City Council advances 2026 budget, addresses utility issues at municipal airport

By Elizabeth Varin

The Groton City Council discussed ongoing issues with bringing electric utilities to the municipal airport, approved the first reading of the city's 2026 budget ordinance and agreed to move forward with installing a swinging gate to block a section of road near the soccer fields during games.

At its last meeting, the City Council gave Darrell Hillestad approval to work with the city's electric department to get power out to the new building at the municipal airport.

However, Electric Utility Supervisor Todd Gay told the council Tuesday evening that it wouldn't be possible with the way the area is set up.

The building, which had previously served as the concession stand at the baseball/softball complex, was moved to a lot on the west side of the runway. The building and concrete foundation are 500 feet from the transformer out there, which is too far to run a line and get consistent power.

About 250 to 300 feet is the maximum distance to run power to a building running 20 amps, Gay said. And with discussion of hangars being built out there that would need electricity, that line wouldn't be able to meet the demand.

"In my professional opinion, it's too far from the transformer that's sitting there," he said.

Councilwoman Karyn Babcock asked what the city would need in order to run power out there.

"I feel like we need to accommodate what's coming," she said. "So, moving forward, how do we accommodate what's coming?"

Northern Electric Cooperative would be able to put in a transformer and line to the building, Gay said. However, it will cost the city around \$5,000 to put in the equipment, along with a monthly service fee.

Hillestad asked if he could bury a line anyway as a trench has already been dug for it.

Gay said it would be better to fill the trench and contact Northern Electric Cooperative to get on their schedule.

"I want it built the right way," he said. "I just want what is best long term. That's it."

Gay asked the council if they wanted him to reach out to Northern Electric Cooperative to get the process going, to which the council said "yes."

Budget ordinance gets first approval

The city is one step closer to a finalized 2026 budget.

The council held its first reading of its 2026 appropriations ordinance, reviewing projects discussed throughout the last few months to select what should be funded for the coming year.

A handful of items have already been earmarked for different projects and equipment ordered, said Douglas Heinrich, city finance officer. However, some items are still up for discussion.

One of those items was adding radar signs on the highways in town. The total included in the budget document is from the higher end bid, and there may be grant funding available that would cut down the city's bill for it, he said.

Most of the budget requests were added to the "keep" list, but a new trailer for the electric department was removed from the budget ordinance.

"I think it's a good idea, but with all the expenses we have, putting it off for the year might be good," said Councilman Brian Bahr.

Other projects that were kept in the budget totals include painting the exterior of City Hall (estimated \$20,000), replacement nets for the baseball/softball fields (estimated \$3,411), street resurfacing (estimated \$120,000), roof repairs (estimated \$100,000) and a new bucket truck (estimated \$261,000).

City moves forward on swinging gates at soccer fields

The council approved moving forward with a project to add swinging gates on West Third Avenue where the street intersects with Garfield Street as well as where it intersects with North Lincoln Street.

The gates will block the roadway when soccer games are played on the soccer fields.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 5 of 63

Councilman Brian Bahr said the city already has the equipment. It might as well install it so the gates don't just rust.

The gates help with a safety issue, he said. If people are going to be using the bathrooms at the skating rink, there should be something there to block cars from the roadway.

The council approved having the city get quotes to complete the project.

The council also reviewed a proposal to convert a handful of narrow lots along Second Avenue West into three larger lots. The proposal was approved at the city's Planning and Zoning Commission meeting in October. However, Public Works Coordinator and Street/Water Superintendent Terry Herron expressed concern about water lines running to the property.

Currently two lines run under Second Avenue West to the property. However, if the lots were to be developed, one more line would be needed, which would mean a portion of the roadway would have to be dug into.

Councilman Brian Bahr said that issue was not presented to the planning and zoning commission when it reviewed the proposal. He asked if there would be repercussions if the plat proposal was sent back to the planning commission.

"We'd hate to tear our nice streets up," he said.

The council tabled discussion about the proposal, with Bahr saying he would reach out to the planning commission president to discuss the issue.

- Electric Utility Supervisor Todd Gay reminded the council and community that the city's dual fuel ordinance is increasing as of this month. Customers who have the dual fuel meters will see an increase on their bill from \$10 per month to \$25 per month. Dual fuel refers to residences where heat is primarily from electric sources with a fossil fuel backup. This is the minimum charge so if a customer uses at least 460 KWH of electricity on that meter, they will not see the increase.

- Mayor Scott Hanlon told the council he had proclaimed November 3-9, 2025 as HOSA Future Health Professionals Week in the city to recognize and support the students, advisers and members of the Groton Area HOSA Chapter and to promote awareness of healthcare careers and the role these future professionals will play in the community.

- The city will begin accepting applications for skating rink employees. The first round of applications is set to be reviewed Dec. 2, and applications submitted after that will be reviewed on an as-needed basis.

Groton schools recognized in U.S. News rankings

by Elizabeth Varin

Groton Area Schools have earned statewide and national recognition for academic excellence, with all three schools—elementary, middle, and high school—featured in U.S. News & World Report's latest rankings.

In the 2026 Best Elementary and Middle Schools report, Groton Area Elementary School ranked No. 69 of 209 South Dakota elementary schools, placing it among the top 40% statewide. Groton Area Middle School achieved an impressive No. 5 of 143 South Dakota middle schools, marking it as one of the top-performing middle schools in the state.

Middle and high school principal Shelby Edwards said the rankings are a reflection of hard work at every level.

"We're incredibly proud to see Groton Area Middle School recognized for its strong academic performance," Edwards said. "This acknowledgment reflects the hard work of our students, the dedication of our teachers and staff, and the unwavering support from our families and community. It's always rewarding to see those efforts validated at the state and national level."

The U.S. News rankings are based on performance in state assessments and how well schools prepare students for the next academic stage. For Edwards, the most important measure of success is readiness—not just for high school, but for life.

"The most important indicator of a successful middle school is how well it prepares students—academically, socially, and emotionally—for the challenges of high school and beyond," she said. "Building confidence, curiosity and a love of learning are just as important as test scores."

Edwards said Groton's above-average reading and math results stem from a mix of high expectations, targeted instruction and community support.

"Teachers use data to guide instruction, provide targeted support and celebrate growth," she said. "Groton has been known for its high academic rigor, and while we do not waver from that, our staff meet each student where they are and build from there."

At the elementary level, principal Brett Schwan said he's proud to see Groton Area Elementary recognized among the top performers in the state.

"Ranking No. 69 out of 209 schools is a meaningful acknowledgment of the hard work our students, staff and families put in every day," Schwan said. "It's always encouraging when outside measures reflect the strong learning culture we see in our building."

He noted that U.S. News evaluates elementary schools largely on state assessment data in English/language arts and math for grades three through five, along with growth and school climate measures. Based on recent results, approximately 69% of Groton Area Elementary students scored proficient in reading and 65% in math.

"These numbers highlight strengths and also guide us in the areas where we are continuing to grow," Schwan said. "However, test scores only tell part of our story. True success includes students who feel safe, supported and excited to learn; strong relationships between staff and students; and a positive school culture where families feel welcomed and involved."

Schwan said what makes Groton Area Elementary special is the people inside it.

"Our students are kind, curious and hardworking, and our teachers care deeply about building strong connections and meeting every child's needs," he said. "We are grateful for the support of our families and our community, and while we are proud of this recognition, we remain committed to continuous improvement."

Edwards agreed that beyond the data, Groton's greatest strength lies in its community.

"Groton Area Middle School is a place where students are known, supported and encouraged to grow in every area of life," she said. "The rankings are one reflection of success, but the daily learning, caring environment and sense of community are what truly make the Groton Area School District so special."

Earlier this year, U.S. News released its 2025–2026 Best High Schools rankings, in which Groton Area High School ranked No. 44 among South Dakota high schools (within the top 25 percent of 186 high schools

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 7 of 63

in the state), No. 4 in the Aberdeen Metro Area—behind Warner, Central, and Ipswich—and No. 8,832 nationally out of more than 24,000 public high schools reviewed.

Elementary and middle school rankings are based entirely on publicly available data from the U.S. Department of Education, according to U.S. News & World Report. Data about grades taught, contact information and enrollment are from the U.S. Department of Education's Common Core of Data for 2023-2024. State assessment data was sourced from the Department of Education's EdFacts initiative. For the latest U.S. News rankings, mathematics assessment results from the 2022-2023 academic year and reading assessments from the 2021-2022 academic year were used.

At the high school level, enrollment, student ethnicity and other profile information came from the Common Core of Data from the U.S. Department of Education website. Statewide mathematics, reading and science assessment data used in the 2025-2026 rankings is from the 2022-2023 school year. High school graduation rate data is from the 2022-2023 school year.



Fact brief: Is SD's prep football participation at a historic low?

Michael Klinski
investigative reporter

No

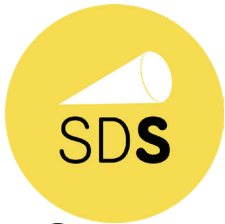
The number of high school football players in South Dakota has rebounded after hitting a 15-year low in 2019-20.

More than 5,500 students signed up to play high school football in 2024-25, with 2,048 of those in nine-man and 3,512 of them in 11-man.

During the 2018 season, the number of athletes dipped below 5,000 for the only time since at least 2009. In 2018, 4,997 competed, with 3,133 in 11-man and 1,846 in nine-man.

Despite declining participation across the country in the 2010s, numbers are starting to rise again nationally. In the 11-man game, there are about 23,000 more athletes in 2024-25 than 2018-19. Numbers also increased in nine-man.

The National Federation of High Schools says the increase is partly due to parents getting more comfortable with the safety of the sport after concussion protocols and new laws.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Owner of 'Blind Guy Boards' travels to D.C. on a mission to save services for his community

US Department of Education staff cuts could hurt programming for people in SD, advocate says

BY: JOHN HULT

On Wednesday morning at 6 a.m., Ismael Collazo of Brookings will board a plane for Washington, D.C., with plans to advocate for the programs he says put him in the position to buy tickets, board planes and advocate.

Collazo, a former line cook at a Hard Rock Hotel in Florida, lost his vision 12 years ago. After a rough patch of depression and heavy drinking, he signed up for a vocational rehabilitation program that offered job and business training.

As a result, Collazo, who moved to South Dakota to be nearer to his wife's family, has owned and operated his own business, a woodworking company called Blind Guy Boards, for the past six years.

"I've learned how to be my own accountant, how to be my own maintenance, my own salesman, my own bookkeeper," said Collazo, South Dakota state president for the National Federation of the Blind. "I do it all."

The program that trained Collazo is administered by the state Department of Human Services, but is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Education.

That vocational rehabilitation program, designed for people who go blind as adults, is one of several under that department's umbrella that Collazo sees as under dire threat.

The Trump administration issued an executive order to unwind the department earlier this year. During the ongoing government shutdown, the administration issued a "reduction in force" notice for the department that would reportedly remove most of the employees responsible for administering the programs.

Following through with the staffing threats would "decimate the workforce that runs the Department of Education," Collazo said.

"That's what we're fighting for: the what now?" he said. "These programs are mandated by law, so what happens to these programs?"

Staff cut proposals, blocked layoffs

The answers are unclear on several fronts.

The administration hasn't released detailed lists of which employees in which areas of government could be impacted by the reductions in force the president first alluded to in a social media post on Oct. 2, although court filings have put the total number at about 4,200.

"I can't believe the radical left Democrats gave me this unprecedented opportunity," Trump wrote.

Labor unions have since sued the administration over the layoffs, and a California judge recently ordered the administration not to carry them out during the shutdown.

An Oct. 10 court filing in that lawsuit from the federal government put the number of Education Department employees targeted for staff reductions at 466.

The administration's lawyers have appealed, arguing that some layoffs were planned before the shutdown began and ought to be allowed to proceed.

Chris Danielsen, public relations manager for the National Federation of the Blind, said his organization's

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 10 of 63

volunteer leaders are acting under their understanding of the situation, which is a proposed staffing cut at the Education Department's Office of Special Education Programs, the Rehabilitation Services Administration and Division of Civil Rights.

The first office funds services to blind students in K-12 schools. The second funds the vocational programming Collazo used, as well as training for elderly people who need help setting up their homes to safely stay in them after they experience age-related vision loss. The third offers an enforcement mechanism for families who say their children with disabilities haven't received the federal services afforded them under federal law.

The national federation, Danielsen said, is one of several in the blind and disabled community to have sounded alarms and written letters about the changes.

Everyone who serves as a federation leader at the state level has been urged to touch base with their respective congressional delegations, Danielsen said, and to travel to Washington if they're able.

He didn't know exactly how many state-level advocates would show up to the U.S. Capitol alongside Collazo this week, but said the figure is in the dozens.

"Our organization is all volunteer-run, so people are going as they are able," Danielsen said.

South Dakota funds available, for now

The state Department of Human Services administers the vocational program funding and funding for the elderly.

According to spokeswoman Kristen Kilmer, nothing has changed at this point at the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The vocational program served 391 people between 2023 and 2024, according to that division's most recent annual report. Of those, 52 were employed by the end of the program.

The elderly service program served 332 people, the report says.

The two programs continue to operate at full capacity, she wrote, and serve "the same number of clients as before."

The state got \$2.7 million for vocational rehab last year, and Kilmer said more than half of that money is remaining and available for use through September of next year. The state "hasn't gotten notice" of the money it might get from the federal government for federal fiscal year 2026, which began in October of this calendar year.

The Independent Living Older Blind program gets \$225,000 a year. The state doesn't have leftover money, she said, and has covered the bill thus far, to the tune of \$19,700.

"That will eventually be reimbursed" by the federal government, Kilmer said.

Danielsen, the spokesman for the national federation, said the continuing resolution to fund the government — which has been voted down numerous times in the U.S. Senate since the shutdown began — includes funding for programs for the visually impaired.

The funding won't do much good, he said, without staff.

"You can effectively kill a program if you get rid of the staff that run it and have no plan on how to run it going forward," Danielsen said.

South Dakota advocate

That's what Collazo is most concerned about, for himself and the approximately 19,000 other visually impaired people in South Dakota.

He said he would not have been able to open his business without the vocational program, and that the same is true of plenty of people who lose their sight as adults.

In reality, he said, the programs save money for taxpayers by keeping people with visual impairments in the workforce and off government assistance.

Beyond vocational and elderly programming, he's concerned about the Randolph-Sheppard program. Since 1936, that program has put visually impaired entrepreneurs in charge of businesses and federal

buildings, often food service businesses.

He intends to talk about all of it in meetings with the offices of South Dakota Republican Sens. Mike Rounds and John Thune on Wednesday, his first day in D.C.

He's working with the office of Republican Rep. Dusty Johnson to set up a meeting, as well, but that will likely be back in South Dakota. Collazo plans to return Thursday.

He plans to talk to the elected officials about his journey from chef to blind woodworker, and about the independence he wasn't sure he'd have a dozen years ago, when he lost his eyesight.

He's produced cutting boards, countertops and even some cabinetry, with the help of tools like a click ruler, which makes sounds to indicate measurements, and saw stops, which have electronic detection systems and shutoff mechanisms to protect their users.

"You never know what you can accomplish until you're put into a position where you have to," Collazo said.

Other South Dakotans in such positions ought to have the same opportunity to learn how to push their limits, he said.

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.

Governor appoints judge to state Supreme Court

BY: SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF

South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden has appointed Seventh Circuit Presiding Judge Robert Gusinsky to serve as a supreme court justice for the First Supreme District, the governor's office announced Tuesday.

The vacancy was created by the retirement of Justice Janine Kern. The First Supreme District consists of the counties of Custer, Lawrence, Meade and Pennington.

"Justice Kern has done a remarkable job serving our state with integrity and fairness," Rhoden said in a news release, "and I have no doubt that Judge Gusinsky will pick up the torch with the same commitment and conviction."

Gusinsky was born in Latvia. After emigrating with his parents through Israel and Germany, he settled in California and became a U.S. citizen.

Gusinsky enjoyed his earlier career as an airline pilot before changing course to pursue law. He enrolled at the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law in 1993. Following graduation, he practiced as a trial lawyer at Lynn, Jackson, Shultz & Lebrun and later at Clayborne, Loos, Strommen & Gusinsky in Rapid City.

Gusinsky went on to serve in the U.S. Attorney's Office before being appointed to the Seventh Circuit bench by former Gov. Dennis Daugaard. In 2024, the chief justice named Gusinsky the presiding judge of the Seventh Circuit.

State commission rejects former Rapid City superintendent's open-meetings complaint

In separate case, group finds sanitary district violated laws

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR

A state commission on Monday cleared the Rapid City Area School Board of allegations that it violated state transparency laws in its handling of a former superintendent's contract termination.

During a meeting in Pierre, the South Dakota Open Meetings Commission ruled against former Superintendent Nicole Swigart. The school board voted to terminate her contract in August 2024 after the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights issued a report containing insensitive remarks she allegedly made in reference to Native American students and families. Swigart denied making the statements.

Swigart filed an open meetings complaint last November alleging that the board committed four viola-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 12 of 63

tions of state open-meetings laws in its handling of her personnel matter. The allegations included her claim that the board illegally made its decision about her in a closed-door, executive session before the board voted in public.

Open meetings laws specifically list discussions of "the qualifications, competence, performance, character or fitness of any public officer or employee" as a justifiable reason to conduct an executive session.

Commissioner Emily Sovell moved to dismiss the complaint, and fellow commissioners agreed the school board had not broken the law.

Sanitary district found in violation

In another case, the commission ruled that the Green Valley Sanitary District in Pennington County violated the state's open meetings laws by failing to properly cite a legal reason before entering executive session and by improperly stopping a citizen from recording a public meeting last year.

Steve Myers filed the complaint. He told the commission that during a meeting on April 10, 2024, the board entered executive session without citing a law or qualifying reason, as required by state law. The motion simply stated that the board would discuss a complaint Myers had filed, which is not one of the allowable reasons under state law to turn a public meeting private.

Myers also said that at a May 8, 2024, meeting, the board violated state law that allows the public to record open meetings. Myers said he announced he was recording, but a board member told him to stop or the meeting would be adjourned.

Ty Daly, the sanitary district's attorney, said the district's board members complied with the law. He said the purpose of the April 10 executive session was to discuss pending or proposed litigation with legal counsel, which is an allowable purpose for an executive session.

He also said the board acted "in good faith" in asking Myers to stop recording.

"The purpose was to prevent disruption and avoid residents or the public being recorded without their permission," he said.

Commissioners found that whatever the purpose for the executive session, the board had failed to meet the legal requirement that public bodies clearly state the reason for closing a meeting. They also found the May 8 incident violated open meeting laws because the disruption stemmed from the board's decision to tell Myers to stop recording, not Myers' recording itself.

The commission will issue written reprimands for the violations.

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

A defiant Trump vows no SNAP payments until Democrats cave on shutdown

BY: JACOB FISCHLER

President Donald Trump backtracked Tuesday on a pledge by his administration in court filings to partially fund November food assistance during the government shutdown, posting on social media that benefits "will be given only when the Radical Left Democrats open up government, which they can easily do, and not before!"

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said later Tuesday that Trump was referring to future uses of a food assistance contingency fund and that the administration was complying with the court order, though that description did not match Trump's post.

Trump's declaration appeared to have little effect on the federal court case over food aid. The U.S. Department of Agriculture wrote in a court filing late Tuesday it would continue with a plan to provide partial November payments.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 13 of 63

The benefits usually are provided to some 42 million Americans and, at the moment, are shut off pending the partial payments.

Before Trump's post Tuesday, a coalition of cities and nonprofits suing the USDA said the delayed partial payments were not enough.

The coalition that filed suit, led by the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, just prior to Trump's social media post Tuesday asked a Rhode Island federal court to compel the government to pay full benefits.

The USDA's promise Monday that it would provide partial payments to households who use the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, from a roughly \$4.5 billion contingency fund, was an insufficient response to a court order, the groups said.

USDA officials said Monday they could not complete partial payments for November benefits by Chief District Court Judge John J. McConnell Jr.'s deadline of Wednesday, and warned it could take several months for beneficiaries to receive the funding because of the administrative difficulties of recalculating and processing partial benefits.

The groups suing said Tuesday that if paying partial benefits created such delays, McConnell should force the government to pay full benefits instead.

"If Defendants cannot comply with the Court's command to expeditiously resolve the hurdles to making 'timely' partial payments, then that is a problem of their own making," the groups wrote.

"They chose—unlawfully and contrary to past agency precedent and guidance—to withhold all funding for SNAP," they continued. "That this unlawful decision may have made it impossible for them to clear the administrative hurdles now is no excuse. They still have a straightforward path to meeting the directives in the Court's order."

The department could legally and relatively easily tap into a separate child nutrition program account that holds \$23 billion, the groups said. That would more than cover the \$9 billion needed for a month of SNAP benefits, they said.

McConnell ordered the government to respond to the challengers' motion, and set a hearing on the issue for Thursday afternoon.

Trump changes course

Within an hour of the groups' filing, Trump, who had said he was eager to restore SNAP benefits, responded on social media with his defiant message that he would only release any SNAP funding once Democrats in Congress agreed to end the government shutdown that began Oct. 1.

Trump had said Friday he told government lawyers to seek clarification on how the government could legally send out benefits during the shutdown, adding he did not want Americans to go hungry.

"If we are given the appropriate legal direction by the Court, it will BE MY HONOR to provide the funding," he wrote Oct. 31, following an oral order by McConnell.

McConnell issued a written order the next day that benefits be provided either in full by Monday or partially by Wednesday.

The USDA responded Monday that it would provide partial benefits from the contingency fund that held about half of a month's worth of benefits, but that the process could take weeks or even months for states to recalibrate the amount each beneficiary would receive and to process those payments.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins echoed that commitment just before the challengers submitted their motion to compel full payments.

"This morning, @USDA sent SNAP guidance to States," Rollins wrote on X. "My team stands by to offer immediate technical assistance. This will be a cumbersome process, including revised eligibility systems, State notification procedures, and ultimately, delayed benefits for weeks, but we will help States navigate those challenges."

Spokespeople for the USDA did not return messages seeking an explanation for the course change Tuesday morning.

At the White House press briefing Tuesday afternoon, Leavitt said she had just spoken with Trump and

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 14 of 63

sought to clarify his statement.

"We are digging into a contingency fund," she said. "The president doesn't want to tap into this fund in the future and that's what he was referring to."

Skye Perryman, the president and CEO of Democracy Forward, an advocacy group representing the groups challenging the administration, said in a Tuesday post to social media that Trump's post was "immoral" and that the group would make use of it.

"See you in court," Perryman said.

Shutdown lingers

The dispute over SNAP benefits stems from the lapse in government funding that began when Congress failed to appropriate money for federal programs by the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1.

The USDA said in a plan published just ahead of the shutdown — and since deleted — that it would use the contingency fund, which then held \$6 billion, to cover SNAP benefits if needed.

But the department reversed itself within weeks, telling states in an Oct. 10 letter that benefits would not be paid in November if the government remained shut down on the first of the month.

Members of each party have blamed the other for the lack of SNAP benefits.

Democrats have demanded the administration reshuffle funds to cover the program, as it has with other federal funding during the shutdown, while Republicans have called on Democrats to approve a stopgap spending bill to reopen the government at fiscal 2025 spending levels.

Democrats in Congress have blocked Republicans' "clean" continuing resolution to reopen the government in a bid to force negotiations on expiring tax credits for people who buy insurance on the Affordable Care Act marketplace.

As of Tuesday, the parties showed little sign of softening their positions.

Ariana Figueroa contributed to this report.

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.

Congress remains deadlocked, with government shutdown now on day 35

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA AND SHAUNEEN MIRANDA

-WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate Tuesday failed for the 14th time to advance a stopgap spending bill to fund the government, as the ongoing shutdown hit 35 days and is now tied with the shutdown of 2018-2019 as the longest ever.

The 54-44 vote was nearly identical to the previous 13 votes, as Republicans and Democrats remained unwilling to change positions. The legislation extending funding to Nov. 21 needed at least 60 votes to advance, per the Senate's legislative filibuster.

Even though the upper chamber has been unable to pass a stopgap spending measure for more than a month, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., told reporters Tuesday that he believes senators are "making progress."

He floated keeping the Senate in session next week. The chamber is scheduled to be in recess for the Veterans Day holiday.

"We'll think through that as the week progresses, but I guess my hope would be we'll make some progress," he said.

Thune added that any stopgap spending bill will need to be extended past Nov. 21, "because we're almost up against the November deadline right now."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 15 of 63

Duffy warns of flight 'chaos' due to staff shortages

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy warned during a Tuesday press conference at the Department of Transportation that if the government shutdown continues into next week, it would lead to "chaos" and certain airspace would need to be closed due to a shortage of air traffic controllers who have continued to work amid the shutdown.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said at a separate press conference at the Capitol that he would bring the House back to vote on a stopgap spending measure if the Senate extends the funding date.

"If the Senate passes something, of course we'll come back," Johnson said. "We're running out of (the) clock."

Johnson said he is "not a fan" of extending the bill to December and would prefer a January deadline.

He said extending a stopgap funding bill "into January makes sense, but we got to, obviously, build consensus around that."

Senators at odds

On Tuesday's Senate vote, Nevada Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto and Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman, both Democrats, and Maine independent Sen. Angus King voted with Republicans to advance the legislation. Kentucky GOP Sen. Rand Paul voted no.

Senate Democrats have refused to support the House-passed GOP measure over concerns about the expiration of health care tax subsidies. As open enrollment begins, people who buy their health insurance through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace are seeing a drastic spike in premium costs.

Republicans have maintained that any negotiations on health care must occur after Democrats agree to fund the government.

The Trump administration has also tried to pressure Democrats to accept the House stopgap spending measure by instructing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to not tap into its contingency fund to provide critical food assistance to 42 million Americans.

SNAP fight

Two federal courts have found the Trump administration acted unlawfully in holding back those benefits, and on Monday USDA announced it would partially release Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits.

However, President Donald Trump Tuesday morning wrote on his social media platform that SNAP benefits would only be released when Democrats vote to reopen the government, a move that would likely violate the two court orders.

"SNAP BENEFITS, which increased by Billions and Billions of Dollars (MANY FOLD!) during Crooked Joe Biden's disastrous term in office (Due to the fact that they were haphazardly 'handed' to anyone for the asking, as opposed to just those in need, which is the purpose of SNAP!), will be given only when the Radical Left Democrats open up government, which they can easily do, and not before!", he wrote.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said during a Tuesday briefing that the president's social media post did not refer to the court order, but was referring to future SNAP payments.

"The president doesn't want to tap into this (contingency) fund in the future and that's what he was referring to," she said.

'Republican health care crisis'

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York stood firm in his party's demands over extending health care tax credits in order to back a stopgap spending bill during a Tuesday press conference at the Capitol.

"We want to reopen the government — we want to find a bipartisan path forward toward enacting a spending agreement that actually makes life better for the American people, that lowers costs for the American people, as opposed to the Trump economy where things are getting more expensive by the

day," Jeffries said.

"And, of course, we have to decisively address the Republican health care crisis that is crushing the American people all across the land."

He noted that Republicans' refusal to extend the enhanced Affordable Care Act tax credits would result in "tens of millions of Americans experiencing dramatically increased premiums, co-pays and deductibles."

An analysis by KFF shows that those enrollees in the Affordable Care Act marketplace who currently receive a tax credit are likely to see their monthly premium payments more than double by about 114% on average.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said the spike in health care premiums will cause some people to choose to forgo health care insurance.

"It's a five-alarm health care emergency," Schumer said.

Johnson's January CR rationale

Meanwhile, Johnson said at his press conference that "a lot of people around here have PTSD about Christmas omnibus spending bills," when speaking out against a December extension of the stopgap spending bill.

GOP leaders have sought to do away with the practice of bundling at the end of the year the final versions of the dozen annual government funding bills into what's known as an omnibus package.

"We don't want to do that. It gets too close, and we don't want to have that risk," Johnson said. "We're not doing that."

However, it's unclear how long the new stopgap spending bill will extend. Thune, during a Tuesday press conference, said a year-long continuing resolution, or CR, was not on the table.

"There's a conversation around what that next deadline would be," Thune said, adding that there is not an agreement yet.

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

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

It's small businesses versus Trump in tariff case before the Supreme Court

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court will hear one of the first major cases of President Donald Trump's second term Wednesday, when the administration defends the president's emergency tariffs that American small business owners say are upending their livelihoods.

The question at the heart of the case is whether Trump can authorize sweeping tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA — the first time a president has used the statute to impose taxes on imports.

The suit, which challenges the bounds of Trump's presidential power, is the first of the administration's appeals to the high court to be fully argued on its merits. The justices have so far addressed Trump's numerous appeals on other issues on what is known as the shadow docket, a fast track to make a decision without full arguments.

The president initially said he would attend the arguments in person but has since changed course and will go to a business forum in Miami Wednesday.

The high court convenes at 10 a.m. Eastern and live audio of the arguments is posted on the court's website.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said he plans to attend the arguments, "hopefully in the front row (to)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 17 of 63

have a ringside seat," he told Fox News' Jesse Watters Monday

The tariff case is "one for the ages," said Michael McConnell, professor and faculty director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School and member of the legal team representing the small businesses challenging Trump's tariffs.

"The president has important powers that come directly from the Constitution, but he has no power to impose taxes on American citizens without the authorization of Congress, and tariffs are taxes on American importers," said McConnell, who sat on the bench of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit from 2002 to 2009.

"IEEPA simply does not apply here," he told reporters during an Oct. 28 virtual press conference. "It is a statute about imposing various forms of sanctions, economic sanctions, on countries with whom we are in conflict. It has nothing to do with imposing taxes on Americans for engaging in perfectly lawful trade with friendly nations."

Tariffs a 'terrible and unsustainable weight'

Victor Schwartz, founder and president of VOS Selections, a family-owned wine and spirits importer in business for four decades, said Trump's tariff policy is an "existential threat."

Schwartz is the lead plaintiff in one of two consolidated cases brought by small business owners and Democratic state attorneys general to challenge the duties that can range from 10% to 50%, depending on the product's origin.

"These tariffs threaten the very existence of small businesses like mine, making it difficult to survive, let alone grow," Schwartz told reporters during the Oct. 28 virtual press call.

"Let me be clear, Americans are paying these tariffs, not foreign entities, and the tariffs are a terrible and unsustainable weight. We have to pay tariffs immediately at the port of entry, and we don't see revenue from those products for at least five or six months," Schwartz said.

Schwartz said he and his daughter, with whom he runs the business, can no longer import wines from South Africa, as tariffs on products from that country are set at 30%.

Other businesses that joined Schwartz on the lawsuit include a Utah-based plastics producer, a Virginia-based children's electricity learning kit maker, a Pennsylvania-based fishing gear company and a Vermont-based women's cycling apparel company.

Arizona, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico and Oregon were among states, led by Democratic state attorneys general, that also sued.

The U.S. Court of International Trade and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit sided with the plaintiffs in finding Trump's IEEPA tariffs unconstitutional.

The justices will also hear from two Illinois-based toy companies who, in a separate case, challenged Trump's emergency tariffs. Learning Resources Inc. and hand2mind manufacture most of their educational toys in China, Taiwan, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand and India. Imports from those countries are taxed anywhere from 15% to above 50%, and in the case of China have been unpredictable.

Trump says 'country is wealthy again'

Trump told reporters Sunday aboard Air Force One that the case is "one of the most important decisions in the history of our country."

In an interview with the CBS show "60 Minutes" that aired Sunday night, Trump said the economy "will go to hell" if the high court invalidates his emergency tariffs.

"Because of tariffs, our country is wealthy again," the president told CBS correspondent Norah O'Donnell, arguing his use of tariffs as a negotiation tool will yield billions of dollars in investment in the United States from other countries. Many of the framework trade deals Trump has announced, including with the European Union, South Korea and Japan, are not yet finalized.

The government has so far collected \$195 billion this year in customs duties at the end of September, according to a U.S. Treasury monthly statement.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 18 of 63

In a September filing asking the Supreme Court to expedite the case, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent wrote the U.S. would face “catastrophic” financial consequences, up to \$1 trillion, if the emergency tariffs were overturned.

In the same filing, U.S. Solicitor General John Sauer argued the import taxes are Trump’s “most significant economic and foreign-policy initiative ... which President Trump has determined are necessary to rectify America’s country-killing trade deficits and to stem the flood of fentanyl across our borders.”

The administration is facing pushback on those arguments.

Scott Lincicome, senior fellow at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, said a ruling against the tariffs “would not lead to financial ruin, as the administration has said.”

“The government also claims that ‘With tariffs, we are a rich nation. Without tariffs, we are a poor nation,’ — except studies of the fiscal trajectory of the United States with both the IEEPA tariffs, and without, show that we are drowning in debt either way,” Lincicome told reporters at the late October press briefing.

Cato filed a brief in the case arguing against the tariffs.

Some Republicans break ranks

The case has attracted nearly two dozen friend-of-the-court briefs urging the justices to deem Trump’s IEEPA tariffs illegal, including one signed by hundreds of Democrats in Congress and one Republican, Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska.

The lawmakers argued IEEPA “contains none of the hallmarks of legislation delegating tariff power to the executive, such as limitations tied to specific products or countries, caps on the amount of tariff increases, procedural safeguards, public input, collaboration with Congress, or time limitations.”

In the days leading up to the oral arguments, four Republican senators broke ranks to join Democrats in passing joint resolutions ending Trump’s emergency declarations triggering tariffs.

One of the bills, passed Oct. 28, targeted Trump’s emergency declaration that led to 50% tariffs on Brazilian goods, including that nation’s major export: coffee. The symbolic bills are not expected to be taken up in the GOP-led House, but mark a shift from when Senate Republicans blocked a similar measure in April.

In its Supreme Court filing, Cato argued the administration’s reading of IEEPA “not only stretches the text beyond recognition but also undermines the Framers’ designs for the separation of powers. Accepting the government’s theory would mean that Congress, through ambiguous text and silence, can transfer sweeping legislative power to the President — a result this Court has cautioned against.”

In an amicus brief supporting Trump’s trade strategy, the America First Policy Institute, a conservative think tank heavily involved in Trump’s second presidential campaign, defended the tariffs as a “pillar of the America-first policies of the current administration” and argued the president has unilateral power to impose the taxes under a Depression-era law.

Executive orders and more

Trump began imposing tariffs under IEEPA through a series of executive orders and proclamations in February and March on products from China, Canada and Mexico, declaring these countries responsible for illegal fentanyl smuggling into the U.S.

The president escalated the emergency tariffs over the following months on goods from around the globe, declaring trade imbalances a national emergency. In addition to a baseline 10% global tariff, Trump specifically targeted countries that export more goods to the U.S. than they import from U.S. suppliers.

As recently as late August, Trump imposed an extra 25% tariff on goods imported from India, bringing the total tariffs on Indian products to 50%, because of the country’s usage of Russian oil.

In early August, Trump slapped a 40% tax on all Brazilian goods after he disagreed with the country’s prosecution of its former right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro for plotting a coup to remain in power in 2022.

Ashley Murray covers the nation’s capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include domestic policy and appropriations.

States Newsroom Washington, D.C., Bureau reporter wins award for coverage of Congress

BY: STATES NEWSROOM STAFF

WASHINGTON — Senior reporter Jennifer Shutt of the States Newsroom Washington, D.C., Bureau has been named the recipient of the 2025 Everett McKinley Dirksen Award for Distinguished Reporting of Congress, the National Press Foundation announced.

In a press release, the foundation said a panel of judges recognized Shutt's reporting on the potential impact of Medicaid cuts on rural hospitals, changes in FEMA that could affect states and funding of tribal radio stations.

Shutt is one of six members of the Washington Bureau of States Newsroom, the nation's largest state-focused nonprofit news organization, with reporting from every state capital as well as the nation's capital.

"Jennifer Shutt stands out by demonstrating clear, accessible reporting that connects national policy to real people rather than to political insiders," the judging panel said. "States Newsroom 'punches above its weight' among more resourced news organizations by focusing on issues that matter to readers and presenting them in readable, straightforward language."

The judges said "by avoiding 'horse race' political coverage she delivered meaningful, impactful journalism."

Before joining States Newsroom in 2022, Shutt, a Pennsylvania native and graduate of Penn State University, covered budget and appropriations in Congress for CQ Roll Call and worked as a reporter for the Daily Times in Maryland and as a web producer for Politico.

Shutt will accept the \$5,000 award at the National Press Foundation's Annual Awards Dinner on March 12 in Washington, D.C. The award is named for the late Republican Sen. Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois and recognizes reporters "whose work shows thoughtful appraisal and insight into the workings of the U.S. Congress," the foundation said.

Recent past winners include Benjamin Guggenheim of Politico, a team from the Los Angeles Times and Lisa Desjardins of PBS NewsHour.

This is the second major award for the States Newsroom D.C. bureau this year. Senior reporter Ashley Murray received the 2025 Correspondent Award in the Dateline competition from the D.C. Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for "distinguished coverage of the Washington area by a correspondent based in the Washington, D.C., area, whose work is published or broadcast for an audience outside" the nation's capital. Shutt was among the finalists for that award.

Domestic violence in Native communities is focus of new survey

A first-of-its-kind study will collect information on traumatic brain injuries

BY: NADA HASSANEIN

Abigail Echo-Hawk, director of the Urban Indian Health Institute, recalled a Native mother in her 30s who started having memory loss and other dementia-like symptoms.

The woman had suffered multiple blows to her head and falls at the hands of her husband over the years. He had wanted to disable her, to make it more difficult for her to keep her children if she tried to leave him, Echo-Hawk said.

Many Native women have traumatic brain injury symptoms as a direct result of abuse, Echo-Hawk said. Tribal health advocates and groups serving survivors have long been aware of the problem, she said, but there has been little national research documenting the extent of it.

"It's a very difficult thing to see," said Echo-Hawk, of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma. "This is a pressing concern."

The Urban Indian Health Institute, an Indigenous health research group, this month launched a first-of-its-kind national survey of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian women to determine the prevalence of brain injuries in Native survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. The goal is to illuminate the extent of the problem, guide clinicians, raise public awareness and direct resources.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 20 of 63

A 2015 study in Arizona found a higher incidence of traumatic brain injuries in Native women in that state, but the new survey is the first national, Indigenous-led study of its kind, according to the institute.

It comes as domestic violence groups across the nation are struggling with federal funding delays caused by the government shutdown. As the impasse continues, the Trump administration has furloughed grant workers at the Office on Violence Against Women, which is part of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Traumatic brain injuries can cause memory loss, confusion and long-term behavioral changes and raise the risk of dementia. Some abusers intentionally inflict traumatic brain injuries on their victims because it doesn't leave visible bruises, according to the Brain Injury Association of America.

The link between domestic violence and traumatic brain injuries has been documented in women generally, and the effects of such injuries have been studied in former football players and veterans. But research on Native communities is lacking. Even when victims show up in ERs, their cases can go underreported.

In a previous survey of survivors, some Native women reported broken teeth, evidence of blows to the head, Echo-Hawk said. But pushing and strangulation also can cause traumatic brain injuries.

Violence is a public health crisis among American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian women, who are overrepresented in intimate partner violence statistics. Fifty-five percent report experiencing intimate partner violence, and a disproportionate number of Native women and girls are murdered or go missing.

In a 2020 survey by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 44% of American Indian and Alaska Native women reported being raped in their lifetime.

"People are losing their children because of memory loss and dementia," Echo-Hawk said. "When people are experiencing intimate partner violence, they end up in ERs. Their children suffer. The whole community suffers as a direct result. And the same with the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls."

Doctors and other hospital staff should receive more training on brain injuries and should know which communities are most likely to experience violence, said Nikki Cristobal, policy and research specialist for Pouhana 'O Nā Wāhine, a nonprofit domestic violence resource center for Native Hawaiians.

Cristobal said one survivor told her clinicians hadn't performed a brain scan or traumatic brain injury assessment on her, despite her ongoing psychological and cognitive symptoms. "It never occurred to anybody," she said.

"We have to talk more about it," said Cristobal, who worked with Echo-Hawk on developing the survey and is the principal investigator for the Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women, Girls and Mahu state task force.

Native communities, including Native Hawaiians, have endured long-term, intergenerational traumas during colonization and forced assimilation that can't be ignored when targeting the disproportionate rates of violence, Cristobal said.

"It's the undercurrent," Cristobal said. "It's the precursor."

Stateline reporter Nada Hassanein can be reached at nhassanein@stateline.org.

This story was originally produced by Stateline, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes South Dakota Searchlight, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.

Nada Hassanein is a health care reporter for Stateline with a focus on inequities.

Cheney helped shape 'the most consequential issues of his day,' Thune says

Former vice president, champion of aggressive foreign policy, dies at 84

BY: JACOB FISCHLER

Former Vice President Dick Cheney, an architect and chief practitioner of neoconservative foreign policy who was an influential figure among a generation of Republicans, died Monday.

Cheney died at 84 of complications of pneumonia and cardiac and vascular disease, according to a statement from his family published by several news outlets.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 21 of 63

Cheney's decades in Washington included stints as White House chief of staff to President Gerald Ford; as Wyoming's U.S. House member from 1979 to 1989; and as secretary of Defense under President George H.W. Bush.

Cheney then served as vice president under Bush's son George W. Bush from 2001 to 2009.

Cheney was best known for pursuing an aggressive foreign policy to protect American interests, including as a leading advocate for the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

That war, in which nearly 5,000 U.S. servicemembers and untold Iraqis died over eight years, without showing that the ruling Saddam Hussein regime possessed weapons of mass destruction or had any ties to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, turned public opinion against neoconservatives.

Cheney kept a relatively low profile after leaving office, other than to endorse his daughter Liz Cheney for the U.S. House seat he once held. He underwent a heart transplant in 2012 after a fifth heart attack.

Cheney rift with Trump

President Donald Trump, in his first campaign for the White House, criticized the Iraq War and the George W. Bush administration, creating a rift within the GOP in which Trump ultimately prevailed.

Trump's feud with the Cheneys later intensified while Liz Cheney held the U.S. House seat from Wyoming.

After voting for Trump twice, Liz Cheney consistently strongly criticized Trump's involvement in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol and later served as vice chair of the House committee investigating that matter.

The younger Cheney's involvement with that probe resulted in her ouster from House Republican leadership and, eventually, her House seat itself.

In 2022, Dick Cheney, who had mostly retired from public life, appeared in an ad for his daughter's reelection campaign.

Wearing a large cowboy hat and speaking directly to camera, he called Trump a coward who "tried to steal the last election, using lies and violence to keep himself in power after the voters have rejected him."

"He lost his election, and he lost big," Cheney said. "I know it. He knows it. Deep down, I think most Republicans know it."

In the 2024 election, both Liz and Dick Cheney endorsed Democrat Kamala Harris against Trump.

Trump did not release an official statement on Cheney's death Tuesday.

At a White House press briefing Tuesday, press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Trump was "aware" of Cheney's passing and White House flags had been lowered to half-staff, in accordance with law.

She did not answer questions about Trump's involvement in funeral arrangements or if he'd spoken to Cheney family members.

Praise for Cheney's patriotism

Most other high-ranking officials across party lines in the nation's capital sent well-wishes to the Cheney family and recognized the former vice president as an influential figure.

"Dick was a calm and steady presence in the White House amid great national challenges," George W. Bush wrote in a statement. "I counted on him for his honest, forthright counsel, and he never failed to give his best. He held to his convictions and prioritized the freedom and security of the American people. For those two terms in office, and throughout his remarkable career, Dick Cheney's service always reflected credit on the country he loved."

President Joe Biden praised Cheney's devotion to public service and his family.

"Guided by a strong set of conservative values, Dick Cheney devoted his life to public service," he wrote on X. "While we didn't agree on much, he believed, as I do, that family is the beginning, middle, and end."

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also praised Cheney's willingness to oppose Trump.

"Dick Cheney was a patriotic American who loved his country," she wrote. "While we strongly disagreed on most policy issues, his patriotism was clear when he returned to the House Floor to commemorate the first anniversary of January 6th. We all saw then how proud Vice President Cheney was to see his

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 22 of 63

daughter, Liz, follow in her father's footsteps to serve in the House with courage and integrity."

U.S. Senate Majority Leader John Thune commended Cheney in a Tuesday floor speech, saying he "played a key role in shaping policy in many of the most consequential issues of his day."

"Dick Cheney was a lifelong public servant who believed very deeply in our country and brought his considerable knowledge and intelligence to its service," Thune, a South Dakota Republican, said.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, paid tribute to Cheney's public service at the start of his daily press conference.

"Scripture is very clear: We give honor where honor is due," Johnson said. "As you know, Dick Cheney served as vice president, he served as a secretary of Defense. He served as a congressman, of course, in Wyoming, and as the youngest chief of staff to any president in the history of the country. And so the honor is certainly due to him."

Sen. John Barrasso, a Republican who is the longest-serving member of Wyoming's congressional delegation, said in a social media post the state "mourns the passing of Vice President Dick Cheney."

"Dick's career has few peers in American life," Barrasso wrote. "His unflinching leadership shaped many of the biggest moments in domestic and U.S. foreign policy for decades. Dick will be remembered as a towering figure who helped guide the course of history in Wyoming, the United States, and around the world."

Shauneen Miranda contributed to this report.

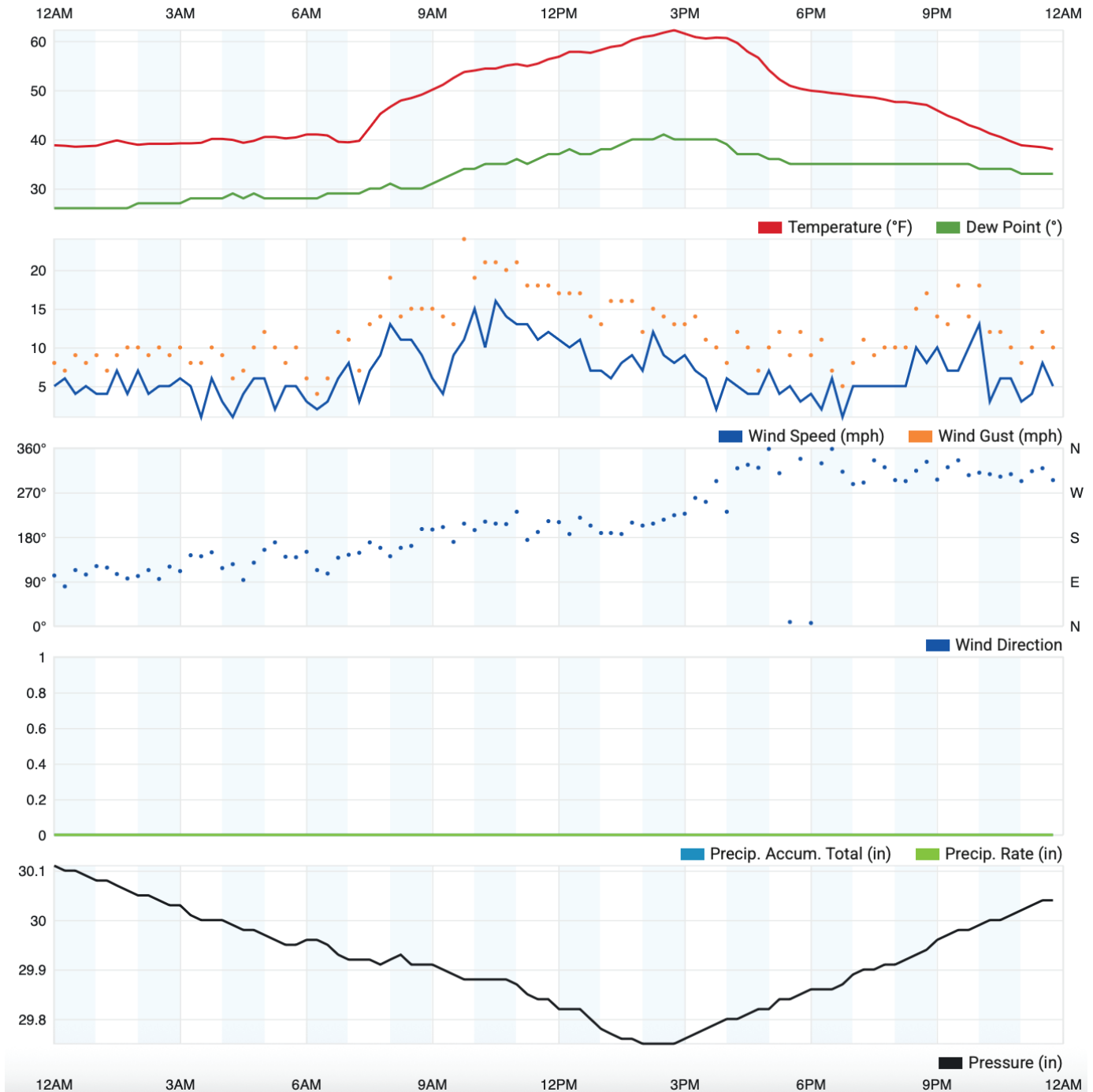
Jacob covers federal policy and helps direct national coverage as deputy Washington bureau chief for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 23 of 63

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

November 4, 2025



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 24 of 63

Wednesday



High: 52 °F

Increasing
Clouds

Wednesday
Night



Low: 36 °F

Mostly Cloudy
then Mostly
Cloudy and
Breezy

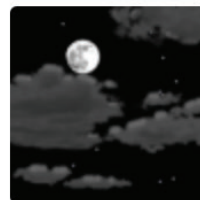
Thursday



High: 59 °F

Mostly Cloudy
and Breezy
then Partly
Sunny

Thursday
Night



Low: 37 °F

Partly Cloudy

Friday



High: 45 °F

Mostly Cloudy

First Snow of the Season Possible Saturday



What We Know

- Growing potential for **rain** and **light snow** Friday and Saturday morning
- Northwest winds increasing, with gusts in excess of 35 mph possible for central South Dakota Saturday afternoon
- **Arctic air** filtering in behind system Saturday night through Monday= colder temperatures!



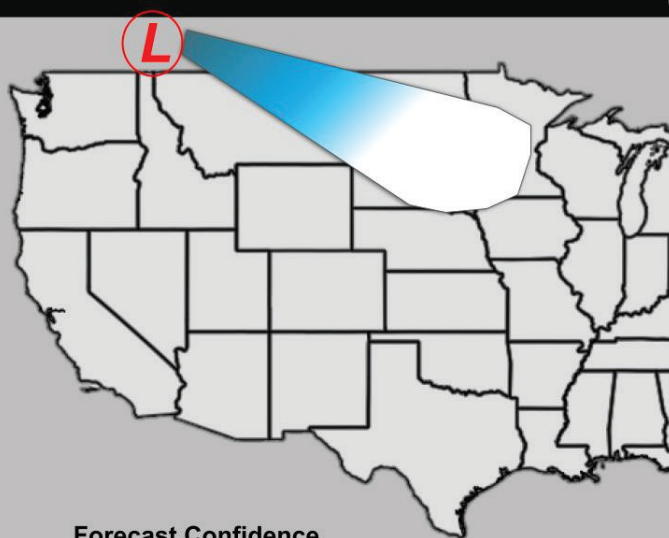
Unanswered Questions

- Exact track and intensity of the storm system
- Temperatures, which determines precipitation type & accumulations



What You Can Do Now

- **Monitor the forecast closely**, especially if you have travel plans on **Saturday morning**



Forecast Confidence

High

Low



NWS Aberdeen, SD



Be Weather-Ready

Say it ain't snow!

Our first snow of the season is possible Friday night and Saturday along with colder temperatures behind the system. Confidence remains low at this time on exact track and the intensity of this fast moving system originating out of Canada. Monitor the latest forecast over the next several days, especially if you have travel plans Saturday morning.

Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 25 of 63



Precipitation Saturday Morning

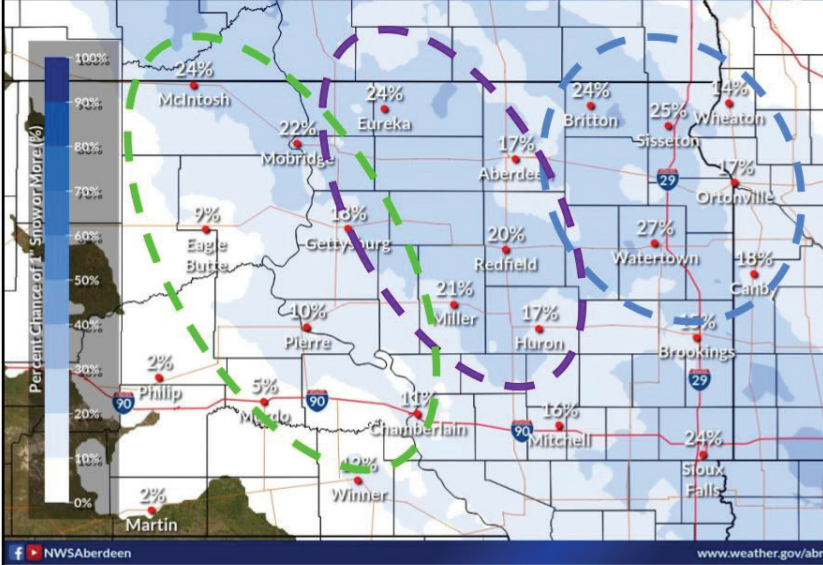
November 5, 2025
3:36 AM

Both rain and snow will be possible depending on how cold temperatures get.

Percent Chance of 1" of Snow or More

For the 24 hours ending on Sat Nov 8, 2025 at 6:00PM CST

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued Nov 05, 2025 2:50 AM CST



• **Snow is expected to be the main precipitation type in this area.**

- Overnight low temperatures will be well below freezing, into the mid-20s.
- Around an inch of snow is expected to fall by Saturday afternoon.

• **A mix of both snow and rain is expected in this area.**

- Overnight low temperatures will likely be near freezing, but could shift either warmer or colder by Saturday.
- Should snow be the main precip type, around half an inch of snow is expected to fall by Saturday afternoon.

• **Rain is expected to be the main precipitation type in this area.**

- Overnight low temperatures will likely remain above freezing, in the mid-30s.
- Around a tenth of an inch of rain is expected to fall by noon Saturday.

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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

While there is still a lot of uncertainty in the forecast, confidence is growing on the chances for rain and snow Saturday. Precipitation type will vary across the area based on temperature, with snow expected over the northeast and rain expected in central South Dakota. Please see the graphic for more information.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 26 of 63

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 62 °F at 2:51 PM

Low Temp: 38 °F at 11:28 PM

Wind: 24 mph at 9:43 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 76 in 2016

Record Low: -6 in 2003

Average High: 48

Average Low: 24

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.17

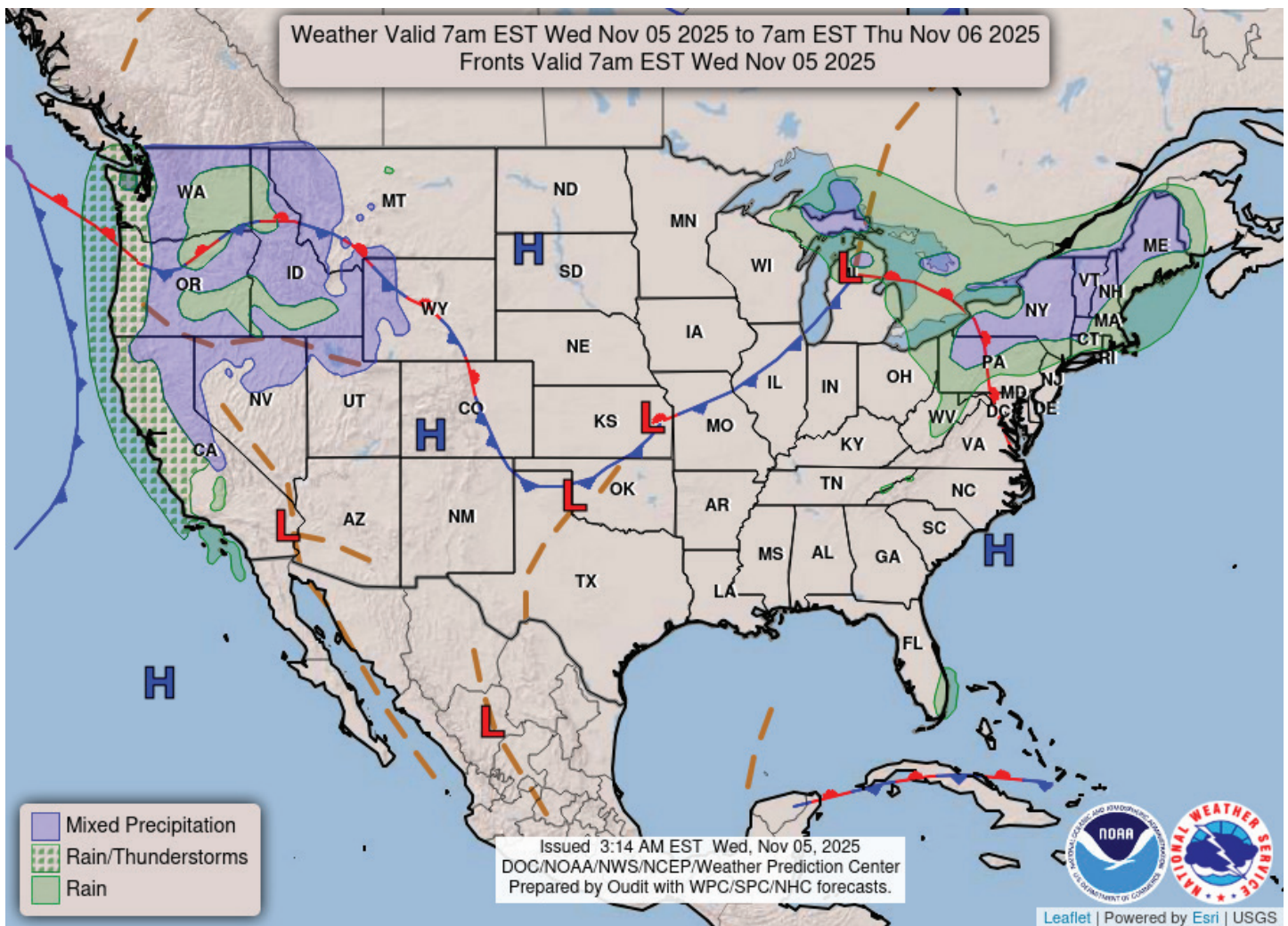
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.64

Precip Year to Date: 23.51

Sunset Tonight: 5:14 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:19 am



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 27 of 63

Today in Weather History

November 5th, 1959: A strong cold front brought near blizzard conditions and bitterly cold temperatures. As a result, high temperatures in many locations only reached the upper teens. Some daytime highs include; 19 degrees in Pierre and Waubay; 18 degrees in Aberdeen, Faulkton, Kennebec, Pollock, and Roscoe; 17 degrees in Eureka, Gettysburg, Mobridge, and Watertown; and 15 degrees in Timber Lake and near McIntosh. Some record or near-record lows also occurred near midnight on the 5th. Some lows include; 2 degrees in Aberdeen; 1 degree near McIntosh; 0 degrees in Timber Lake and Pollock; and 2 degrees below zero in Kennebec.

1894: A significant snowstorm impacted New England on November 5th through 6th. It formed off the New Jersey coast on the 5th and passed east of Connecticut with rapidly increasing heavy rain, snow, and high winds. The heavy snow and high winds caused significant damage to trees and brought down telegraph poles by the hundreds. As a result, all southern New England's telegraph and telephone services were crippled, and fallen poles and trees delayed railroad trains.

1961 - Strong Santa Ana winds fanned the flames of the Bel Air and Brentwood fires in southern California destroying many homes. At 10 PM the Los Angeles Civic Center reported a temperature of 74 degrees along with a dew point of 5 degrees. On the 6th, Burbank reported a relative humidity of three percent. (The Weather Channel)

1977 - A slow moving storm produced five to nine inch rains across northern Georgia causing the Toccoa Dam to burst. As the earthen dam collapsed the waters rushed through the Toccoa Falls Bible College killing three persons in the dorms. Thirty-eight persons perished at a trailer park along the stream. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Low pressure off the California coast produced stormy weather in the southwestern U.S. Flash flooding stranded 8000 persons in the Death Valley National Park of southern California. Thunder- storms over southern Nevada produced dime size hail and wind gusts to 68 mph around Las Vegas. Unseasonably mild weather in the northeastern U.S. was replaced with snow and gale force winds. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A powerful low pressure system produced high winds from the Great Plains to New England, and produced heavy snow in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Winds gusted to 64 mph at Knoxville TN, and reached 80 mph at Pleasant Valley VT. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988: An F1 tornado touched down south of Altoona near Hollidaysburg. Several homes were damaged with roofs torn off and broken windows, numerous trees were toppled, and garages and other outbuildings were destroyed.

1989 - Temperatures warmed into the 80s across much of Texas. Highs of 86 degrees at Abilene, Fort Worth and San Angelo were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1991: Nearly 3,000 individuals were killed in the Philippines when Tropical Storm Thelma produced massive flooding on this day. The storm was the second major disaster of the year as Mount Pinatubo violently erupted on June 12th.

2002 - Severe thunderstorms moved across southeastern Alabama and the Florida panhandle, producing wind damage and several tornadoes. A tornado struck the Alabama town of Abbeville killing 2 people and injuring 25 (Associated Press).



The Power of Persistence

Though we may encounter obstacles, the Lord will help us fulfill His plans—if we persevere.

Philippians 3:10-14: 10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Everyone enjoys feeling successful. Simply wanting certain outcomes, however, doesn't guarantee they will come to pass.

So let's discuss one characteristic needed to accomplish what we set out to do: persistence. Paul was passionate about sharing the gospel and exemplified the capacity to stay on course in the face of difficulty. In Acts 20:24, he stated his greatest goal was to "finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God." Though he encountered tremendous obstacles like shipwreck, prison, and punishment, he never quit (2 Corinthians 11:23-28).

What motivated Paul to persevere? He had a clear God-given goal and trusted that the Lord would enable him to achieve it. The apostle also felt burdened to share the life-changing truth of salvation. Paul had his eyes fixed on his purpose, which he so valued that no circumstance could deter him. And ultimately, he achieved what Almighty God had ordained.

The Father has great goals for each of His children. And striving to fulfill what He's planned for us will always be a source of joy and encouragement. Once God's direction is clear, may we wholeheartedly pursue His purposes in the Holy Spirit's strength and guidance—especially when obstacles arise.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 29 of 63

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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Password _____



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.04.25

11 14 17 50 57 6

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$843,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 53 Mins 6 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: 17 Hrs 8 Mins 6 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.04.25

3 13 17 27 44 12

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 23 Mins 5 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.01.25

1 2 12 34 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$70,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 23 Mins 5 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.03.25

11 27 55 62 68 2

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 52 Mins 6 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: 17 Hrs 52 Mins 6 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Israel returns bodies of 15 Palestinians to Gaza

By WAFAA SHURAFI Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hospital officials in Gaza said they have received the bodies of 15 Palestinians from Israel.

The announcement, made by officials at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, brings the number of Palestinian bodies returned to Gaza to 285.

The latest return of bodies of the fragile Israel-Hamas ceasefire came a day after Palestinian militants in Gaza handed over the body of an Israeli soldier taken hostage in the Oct. 7, 2023 attack that started the war.

Hamas has returned the remains of 21 hostages to Israel under a ceasefire that began Oct. 10, which is aimed at winding down the deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and the Palestinian militant group.

Militants in Gaza 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.

For each Israeli hostage returned, Israel has been releasing the remains of 15 Palestinians. Fewer than half have been identified. Forensic work is complicated by a lack of DNA testing kits in Gaza. The Health Ministry there posts photos of the remains online, in the hope that families will recognize them.

The war was triggered by the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, that killed about 1,200 people and saw 251 taken hostage.

Israel responded with a sweeping military offensive that has killed more than 68,800 Palestinians in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between combatants and civilians. 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.

Typhoon Kalmaegi leaves 66 dead, mainly in Philippine province still recovering from deadly quake

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Typhoon Kalmaegi has left at least 66 people dead with 26 others missing in the central Philippines, many in widespread flooding that trapped people on their roofs and swept away cars in a hard-hit province still recovering from a deadly earthquake, officials said Wednesday.

Among the dead were six people who were killed when a Philippine air force helicopter crashed in the southern province of Agusan del Sur on Tuesday. The crew was on its way to provide humanitarian help to provinces battered by Kalmaegi, the military said. It did not give the cause of the crash.

Kalmaegi blew away from western Palawan province into the South China Sea before noon Wednesday with sustained winds of up to 130 kph (81 mph) and gusts of up to 180 kph (112 mph), according to forecasters.

Central province hit hardest by the storm

Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV, deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defense, and provincial officials said most of the deaths were reported in the central province of Cebu, which was pummeled by Kalmaegi on Tuesday, setting off flash floods and causing a river and other waterways to swell.

The resulting flooding engulfed residential communities, forcing startled residents to climb on their roofs, where they desperately pleaded to be rescued as the floodwaters rose, officials said.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 32 of 63

The Philippine Red Cross received many calls from people needing rescue in Cebu from their roofs, its secretary-general Gwendolyn Pang said Tuesday.

At least 49 drowned in floods and others died as a result of landslides and falling debris in Cebu, where 13 of the 26 missing were reported, the Office of Civil Defense said on Wednesday.

"We did everything we can for the typhoon but, you know, there are really some unexpected things like flash floods," Cebu Gov. Pamela Baricuatro told The Associated Press by telephone.

Caloy Ramirez, a volunteer rescuer, said the massive flooding set off by the typhoon turned an upscale riverside residential community in Cebu city on Tuesday into an unrecognizable scene of tumbled SUVs and houses in disarray.

Residents said floodwater engulfed the first floors of their houses in just a few minutes, sending them scrambling to upper floors or roofs in panic.

"We always expect the worst and what I saw yesterday was the worst," Ramirez told The AP. He described how the faces of desperate residents would light up when they realized they were being rescued.

Concerns grow over flood control projects

The problems may have been made worse by years of quarrying that caused clogging of nearby rivers, which overflowed, and substandard flood control projects in Cebu province, Baricuatro said.

A corruption scandal involving substandard or non-existent flood control projects across the Philippines has sparked public outrage and street protests in recent months.

Cebu, a bustling province of more than 2.4 million people, declared a state of calamity to allow authorities to disburse emergency funds more rapidly.

Cebu 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.

Thousands of northern Cebu residents who were displaced by the earthquake were moved to sturdier evacuation shelters from flimsy tents before the typhoon struck, Baricuatro said. Northern towns devastated by the earthquake were mostly not hit by floods generated by Kalmaegi, she added.

Kalmaegi heads toward Vietnam and Thailand

Before Kalmaegi's landfall, officials said more than 387,000 people had evacuated to safer ground in eastern and central Philippine provinces.

Ferries and fishing boats were prohibited from venturing out to 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.

Central Vietnam, still reeling from days of record rain that triggered flash floods and landslides, was bracing for more pounding rain as Kalmaegi nears.

Fishing boats returned to shore while local authorities readied evacuation plans, secured shelters and stockpiled food, state media reported.

Forecasters estimate the storm will reach Vietnam's coast Friday morning.

Meanwhile, Thailand's weather agency issued an advisory for the northern, eastern and central parts of the country, warning that Kalmaegi would bring heavy rain Friday and into the weekend that could cause flash floods, landslides and river overflows.

Zohran Mamdani wins NYC mayor's race, capping a stunning ascent

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Zohran Mamdani was elected mayor of New York on Tuesday, capping a stunning ascent for the 34-year-old, far-left state lawmaker, who promised to transform city government to restore power to the working class and fight back against a hostile Trump administration.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 33 of 63

In a victory for the Democratic party's progressive wing, Mamdani defeated former Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Republican Curtis Sliwa. Mamdani must now navigate the unending demands of America's biggest city and deliver on ambitious — skeptics say unrealistic — campaign promises.

With his commanding win, the democratic socialist will etch his place in history as the city's first Muslim mayor, the first of South Asian heritage and the first born in Africa. He will also become New York's youngest mayor in more than a century when he takes office on Jan. 1.

"The conventional wisdom would tell you that I am far from the perfect candidate. I am young, despite my best efforts to grow older. I am Muslim. I am a democratic socialist. And most damning of all, I refuse to apologize for any of this," Mamdani declared to a roaring crowd at his victory party.

He cast his win as a boon for blue-collar workers struggling to get by. "New York, tonight you have delivered a mandate for change," he said, vowing to "wake up each morning with a singular purpose: To make this city better for you than it was the day before."

More than 2 million New Yorkers cast ballots in the contest, the largest turnout in a mayoral race in more than 50 years, according to the city's Board of Elections. With roughly 90% of the votes counted, Mamdani held an approximately 9 percentage point lead over Cuomo.

Mamdani's unlikely rise gives credence to Democrats who have urged the party to embrace more progressive candidates instead of rallying behind centrists in hopes of winning back swing voters who have abandoned the party.

He has already faced scrutiny from national Republicans, including President Donald Trump, who have eagerly cast him as a threat and the face of a more radical Democratic Party that is out of step with mainstream America. Trump has repeatedly threatened to cut federal funding to the city — and even take it over — if Mamdani won.

A commanding win

At his victory party in Brooklyn, Mamdani supporters cheered and embraced, some tearfully, after The Associated Press called the race. Campaign posters flew through the air, as one person hoisted the official flag of New York City and Bad Bunny played from the speakers.

The mood was far more muted at Cuomo's party at a midtown Manhattan theater. In his concession speech, a defiant Cuomo called his campaign "a caution flag that we are headed down a dangerous, dangerous road" and noted that "almost half of New Yorkers did not vote to support a government agenda that makes promises that we know cannot be met."

Still, he corrected his supporters when they began to boo at the mention of Mamdani's name.

"No, that is not right," he said, offering to help the incoming mayor in any way. "Tonight was their night."

Mamdani's grassroots campaign centered on affordability, and his charisma spoiled Cuomo's attempted political comeback. The former governor, who resigned four years ago following allegations of sexual harassment that he continues to deny, was dogged by his past throughout the race and was criticized for running a negative campaign.

Mamdani will also have to deal with Trump, who not only threatened retribution against the city but also suggested he might try to arrest and deport Mamdani if he won. Mamdani was born in Uganda, where he spent his early childhood, but was raised in New York City and became a U.S. citizen in 2018.

In his speech, Mamdani addressed Trump head on.

"New York will remain a city of immigrants, a city built by immigrants, powered by immigrants and as of tonight, led by an immigrant," he said, adding that, "If anyone can show a nation betrayed by Donald Trump how to defeat him, it is the city that gave rise to him."

Trump appeared to acknowledge Mamdani's challenges, posting "...AND SO IT BEGINS!" on his Truth Social site.

New mayor will pursue an ambitious agenda

Mamdani, who was criticized throughout the campaign for his thin resume, will now have to begin staffing his incoming administration and planning how to accomplish the ambitious but polarizing agenda that drove him to victory.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 34 of 63

Among the campaign's promises are free child care, free city bus service, city-run grocery stores and a new Department of Community Safety that would send mental health care workers to handle certain emergency calls rather than police officers. It is unclear how Mamdani will pay for such initiatives, given Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul's steadfast opposition to his calls to raise taxes on wealthy people.

His decisions around the leadership of the New York Police Department will also be closely watched. Mamdani was a fierce critic of the department in 2020, calling for "this rogue agency" to be defunded and slamming it as "racist, anti-queer & a major threat to public safety." He has since apologized for those comments and has said he will ask the current NYPD commissioner to stay on the job.

Mamdani's campaign was driven by his optimistic view of the city and his promises to improve the quality of life for its middle and lower classes.

Cuomo, Sliwa and other critics assailed him over his vehement criticism of Israel's military actions in Gaza. Mamdani, a longtime advocate of Palestinian rights, has accused Israel of committing genocide and said he would honor an arrest warrant the International Criminal Court issued for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mamdani won over the city while Cuomo faltered

Mamdani began his campaign as a relatively obscure state lawmaker, little known even within New York City.

Going into the Democratic primary, Cuomo was the presumed favorite, with near-universal name recognition and deep political connections. Cuomo's chances were buoyed further when incumbent Mayor Eric Adams bowed out of the primary while dealing with the fallout of his now-dismissed federal corruption case.

But as the race progressed, Mamdani's natural charm, catchy social media videos and populist economic platform energized voters in the notoriously expensive city. He also began drawing outside attention as his name recognition grew.

Mamdani trounced Cuomo in the primary by about 13 points.

The former governor relaunched his campaign as an independent candidate for the general election, vowing to hit the streets with a more energetic approach. However, much of his campaign continued to focus on attacking opponents. In the race's final stretch, he claimed Mamdani's election would make Jews feel unsafe.

Meanwhile, supporters packed Mamdani's rallies, and he held whimsical events, including a scavenger hunt and a community soccer tournament.

Cuomo also juxtaposed his deep experience in government with Mamdani's less than five years in the state Legislature. But the former governor also faced his own political baggage, as his opponents dredged up the sexual harassment allegations that led to his resignation, as well as his decisions during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sliwa, the creator of the Guardian Angels crime patrol group, also had his moments — mostly in the form of funny quips on the debate stage — but had difficulty gaining traction as a Republican in an overwhelmingly Democratic city.

He conceded the race about a half hour after the polls closed, wishing Mamdani "good luck because if he does well, we do well."

But he also issued a warning: "If you try to implement socialism, if you try to render our police weak and impotent, if you forsake the people's public safety, we will become the mayor-elect and his supporters' worst enemies."

Ohio State gets top billing in opening College Football Playoff rankings; Indiana, Texas A&M next

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

The closest thing resembling drama for the first big reveal of this season's College Football Playoff rankings hinged on which undefeated team would receive top billing.

Answer: The defending champions at Ohio State.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 35 of 63

The Buckeyes took the top spot in the first set of 2025 rankings Tuesday night, followed by Indiana and Texas A&M.

In choosing the two Big Ten teams ahead of Texas A&M, the 12-person committee appeared to give less weight to A&M's tougher schedule and its 41-40 win over tenth-ranked Notre Dame and more to the way the Buckeyes and Hoosiers have mowed down opponents this year, with only two games between the two of them decided by less than 10 points.

"I think statistically when we looked at A&M defensively, they're just lower than both Ohio State and Indiana," committee chair Mack Rhoades said. "We had to make a hard decision, and you're trying to find separators, and that was a separator for us."

Another team with no losses, BYU of the Big 12, was ranked seventh.

Nos. 4, 5 and 6 went to Southeastern Conference teams with one loss each — Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. All of the top six came from either the Big Ten or SEC, a dose of business as usual despite a season that has been anything but predictable.

This marked the first of six weekly rankings the committee will release this season, ending Dec. 7 when the final list will set the bracket for the second 12-team playoff in major college football history.

That tournament begins Dec. 19-20 with four games on the campus of seeds No. 5-8. The top four seeds play winners of those games over the New Year holiday and the title game is set for Jan. 19 at Hard Rock Stadium outside Miami.

Texas Tech was ranked eighth and Oregon came in at No. 9. Rounding out the top 12 were Notre Dame — the only team in the Top 25 not from a power conference — then Texas and Oklahoma.

But if the bracket were set today, the Longhorns and Sooners would miss out, bumped by No. 14 Virginia of the ACC and Memphis of the American. That's thanks to a rule that places the five best-ranked conference champions into the bracket even if they're not in the top 12.

Memphis wasn't among the committee's top 25 but was still the highest ranked leader in a Group of Five conference.

There is, of course, plenty of time for teams to make their cases, with four more weeks of the regular season, then a slate of conference title games set for the first weekend in December.

"If we go back to last year, Arizona State wasn't even in the rankings for our first two rankings," Rhoades said of the Sun Devils, who won the Big 12 and made the field. "Again, to everybody out there, this is the first ranking and still a lot of ball left to be played."

The final tally in the top 12: The SEC has six teams, the Big Ten three, the Big 12 two, and the ACC none, with one independent.

Among those still holding out hope are teams such as 16th-ranked Vanderbilt and 17th-ranked Georgia Tech, each of whom spent time in the AP top 10 this season thanks to upsets that turned college football upside down in September and October.

The first-round matchups based on CFP rankings

— No. 12 Memphis at No. 5 Georgia, winner vs. No. 4 Alabama. You can almost hear SEC commissioner Greg Sankey breaking his TV wondering how an unranked team is in here over one of his.

— No. 11 Virginia at No. 6 Ole Miss, winner vs. No. 3 Texas A&M. Virginia's only Top 25 meeting this season was against Florida State, which does not resemble a Top 25 team now.

— No. 10 Notre Dame at No. 7 BYU, winner vs. No. 2 Indiana. The Fighting Irish have to hope some of the teams immediately below them — like Texas and Oklahoma — do not put up impressive wins since they close with Navy, Pitt, Syracuse and Stanford.

— No. 9 Oregon at No. 8 Texas Tech, winner vs. No. 1 Ohio State. A Booster Bowl pitting teams backed by billionaires Phil Knight (Ducks) and Cody Campbell (Red Raiders).

Tweaks in this year's bracket

The biggest change in the setup of this year's bracket was eliminating the first-round bye for the four best conference champions. It would mean that Virginia, instead of jumping from a No. 14 ranking to a No. 3 seed, would be seeded 11th with a road game against Mississippi.

Rhoades also spent time discussing Oregon, which is ranked sixth in the AP poll but ninth in the playoff rankings. The Ducks' best win this year was a 20-point victory over Northwestern, while its double-overtime win at Penn State early in the season has become less impressive as last year's semifinalist fell apart.

"When we looked at and evaluated Oregon, we really looked at the quality of the team and how they looked on film," Rhoades said.

California voters approve new US House map to boost Democrats in 2026

By JONATHAN J. COOPER, MICHAEL R. BLOOD and TRẦN NGUYỄN Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California voters approved new congressional district boundaries Tuesday, delivering a victory for Democrats in the state-by-state redistricting battle that will help determine which party wins control of the U.S. House in 2026 and, with it, the power to thwart or advance President Donald Trump's agenda.

The approval of Proposition 50 gives Democrats a shot at winning as many as five additional seats, just enough to blunt Texas Republicans' move to redraw their own maps to pick up five GOP seats at Trump's urging. Texas' move and California's response have kicked off a flurry of redistricting efforts around the country, with Republican states appearing to have an edge. Deeply blue California is Democrats' best opportunity to make up seats.

Midterm elections typically punish the party in the White House, and Trump is fighting to maintain his party's slim House majority. Republicans hold 219 seats to Democrats' 213.

Tuesday's results mark a political victory for Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, who cast the measure as an essential tool to fight back against Trump and protect American democracy.

Speaking to reporters in Sacramento, Newsom cast the California vote as part of a broader national rejection of Trump's policies that saw Democratic governors elevated in New Jersey and Virginia. But he warned the more consequential battle would come next year.

If Democrats win the House majority, they can "end Donald Trump's presidency as we know it," Newsom said. "It is all on the line, a bright line, in 2026."

Measure supported by Newsom and Obama

California's Proposition 50 asked voters to suspend House maps drawn by an independent commission and replace them with rejiggered districts adopted by the Democratic-controlled Legislature. Those new districts would be in place for the 2026, 2028 and 2030 elections.

The recast districts aim to dilute Republican voters' power, in one case by uniting rural, conservative-leaning parts of far northern California with Marin County, a famously liberal coastal stronghold across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco.

The measure was spearheaded by Newsom, who threw the weight of his political operation behind it in a major test of his mettle ahead of a potential 2028 presidential campaign. Former President Barack Obama urged voters to pass it as well.

"Republicans want to steal enough seats in Congress to rig the next election and wield unchecked power for two more years," Obama said in one ad. "You can stop Republicans in their tracks."

Critics said two wrongs don't make a right. They urged Californians to reject the measure, even if they have misgivings about Trump's moves elsewhere.

Among the most prominent critics was Arnold Schwarzenegger, the movie star and former Republican governor who pushed for the creation of the independent commission, which voters approved in 2008 and 2010. It makes no sense to fight Trump by becoming him, Schwarzenegger said in September, arguing that the proposal would "take the power away from the people."

"I don't want Newsom to have control," said Rebecca Fleshman, a 63-year-old retired medical assistant from Southern California, who voted against the measure. "I don't want the state to be blue. I want it to be red."

A lopsided campaign foreshadowed the vote

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 37 of 63

After an early burst of TV advertising, opponents of the plan struggled to raise cash in a state with some of the nation's most expensive media markets.

The campaign followed an unusual trajectory. A handful of Republican congressmen who will see their districts dramatically reshaped — and their jobs endangered — mostly stayed away from the campaign spotlight. With opponents short on cash, Newsom and his supporters dominated TV screens in the critical closing weeks.

Total spending on broadcast and cable ads topped \$100 million, with more than two-thirds of it coming from supporters. Newsom told people to stop donating in the race's final weeks.

The GOP congressmen — Reps. Ken Calvert, Darrell Issa, Kevin Kiley, David Valadao and Doug LaMalfa — will see right-leaning voters reduced and left-leaning voters boosted in their respective districts in a shift that would make it likely a Democratic candidate would prevail in each race.

Issa issued a defiant statement, saying: "I'm not going anywhere. I'll continue to represent the people of California regardless of their party or where they live."

Calvert said Newsom engineered a "power grab" while housing costs, gas prices and taxes continue to strain family budgets. "I am determined to keep fighting for the families I represent," he said in an email.

AP poll finds voters motivated by political reasons

Proposition 50 won a swift and decisive victory, as the AP declared a winner when polls closed statewide. Early returns were strongly in favor of the measure, as were preliminary results from the AP Voter Poll, an expansive survey of more than 4,000 voters in California.

Roughly 7 in 10 California voters said party control of Congress was "very important" to them, and those voters overwhelmingly supported the measure, according to the AP Voter Poll.

About 8 in 10 California voters who supported the ballot measure said it was necessary to counter the changes made by Republicans in other states, while only about 2 in 10 said they supported it because it was the best way to draw maps, AP Voter Poll found.

Trump, who overwhelmingly lost California in his three presidential campaigns, largely stayed out of the fray. A week before the election, he urged voters in a social media post not to vote early or by mail — messaging that conflicted with that of top Republicans in the state who urged people to get their ballots in as soon as possible.

In a post Tuesday on his social media platform, the president called the state's voting process "RIGGED" and warned that it was "under very serious legal and criminal review. STAY TUNED!" Secretary of State Shirley Weber called that "another baseless claim."

The national House map is in flux

Congressional district boundaries are typically redrawn every 10 years to reflect population shifts documented in the census. Mid-decade redistricting is unusual, absent a court order finding fault with the maps in place.

Beyond Texas, Republicans expect to gain one seat each from new maps in Missouri and North Carolina, and potentially two more in Ohio. Five other GOP-led states are also considering new maps: Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana and Nebraska.

On the Democratic side, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, New York and Virginia have proposals to redraw maps, but major hurdles remain.

A court has ordered new boundaries be drawn in Utah, where all four House districts are represented by Republicans, but it remains to be seen if the state will approve a map that makes any of them winnable for Democrats.

Siddhartha Deb, 52, has lived in the U.S. since he was 7 years old but he just became a citizen Tuesday. Immediately afterward he registered to vote at San Francisco City Hall and cast his ballot in favor of Newsom's measure.

"I don't like the way the Republican Party is basically trying to rig elections by gerrymandering," Deb said. "And this is the only way, to fight fire with fire."

Democrats dominate as economic woes take a toll on Trump's GOP. Takeaways from Election Day 2025

By STEVE PEOPLES and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats dominated the first major Election Day since President Donald Trump returned to the White House.

And while a debate about the future of the Democratic Party may have only just begun, there are signs that the economy — specifically, Trump's inability to deliver the economic turnaround he promised last fall — may be a real problem for Trump's GOP heading into next year's higher-stakes midterm elections.

Democrats on Tuesday won governor's races in Virginia and New Jersey, the only states electing new chief executives this year. They also swept a trio of state Supreme Court contests in swing-state Pennsylvania and ballots measures from Colorado to Maine.

Trump was largely absent from the campaign trail, but GOP candidates closely aligned themselves with the president, betting that his big win last year could provide a path to victory this time. They were wrong.

Democrats are hoping the off-year romp offers a new winning playbook, but some caution may be warranted. Tuesday's elections were limited to a handful of states, most of which lean blue, and the party that holds the White House typically struggles in off-year elections.

Meanwhile, Republicans in Washington may be more excited than Democrats that a self-described democratic socialist will become New York City's next mayor.

Here's some top takeaways:

A new Democratic playbook emerges

Former Rep. Abigail Spanberger will become Virginia's next governor — and its first female chief executive — while Rep. Mikie Sherrill won the New Jersey governor's office by running campaigns focused largely on the economy, public safety and health care.

Early results showed Democrats outperforming their margins from four years ago in fast-growing suburbs, rural areas and even places with high concentrations of military voters.

The Democrats won by actively distancing themselves from some of the Democratic Party's far-left policies and emphasized what Spanberger described in her victory speech as "pragmatism over partisanship."

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.

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

In addition to tacking to the middle on economic issues, Spanberger and Sherrill downplayed their support for progressive priorities, including LGBTQ rights and resistance against Trump's attack on American institutions. Spanberger rarely even mentioned Trump's name on the campaign trail.

Both also have resumes that appealed to the middle.

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

It's (still) the economy, stupid

Trump and his Republican allies have been especially focused on immigration, crime and conservative cultural issues.

But voters who decided Tuesday's top elections were more concerned about the economy, jobs and costs of living. That's according to the AP Voter Poll, an expansive survey of more than 17,000 voters in New Jersey, Virginia, California and New York City suggesting that many voters felt they can't get ahead financially in today's economy.

Ironically, the same economic anxieties helped propel Trump to the White House just one year ago. Now, the economic concerns appear to be undermining his party's political goals in 2025 — and could be more problematic for the GOP in next year's midterm elections, which will decide the balance of power for Trump's final two years in office.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 39 of 63

That's even as Trump regularly brags about stock prices booming and boasted about leading a new renaissance of American manufacturing.

About half of Virginia voters said the economy was the most important issue facing their state while most New Jersey voters said either taxes or the economy were the top issue in their state. Just over half of New York City voters said cost of living was their top concern.

It was unclear whether kitchen table concerns weighing so heavily on voters might help break the impasse that has prompted the government shutdown, which has spanned more than a month.

A referendum on Trump

This was the first election since Trump's return to the presidency and voters rejected candidates and causes aligned with his Republican Party from Virginia and Pennsylvania to Maine and New Jersey. It was, in fact, difficult to point to any significant victory for Trump's party.

They also expressed strong feelings about the direction of the country under his leadership.

About 6 in 10 voters in Virginia and New Jersey said they are "angry" or "dissatisfied" with the way things are going in the country today, according to the AP Voter Poll. Just one-third said they are "enthusiastic" or "satisfied."

In a sign of the extent of the GOP's struggles, Republicans lost the Virginia attorney general's race to Democrat Jay Jones, who was forced to apologize after text messages surfaced weeks before Election Day in which he depicted the murder of political opponents.

Fearing a bad night, Trump tried to distance himself from the election results.

The president endorsed Ciattarelli in New Jersey but held only a pair of tele-town halls on his behalf, including one Monday night. Trump also did a Monday night tele-town hall for Virginia Republican candidates, but he focused mostly in favor of the GOP candidate for attorney general, who also lost.

Despite Trump's distance, his policies — including his "big, beautiful" budget bill and his massive cuts to the federal workforce — played a central role in Virginia, New Jersey and even New York City's mayoral contest. And the Republicans in each refused to distance themselves from the president or his agenda.

The results left the president ducking blame.

"TRUMP WASN'T ON THE BALLOT, AND SHUTDOWN, WERE THE TWO REASONS THAT REPUBLICANS LOST ELECTIONS TONIGHT," according to pollsters, he posted on his social media account.

Trump planned to have breakfast Wednesday at the White House with Senate Republicans who have so far opposed his calls to end the shutdown by abandoning the legislative filibuster, the 60-vote minimum needed to pass most major legislation through the Senate.

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

Moderates won in Virginia and New Jersey. But it was a self-described democratic socialist who cruised to victory in New York City.

Zohran Mamdani, a 34-year-old state legislator who backs radical changes to address economic inequality, will serve as the next mayor of the nation's largest city.

His bold agenda and inspirational approach helped generate the largest turnout in a New York City mayoral race in at least three decades. It 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.

Trump, who actually endorsed Mamdani's independent opponent, former Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo, falsely called Mamdani a communist on the eve of the election.

Some Republicans in Washington were quietly rooting for a Mamdani victory. Even before his win was final, Republican campaign committees 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.

The ad campaign is expected to extend to Democrats across the country ahead of next year's midterms.

More Democratic wins

The Democratic successes extended beyond Virginia, New Jersey and New York.

In Pennsylvania, Democrats swept all three elections for state supreme court justices. The wins could

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 40 of 63

have implications for key cases involving redistricting and balloting for midterm elections — and the 2028 presidential race — in the nation's most populous swing state.

Conservative causes struggled on ballot questions in other states as well.

Maine voters defeated a measure that would have mandated showing an ID at the polls while approving a "red flag" rule meant to make it easier for family members to petition a court to restrict a potentially dangerous person's access to guns.

Colorado approved raising taxes on people earning more than \$300,000 to fund school meal programs and food assistance for low-income state residents.

And in California, Gov. Gavin Newsom, frequently mentioned as a 2028 presidential hopeful, led a triumphant 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. For the new maps to count in 2026, however, Californians had to vote on a yes-or-no ballot question known as Proposition 50. It was easily approved.

Democrat Mikie Sherrill elected governor of New Jersey, defeating opponent who aligned with Trump

By MIKE CATALINI, MICHAEL R. SISAK and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill on Tuesday was elected governor of New Jersey, raising hopes for Democrats and highlighting Republican vulnerabilities after there had been signs of a rightward shift in recent years in what has been a reliably blue state.

Sherrill, a former Navy helicopter pilot and four-term member of Congress, defeated Jack Ciattarelli, who was endorsed by President Donald Trump, and quickly cast her victory late Tuesday as a referendum on the Republican president and some of his policies — from health care to immigration and the economy.

"We here in New Jersey are bound to fight for a different future for our children," Sherrill told her supporters gathered to celebrate her victory. "We see how clearly important liberty is. We know that no one in our great state is safe when our neighbors are targeted, ignoring the law and the Constitution." She was joined on stage with her husband and children.

Sherrill, 53, offers some reassurance for moderates within the Democratic Party as they navigate the path forward for next year's midterms. A former prosecutor and military veteran, Sherrill and Abigail Spanberger, the other Democrat who was elected as Virginia governor, embody a brand of centrist Democrats who aim to appeal to some conservatives while still aligning with some progressive causes. Sherrill campaigned on standing up to Trump and casting blame for voters' concerns over the economy on his tariffs.

Ciattarelli called Sherrill to congratulate her on the results and did not mention Trump in his address.

"It is my hope that Mikie Sherrill has heard us in terms of what we need to do to make New Jersey that place where everybody can once again feel that they can achieve their American dream," Ciattarelli said.

The start of voting on Tuesday was disrupted after officials in seven counties received e-mailed bomb threats later determined by law enforcement to be unfounded, said the state's top election official, Lt. Gov. Tahesha Way. A judge granted a one-hour extension at some polling places after Democrats made a request for three schools that received the threats earlier Tuesday.

Sherrill marks milestones

She will be New Jersey's second female governor, after Republican Christine Todd Whitman, who served between 1994 and 2001. Her victory also gives Democrats three straight gubernatorial election wins in New Jersey, the first time in six decades that either major party has achieved a three-peat.

Ciattarelli lost his second straight general election after coming within a few points of defeating incumbent Gov. Phil Murphy four years ago.

New Jersey's odd-year race for governor, one of just two this year along with Virginia, often hinged on local issues such as property taxes. But the campaign also served as a potential gauge of national senti-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 41 of 63

ment, especially how voters are reacting to the president's second term and Democrats' messaging ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly, chair of the Democratic Governors Association, praised Sherrill's win as "a roadmap for how Democrats can overcome precedent and win in deeply competitive races when we stay laser-focused on our positive vision to address the biggest issues impacting families in their daily lives."

A victory against Trump

In her speech on Tuesday, Sherrill said voters were concerned with attacks on their civil liberties as well as on their economic well-being. She said Trump is "ripping away" health care and targeting food benefits. Democratic governors across the country have been pushing back on those issues, as well as planned National Guard deployments in their states.

Sherrill also criticized him for something that impacts New Jersey specifically: Canceling a project to expand train access to New York City. In the closing weeks of the campaign, she lambasted the president's threat to cancel the Hudson River project.

"Governors have never mattered more," Sherrill said. "And in this state, I am determined to build prosperity for all of us."

From the Navy to the governor's office

Sherrill steps into the governorship role after serving four terms in the U.S. House. She won that post in 2018 during Trump's first term in office, flipping a longtime GOP-held district in an election that saw Democrats sweep all but one of the state's 12 House seats.

During her campaign, Sherrill leaned hard into her credentials as a congresswoman and onetime prosecutor as well as her military service. But she also had to defend her Navy service record after a news report that she was not allowed to participate in her 1994 graduation ceremony from the U.S. Naval Academy commencement in connection with an academic cheating scandal at the school.

Sherrill said the punishment was a result of not turning in some classmates, not because she herself had cheated. But she declined to release additional records that the Ciattarelli campaign said would shed more light on the issue.

For her part, she accused Ciattarelli of profiting off the opioid crisis. He is the former owner of a medical publishing company that made continuing education materials for doctors, including some that discussed pain management and opioids. Sherrill called it "propaganda" for drug companies, something Ciattarelli denied.

Promises for New Jersey

Sherrill will inherit a state budget that swelled under Murphy, who delivered on promises to fund the public worker pension fund and a K-12 school aid formula after years of neglect under previous governors, by high income taxes on the wealthy. But there are also headwinds that include unfunded promises to continue a property tax relief program begun in the governor's second term.

Also on the ballot Tuesday were all 80 seats in the Assembly, which Democrats control with a 52-seat majority.

New Jersey hasn't supported a Republican for U.S. Senate or the White House in decades. The governor's office, though, has often switched back and forth between the parties. The last time the same party prevailed in a third straight New Jersey election for governor was in 1961, when Richard Hughes won the race to succeed Gov. Robert Meyner. Both were Democrats.

At least 7 dead, 11 injured in UPS plane crash and explosion at Kentucky airport

By BRUCE SCHREINER, HALLIE GOLDEN and DYLAN LOVAN Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A UPS cargo plane crashed and exploded in a massive fireball Tuesday while taking off from the company's global aviation hub in Louisville, Kentucky, killing at least seven people and injuring 11, authorities said.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 42 of 63

The plane crashed about 5:15 p.m. as it was departing for Honolulu from UPS Worldport at Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport.

Video showed flames on the plane's left wing and a trail of smoke. The plane then lifted slightly off the ground before crashing and exploding in a huge fireball. Video also revealed portions of a building's shredded roof next to the end of the runway.

The death toll had risen to at least seven Tuesday night, and four of those killed were not on the plane, officials said.

Among the 11 who were hurt, some had "very significant" injuries, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said.

"Anybody who has seen the images, the video, knows how violent this crash is," he said.

Beshear said he didn't know the status of the three crew members aboard the plane, a McDonnell Douglas MD-11 made in 1991.

UPS's largest package handling facility is in Louisville and the company announced Tuesday night that it had halted package sorting at the center and didn't say when it would resume. The hub employs thousands of workers, has 300 daily flights and sorts more than 400,000 packages an hour.

"We all know somebody who works at UPS," Louisville Metro Council member Betsy Ruhe said. "And they're all texting their friends, their family, trying to make sure everyone is safe. Sadly, some of those texts are probably going to go unanswered."

Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg says the National Transportation Safety Board is handling the investigation and sending 28 people.

The airport, meanwhile, was shut down and wasn't expected to resume operations until Wednesday morning.

"We don't know how long it's going to take to render that scene safe," said Louisville Police Chief Paul Humphrey.

The governor said a business, Kentucky Petroleum Recycling, appeared to be "hit pretty directly," and a nearby auto parts operation was also affected.

Eric Richardson stood outside a police training academy where people gathered looking for information about missing loved ones Tuesday night, hoping to find out what had happened to his girlfriend. She had been at a metal recycling business near the explosion and wasn't answering her phone, he told the AP. Her phone's live location said she was still there.

Bobby Whelan, Richardson's friend had been in front of her in line, but had left minutes before the explosion. He said he was about a quarter mile down the road when he heard what sounded like a bomb exploding.

"We don't even want to think about anything but the best," Whelan said. "All our friends were there."

A video taken by Leirim Rodríguez shows several massive balls of flames exploding into the sky in a row, followed by large billowing clouds of black smoke.

Tom Brooks Jr., who runs a metal recycling business down the street, said the unbelievable magnitude of the crash "just rocked the whole place."

"This was massive. I mean, it literally looked like a war zone," he said.

Destyn Mitchell said she was working as a host at an Outback restaurant, about a 15-minute drive from the crash, when she heard a loud boom. About 20 people were in the restaurant.

"The mood in the restaurant was very shaken up," Mitchell said. "Everyone is really concerned. People who just sat down to eat got up and left in under 30 minutes and packed up their food because they wanted to hurry up and get home."

Pablo Rojas, an aviation attorney, said that based on the videos it looked like the aircraft was struggling to gain altitude as a fire blazed on its left side around one of its engines. Given the large amount of fuel it was carrying, once the fire started in that area, it would've been only a matter of time before there was an explosion or the fire grew rapidly.

"Really the plane itself is almost acting like a bomb because of the amount of fuel," he said.

The Louisville airport is only a 10-minute drive from the city's downtown, which sits on the Ohio River bordering the Indiana state line. There are residential areas, a water park and museums in the area.

Abigail Spanberger elected Virginia governor in a historic first that boosts Democrats ahead of 2026

By OLIVIA DIAZ and BILL BARROW Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Democrat Abigail Spanberger won the Virginia governor's race Tuesday, defeating Republican Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears to give Democrats a key victory heading into the 2026 midterm elections and make history as the first woman ever to lead the commonwealth.

Spanberger's win was the first in a big night for Democrats in Virginia and around the country, casting new doubts about President Donald Trump's political strength less than a year into his second White House term.

"We sent a message to every corner of the commonwealth, a message to our neighbors and our fellow Americans across the country," Spanberger told supporters Tuesday night in Richmond. "We sent a message to the whole world that in 2025, Virginia chose pragmatism over partisanship. We chose our commonwealth over chaos."

Also Tuesday, Democrat Ghazala F. Hashmi won the lieutenant governor's race and will succeed Earle-Sears. Hashmi is the first Muslim woman to win a statewide office in the U.S. And in a night of firsts, Democratic challenger Jay Jones defeated Republican Jason Miyares to become the state's first Black attorney general and complete a Democratic sweep of the commonwealth's statewide posts. Democrats also retained control of the state legislature.

Spanberger, a former congresswoman and CIA case officer, won by emphasizing economic issues, a strategy that may serve as a model for other Democrats in next year's elections as they try to break Republicans' hold on power in Washington and gain ground in statehouses.

Campaigning, Spanberger often sidestepped the historic potential of her candidacy. In victory, she embraced it.

"Just a few minutes ago, Adam said to our daughters, your mom's going to be the governor of Virginia. And I can guarantee those words have never been spoken in Virginia ever before," she said.

"It's a big deal," she added, "that the girls and the young women I have met along the campaign trail now know with certainty that they can achieve anything."

Spanberger's eyes welled up as she told her family she loved them. Her husband and three daughters, standing behind her, wiped tears from their cheeks.

Spanberger was intentional in how she criticized Trump

Throughout the campaign, Spanberger made carefully crafted economic arguments against Trump's policies, while she spent considerable sums on ads tying Earle-Sears to the president. She campaigned across the state, including in Republican-leaning areas, and in her first appearance as governor-elect she wore a bright red suit.

Yet Spanberger also emphasized her support for abortion rights in the last Southern state that has not enacted new restrictions or bans on the procedure, and she railed against Trump's Department of Government Efficiency, the U.S. government shutdown and their negative impact on a state with several hundred thousand federal employees.

That approach helped corral Democrats' core supporters while attracting the kinds of swing voters who elected Youngkin four years ago. It also continued a historical trend for Virginia: Since Jimmy Carter won the White House in 1976, Virginia has backed a governor from the opposite party of every first-term president in the following year. This year is a special case, given the gap between Trump's terms.

Republicans, meanwhile, must grapple again with a battleground loss by an arch-conservative from the president's party.

Trump never campaigned for Earle-Sears, though he did give her his tepid support. Their uneasy alliance raises questions about the ideal Republican nominee for contested general elections and how the president's volatile standing with voters might affect GOP candidates next November. The midterm elections

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 44 of 63

will settle statehouse control in dozens of states and determine whether Republicans maintain majorities in Washington for the final years of Trump's presidency.

Earle-Sears 61, would have become the first Black woman to be elected as a governor in the U.S.

"My opponent, Abigail, ran as a moderate," Earle-Sears said in her concession speech. "If she governs as one, then she will unite us, and she'll heal our divide and win our support. I hope and pray she does."

Spanberger balanced policy and biography

Spanberger, 46, promised to protect Virginia's economy from the aggressive tactics of Trump's second administration, which has culled the civil service, levied tariffs and shepherded a reconciliation bill curtailing the state's already fragile health care system.

Stephanie Uhl, a 38-year-old Defense Department employee, said the federal government shutdown was one reason she voted for Spanberger. Explaining that she is working without pay, she said, "I can afford (it) just fine," but added that she's bothered "that it affects so many other people."

Spanberger's background also figured heavily into her victory. As a former CIA case officer, she noted her public service and national security credentials. And she pitched herself as the mother of daughters educated in Virginia's public schools and a Capitol Hill veteran who represented a swing district and worked across the aisle.

The pitch helped the Democratic nominee withstand Earle-Sears' attacks on cultural issues, notably the Republican's assertion that Spanberger is an extremist on transgender rights. Spanberger, who consistently argued that local school districts should decide whether transgender students can participate in competitive sports, framed Earle-Sears as more out of step with the middle of the electorate.

Her strategy echoed the approach Democrats used to flip U.S. House control in the 2018 midterms, halfway through Trump's first presidency. Spanberger was among several high-profile, center-left women who brought national security or military credentials to campaigns in battleground districts. Another of those women, Rep. Mikie Sherrill, was elected Tuesday to become New Jersey's Democratic governor.

Together, they were held up as examples of successful mainstream Democrats at a time when the party's left flank has been ascendent. Zohran Mamdani, a democratic socialist, was elected mayor of New York on Tuesday.

In Congress, Spanberger was a quiet workhorse

When she first got to Washington, Spanberger concentrated on lower-profile issues: bringing broadband to rural areas, fighting drug trafficking and veterans' services. And she quickly established a reputation for working with colleagues across the political spectrum.

In her new role, she will face tightening economic projections, rising utility costs and growing unemployment — in part because of the Trump administration's federal contraction. But she will have the advantage of a friendly legislature. Democrats maintained their majority in the House of Delegates, and the state Senate, also controlled by Democrats, was not on the ballot this year. They are now in position to enact many policies that lawmakers advanced to Youngkin only for him to veto the bills.

Spanberger won despite a late surprise that threatened Virginia's Democratic ticket. In October, news reports revealed that Jones had sent texts in 2022 suggesting the former Republican House speaker get "two bullets to the head."

Republicans across the U.S., including Trump and Earle-Sears, demanded Jones drop out. He apologized and said he was ashamed of the messages but declined to leave the race.

Spanberger condemned the text messages but stopped short of asking Jones to withdraw from the race, and she notably did not withdraw her endorsement.

UPS distribution hub in Louisville has 300 flights per day. What to know

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A UPS cargo plane crashed Tuesday at an airport in Louisville, Kentucky, where the company operates its largest package delivery hub.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 45 of 63

UPS calls the giant center Worldport.

Here's what to know about its enormous scale:

Processes 2 million packages per day

The facility at Muhammad Ali International Airport sprawls across an area the size of 90 football fields.

It processes 2 million packages per day, but has the ability to handle even more. It has the capacity to process 416,000 packages and documents per hour if needed.

The Louisville airport ranks third among U.S. airports for cargo as measured by weight, after Memphis, Tennessee, and Anchorage, Alaska, according to Airports Council International World.

A UPS town

Some 20,000 people work at the center, making UPS the largest employer in the Louisville area, the company said on its website.

Louisville Metro Council member Betsy Ruhe said everyone in town knows someone who works at UPS.

"My heart goes out to everybody at UPS because this is a UPS town," Ruhe said. "My cousin's a UPS pilot. My aide's tennis partner is a UPS pilot. The intern in my office works overnight at UPS to pay for college."

Hundreds of flights per day

More than 300 flights take off and land from the facility each day..

A time-lapse video UPS posted on YouTube shows planes taxiing to and from special cargo gates. Workers unload containers packed with cardboard boxes. Other employees load the boxes onto a conveyor belt, which delivers packages to workers who load them into other containers.

The center has room for 125 aircraft to park.

Louisville's location in Kentucky puts it within four hours of flight time to 95% of the U.S. population. It serves 200 countries around the world.

UPS flies six different types of planes in the U.S.

It has 27 MD-11s, which is the model that crashed on Tuesday. It also flies the Airbus A300-600 and four different types of Boeing jets: the 757-200, 767-300, 747-400 and 747-8.

Expansions in Louisville

UPS made Louisville an air cargo hub starting in the 1980s. It opened the package sorting center it calls Worldport in 2002. The public media outlet Marketplace reported UPS picked the city because it doesn't get a lot of extreme heat or snow and because it's centrally located.

The hub has steadily grown over the decades. Last year, UPS opened a new \$220 million aircraft hangar in Louisville large enough to park two 747 planes side by side. The investment tripled the company's maintenance footprint for the plane at the airport.

In 2022 it announced plans to add eight new flight simulators.

UPS Healthcare, which provides shipments for clinical trials, shipments to medical care patients and other services, was due to get two new buildings in the expansion.

UPS gets permission to fly its own planes in 1988

UPS got its start in Seattle in 1907, when two teenagers started American Messenger Co. The name United Parcel Service debuted in 1919.

The company won Federal Aviation Administration approval to operate its own aircraft in 1988.

Headquartered in Atlanta, UPS today employs about 490,000 people worldwide.

Bomb threats in New Jersey and Trump warnings for California mark Election Day

By JULIE CARR SMYTH and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

Bomb threats to New Jersey polling stations, a voter roll mishap in Pennsylvania potentially affecting thousands of voters and warnings by President Donald Trump against California's mail balloting system marked the final day of voting in an off-year election with several nationally prominent races.

Voting otherwise appeared to go smoothly Tuesday across the U.S., as voters cast ballots in the first significant election since Trump won the White House for a second time.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 46 of 63

They were deciding governor's races in New Jersey and Virginia, a mayor's race in New York, Supreme Court elections in Pennsylvania, and voting and gun control measures in Maine. A redistricting initiative in California that was a response to Trump's push to redraw congressional lines in GOP-controlled states ahead of next year's midterm elections has been of particular interest to the Republican president.

His Department of Justice sent election monitors to five counties in California, a state Trump has lost three times and whose mail balloting system he has often criticized despite no evidence of any widespread fraud or other voting-related problems. In a post Tuesday on his social media platform, the president called the state's voting process "RIGGED" and warned that it was "under very serious legal and criminal review. STAY TUNED!"

Claims of election rigging are almost routine for Trump in the run-up to elections and sometimes on the day of voting itself. On Election Day last year, before he was declared the winner, he claimed without providing any details or evidence that there was "talk about massive cheating in Philadelphia" and said law enforcement was on the way. He continues to lie about his loss in the 2020 presidential election.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has been championing the redistricting initiative, responded to Trump with his own social media post calling the president "A totally unserious person spreading false information in a desperate attempt to cope with his failures." Secretary of State Shirley Weber called it "another baseless claim."

"The bottom line is California elections have been validated by the courts," she said in a statement. "California voters will not be deceived by someone who consistently makes desperate, unsubstantiated attempts to dissuade Americans from participating in our democracy."

In Virginia as the polls closed, Susan Beals, commissioner of elections, thanked officials for running a "very smooth election." Beals said there was a power outage in Virginia Beach, but the voting machine had battery backup and emergency lights came on so voting continued.

In New Jersey, law enforcement and election officials acted swiftly as voting began to secure polling places following a series of bomb threats.

Lt. Gov. Tahesha Way, who also serves as the state's top election official, said the threats had been emailed to seven counties, including Passaic, a key swing county. It also is the only county outside California where the Department of Justice had sent election monitors, in both cases at the request of the Republican parties in each state.

"Law enforcement has determined that there are no credible threats at this time," Way said. "We are doing everything in our power to protect voters and poll workers and coordinate closely with state, local and federal partners to ensure a smooth and safe election."

Later in the day, authorities arrested a juvenile suspect in connection with some of the bomb threats. The potential charges were not immediately released.

A New Jersey judge granted a one-hour extension for voters to be able to cast ballots at some polling places in Passaic County.

The threats came as the final day of voting began in New Jersey's closely-watched race for governor and a year after a series of bomb threats disrupted voting during last year's presidential election, mostly in battleground states. Bomb threat hoaxes also circulated in Springfield, Ohio, last year after Donald Trump during the campaign amplified false claims of Haitian immigrants there abducting and eating pets.

The threats Tuesday involved nearly two dozen polling places in Bergen, Essex, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Passaic counties, New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin said in a statement. Some polling places reopened quickly, he said, while voters at others were directed to nearby locations to cast their ballots.

"Law enforcement officers have responded at each affected polling place, and they have worked swiftly to secure these polling locations and ensure the safety of every voter," Platkin said.

The FBI's Newark office said it was aware of the reports and was assisting the state and local agencies. "This Dept. of Justice is committed to free, fair and safe elections," U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi said in a social media post related to the bomb threat investigation.

Passaic County received three threats and redirected some affected voters to other locations early

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 47 of 63

Tuesday, county spokesperson Lindsay Reed said in an email. One location, a school building, was cleared and voting resumed.

In Pennsylvania, nearly 20% of voters in Chester County were left out of the poll books originally provided to polling locations Tuesday, county officials said. That included voters registered as anything other than a Republican or a Democrat, including those registered with the Green or Libertarian parties or independents with no party affiliation. The category includes about 75,000 registered voters out of roughly 385,000 countywide.

A Chester County judge later extended voting by provisional ballot to 10 p.m. at all polling locations.

Election officials in the Democratic-leaning county located about 40 miles (64.4 kilometers) west of Philadelphia became aware of the problem just after polling places opened and had provided supplemental poll books to all 230 polling locations by late afternoon. There will be a formal review.

A majority of Chester County voters backed Democrat Kamala Harris over Trump in last year's presidential election. Voters on Tuesday were weighing in on local offices, as well as on members of Pennsylvania's highest court. Three Democratic justices on the state Supreme Court were running in nonpartisan retention elections, in which voters give a "yes" or "no" on whether they serve another term.

Third-party and independent voters who came to cast ballots before supplemental poll books arrived were offered a provisional ballot. County review boards consider the status of provisional ballots within seven days of Election Day.

Trump administration announces 16th deadly strike on an alleged drug boat

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced yet another deadly strike on a boat accused of ferrying drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean, coming the same day an aircraft carrier began heading to the region in a new expansion of military firepower.

The attack Tuesday killed two people aboard the vessel, Hegseth said, bringing the death toll from the Trump administration's campaign in South American waters up to at least 66 people in at least 16 strikes.

President Donald Trump has justified the strikes by saying the United States is in "armed conflict" with drug cartels and claiming the boats are operated by foreign terror organizations. The administration has not provided evidence or more details.

"We will find and terminate EVERY vessel with the intention of trafficking drugs to America to poison our citizens," Hegseth posted while on a trip to Asia.

Lawmakers from both parties have pressed the Trump administration for more information on who is being targeted and the legal justification for the strikes given that Congress has not authorized military action. United Nations human rights chief Volker Türk last week called for the U.S. to halt the attacks and "prevent the extrajudicial killing of people aboard these boats."

The latest strike comes as the USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier has left the Mediterranean Sea on its way to the Caribbean after Hegseth ordered it to the region more than a week ago. It will join an already robust buildup of American planes, ships and thousands of troops in Latin America.

A defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ship movements, confirmed that the Ford and the destroyer USS Bainbridge crossed through the Straits of Gibraltar and into the Atlantic on Tuesday.

The Ford originally deployed with five destroyers, but it's not clear if all of them will go to the Caribbean. Two of the other destroyers in the Ford's strike group, the USS Winston Churchill and the USS Mahan, are in the Mediterranean now, with the Mahan in port at Rota, Spain.

The other two destroyers, the USS Forrest Sherman and the USS Mitchener, are in the Red Sea, the official said.

With the strikes and military assets in the region expanding, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, who has been charged with narcoterrorism in the United States, has said the U.S. government is "fabricating"

a war against him.

During a interview that aired Sunday on CBS' "60 Minutes," Trump was asked if the U.S. was going to war with Venezuela. He responded: "I doubt it. I don't think so. But they've been treating us very badly, not only on drugs."

Norah O'Donnell, in the interview conducted Friday, also asked Trump if Maduro's days were numbered. "I would say yeah. I think so, yeah," the president said. Trump would not say whether or not he would order land strikes in Venezuela.

In the latest strike, a video Hegseth posted to social media has a gray box obscuring a boat that appears in the water before it's blown up. The footage then cuts to the vessel engulfed by flames.

Israel says the remains of a hostage have been turned over in Gaza

By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The remains of a hostage in Gaza, Staff Sergeant Itay Chen, have been returned for burial in Israel, the military said Wednesday, in the latest sign of progress under the U.S.-brokered ceasefire.

Chen, 19, of the 77th Battalion of the 7th Brigade, was abducted by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023, after falling from a tank and his death was officially confirmed on March 10, 2024, the military said in a statement on X.

"The IDF expresses deep condolences to the family, continues to make every effort to return all the deceased hostages, and is prepared for the continued implementation of the agreement," it said.

The announcement came after the remains of a hostage in Gaza were returned Tuesday. Ahead of the announcement, Hamas had returned the remains of 20 hostages to Israel under the ceasefire that began Oct. 10.

The ceasefire is aimed at winding down the deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and the Palestinian militant group.

The military wing of Hamas said earlier Tuesday it had recovered the body of an Israeli soldier in Gaza and intended to hand over the remains.

Militants in Gaza 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.

For each Israeli hostage returned, Israel has been releasing the remains of 15 Palestinians. So far the bodies of 270 Palestinians have been handed over under the current ceasefire. Fewer than half have been identified. Forensic work is complicated by a lack of DNA testing kits in Gaza. The Health Ministry there posts photos of the remains online, in the hope that families will recognize them.

The war was triggered by the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, that killed about 1,200 people and saw 251 taken hostage.

Israel responded with a sweeping military offensive that has killed more than 68,800 Palestinians in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between combatants and civilians. 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.

US suggests mandate for international force

The United States has produced a draft text for the U.N. Security Council that would provide a mandate for an international stabilization force in Gaza for at least two years. The draft, confirmed to The Associated Press by two U.S. officials, is an early template for what would likely be extensive negotiations among council members and international partners. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the situation.

Arab and other countries that have expressed interest in participating in the stabilization force have indicated that U.N. backing of the plan is necessary to persuade them to contribute troops. One official

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 49 of 63

said the document had not been formally circulated to other U.N. Security Council members and had been prepared as a starting point to find consensus.

Efforts to increase aid

Since the ceasefire began, the World Food Program has reached one million people in Gaza with food parcels, a WFP official said Tuesday. But more border crossings must be opened to scale up those efforts, said Ross Smith, the agency's director of emergency preparedness and response.

"We are still, as WFP, only moving half of what we want to move into Gaza," Smith said in an interview with the AP. "We need all crossings to be open. Right now, there's only two. We need all internal routes inside Gaza to be accessible to us, and right now they are not."

In a visit Tuesday to meet with Palestinian officials in the West Bank, Singapore's foreign minister, Vivian Balakrishnan, reaffirmed his country's commitment to the aid process, witnessing the handover of the latest installment in \$24 million of aid to the WFP.

Nearly 40 countries and international organizations now have representatives at a U.S.-led center opened in Israel last month to coordinate aid to Gaza and monitor the ceasefire, the U.S. Central Command said in a post on X.

Talks to end the government shutdown intensify as federal closure nears longest ever

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Talks intensified Tuesday toward a potential end to the government shutdown, as the federal closure was on track to become the longest ever, disrupting the lives of millions of Americans.

But tensions also rose as senators from both parties, Republicans and Democrats, quietly negotiated the contours of an emerging deal. With a nod from their leadership, the senators are seeking a way to reopen the government, put the normal federal funding process back on track and devise some sort of resolution for expiring health insurance subsidies that are spiking premium costs from coast to coast.

"Enough is enough," said Senate Majority Leader John Thune, the South Dakota Republican, as he opened the deadlocked chamber.

On day 35 of the federal government shutdown, the record for the longest will be broken after midnight. SNAP benefits have been interrupted for millions of Americans depending on federal food aid and hundreds of thousands of federal employees have been furloughed or are working without pay. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy predicted there could be chaos in the skies next week if air traffic controllers miss another paycheck. Labor unions put pressure on lawmakers to reopen the government.

President Donald Trump has stayed largely on the sidelines, refusing to negotiate over the demands for health care funds until government reopens, and Democrats are wary of making any deal with Republicans unless it has approval from the White House.

Democratic senators emerged stone-faced from a two-hour discussion at the Capitol.

"We're exploring all the options," said Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer afterward.

Trump abruptly invited senators from his own Republican Party for a private breakfast meeting Wednesday.

Election Day is seen as a turning point

Tuesday's elections provide an inflection point, with off-year races that will show voter attitudes, a moment of political assessment many hope will turn the tide. Another test vote Tuesday in the Senate failed, as Democrats rejected a temporary government funding bill.

"These people are worth fighting for," said Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., about those experiencing rising health care costs.

Unlike the shutdown during Trump's first term, when he fought Congress in 2018-19 for funds to build the U.S.-Mexico border wall, the president has been relatively quiet.

Trump threatens to halt SNAP food aid

But on Tuesday, Trump issued a fresh threat, warning he would halt food aid under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program unless Democrats agree to reopen the government.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 50 of 63

SNAP benefits "will be given only when the Radical Left Democrats open up government, which they can easily do, and not before!" Trump said on social media. That seemed to defy court orders to release the SNAP contingency funds.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said later that the administration continues to pay out SNAP funding in line with court orders.

But Democrats in the House and the Senate warned that Trump cannot be trusted to follow the law or keep his word.

"What message do you think it means when the president says, 'I'm not going to release those funds?'" Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., asked. Democrats demanded the House reopen for negotiations.

Since House Speaker Mike Johnson sent lawmakers home in September, attention is on the Senate. There, the leadership has outsourced negotiations to a loose group of centrist dealmakers from both parties who have been quietly charting a way to end the standoff.

Contours of a potential deal

Central to any endgame will be a series of agreements that would need to be upheld not only by the Senate, but also the House, and the White House, which is not at all certain in Washington where Republicans have full control of the government.

First of all, senators from both parties, particularly the powerful members of the Appropriations Committee, are pushing to ensure the normal government funding process can be put back on track.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., along with several Democrats, including Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire and Chris Coons of Delaware, are among those working behind the scenes.

"The pace of talks have increased," said Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., who has been involved in conversations.

Among the goals is guaranteeing upcoming votes on a smaller package of bills where there is already widespread bipartisan agreement to fund various aspects of governments, like agricultural programs and military construction projects at bases.

"I certainly think that that three-bill package is primed to do a lot of good things for the American people," said Sen. Katie Britt, R-Ala., who has also been in talks.

More difficult, a substantial number of senators also want some resolution to the standoff over the funding for the Affordable Care Act subsidies that are set to expire at year's end.

White House won't engage on health care until government reopens

The White House says its position remains unchanged and that Democrats must vote to fund the government until talks over health care can begin. White House officials are in close contact with GOP senators who have been quietly speaking with key Senate Democrats, according to a senior White House official. The official was granted anonymity to discuss administration strategy.

With insurance premium notices being sent, millions of Americans are experiencing sticker shock on skyrocketing prices. The loss of federal subsidies, which come in the form of tax credits, are expected to leave many people unable to buy health insurance.

Republicans are reluctant to fund the health care program, also known as Obamacare. But Thune has promised Democrats a vote on their preferred proposal, on a date certain, as part of any deal to reopen government.

That's not enough for some senators, who see the health care deadlock as part of their broader concerns with Trump's direction for the country.

With the Senate, which is split 53-47, having tried and failed more than a dozen times to advance the House-passed bill over a filibuster by Democrats, that measure is out of date. It would have funded government to Nov. 21. The GOP leaders have acknowledged they will need a new temporary measure that would keep the government running into the new year, but have not settled on a new date.

Trump has demanded senators nuke the filibuster, the Senate rule that requires a 60-vote threshold to advance most legislation, which preserves minority rights in the chamber. GOP senators panned that

demand.

Jets trade All-Pro cornerback Sauce Gardner, star defensive tackle Quinnen Williams

By ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writer

Sauce Gardner went from last place to first and teammate Quinnen Williams also is on the move in separate blockbuster trades.

The stunning deals by the New York Jets highlighted a flurry of activity ahead of the NFL's trade deadline on Tuesday.

Gardner, a two-time All-Pro cornerback, was sent to the Indianapolis Colts for two first-round draft picks and wide receiver Adonai Mitchell. The Jets will receive the Colts' first-round selection in 2026 and in 2027.

Williams heads to the Dallas Cowboys for a second-round pick in 2026, a first-round pick in 2027 and defensive tackle Mazi Smith.

The Jets will get the better of the Dallas' two firsts in 2027. They acquired a pair of first-rounders when they sent two-time All-Pro pass rusher Micah Parsons to Green Bay before the season.

"Having the opportunity to acquire a talented player like Sauce Gardner was one we did not want to pass on," Colts general manager Chris Ballard said. "He was a player that we scouted heavily coming out of college and there's a reason he was the fourth overall pick. Sauce is a proven cornerback. His skill and competitive nature will elevate everyone's play on the defensive unit. We're thrilled he's a Colt. On the same note, AD Mitchell is a great person and a great player. We believe he will have success in New York, and we wish him the best as he enters the next chapter of his career."

The Cowboys (3-5-1) have the second-worst defense in the NFL and made two moves to bolster that unit. Before getting Williams, the Cowboys acquired linebacker Logan Wilson from the Cincinnati Bengals for a seventh-round pick.

The Jets are loaded with draft picks after dealing their two best defensive players and need to choose wisely to rebuild a franchise that has the longest active playoff drought in the NFL. They weren't finished making moves, however.

Cornerback Ja'Sir Taylor was acquired from the Los Angeles Chargers for a conditional seventh-round pick in 2028 just before the deadline at 4 p.m. EST. Taylor was a sixth-round pick of the Chargers in 2022 out of Wake Forest.

In other moves, wide receiver Jakobi Meyers was traded to Jacksonville from Las Vegas for draft picks in the fourth and sixth rounds.

The Seattle Seahawks got wideout Rashid Shaheed from the New Orleans Saints for picks in the fourth and fifth rounds.

Edge rusher Joe Tryon-Shoyinka was traded from Cleveland to Chicago for a seventh-round pick.

The Chargers got offensive lineman Trevor Penning from the Saints for a 2027 sixth-round pick.

Gardner, the AP Defensive Rookie of the Year in 2022, signed a four-year, \$120.4 million contract extension with the Jets in July. He joins the AFC South-leading Colts (7-2) after spending his first 3 1/2 seasons with the losing Jets.

Williams, a three-time Pro Bowl pick and 2022 All-Pro, is signed through 2027 on a contract averaging \$24 million per season.

Shaheed goes from the 1-8 Saints to the 6-2 Seahawks, giving Sam Darnold another option along with Jaxon Smith-Njigba.

Meyers, who requested a trade, gives the Jaguars (5-3) depth. Travis Hunter will miss at least three more games and Brian Thomas Jr., Dyami Brown and Tim Patrick are dealing with injuries.

Wilson had requested a trade after his playing time decreased for the Bengals, who have the league's worst defense.

"Some guys have the ability to see a certain key and, at the same time, take a step up in the hole," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said on his radio show on 105.3 The Fan. "He knows how to get in the gaps

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 52 of 63

right now. ... For what we need right now, he can come in immediately and help us at linebacker."

The reigning Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles were aggressive leading up to the deadline. General manager Howie Roseman added three players to a talented roster to improve the team's chances for a repeat.

Since the Eagles (6-2) last played a game, they acquired edge rusher Jaelan Phillips and cornerbacks Michael Carter II and Jaire Alexander.

Phillips, who came from Miami on Monday for a third-round pick, immediately bolsters the pass rush. The 2021 first-round pick had three sacks in his last five games for the Dolphins. All of Philadelphia's edge rushers combined have three sacks this season.

"For us, where we are as a team, what we believe is important to win a world championship and to being a great team, it wasn't a hard trade to make," Roseman said.

Carter gives the defense a veteran slot cornerback to allow defensive coordinator Vic Fangio more flexibility to use Cooper DeJean outside. Alexander, a two-time Pro Bowl selection, is a low-risk, high-reward acquisition.

The Baltimore Ravens also added an edge rusher, getting Dre'Mont Jones from Tennessee for a conditional fifth-round pick. Jones has 4 1/2 sacks this season so he's an upgrade for the Ravens (3-5) at a position of need.

Several trades went down last month. The Bengals acquired Joe Flacco. The Rams got cornerback Roger McCreary. Defensive end Keion White went to the 49ers. Safety Kyle Dugger was traded to the Steelers. The Jaguars and Browns swapped cornerbacks Greg Newsome II and Tyson Campbell.

The Chargers added edge Odafe Oweh in a deal that sent safety Alohi Gilman to the Ravens.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy warns of 'mass chaos' in skies if shutdown continues

By JOSH FUNK AP Transportation Writer

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy predicted Tuesday that there could be chaos in the skies next week if the government shutdown drags on and air traffic controllers miss a second paycheck.

There have already been numerous delays at airports across the country — sometimes hours long — because the Federal Aviation Administration slows down or stops traffic temporarily anytime it is short on controllers. Last weekend saw some of the worst staff shortages and on Sunday, flights at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey were delayed for several hours.

Duffy and the head of the air traffic controllers union have both warned that the situation will only get worse the longer the shutdown continues and the financial pressure continues to grow on people who are forced to work without pay. FAA employees already missed one paycheck on Oct. 28. Their next payday is scheduled for next Tuesday.

"Many of the controllers said 'A lot of us can navigate missing one paycheck. Not everybody, but a lot of us can. None of us can manage missing two paychecks,'" Duffy said. "So if you bring us to a week from today, Democrats, you will see mass chaos. You will see mass flight delays. You'll see mass cancellations, and you may see us close certain parts of the airspace, because we just cannot manage it because we don't have air traffic controllers."

Most of the flight disruptions so far during the shutdown have been isolated and temporary. But if delays become more widespread and start to ripple throughout the system, the pressure will mount on Congress to reach an agreement to end the shutdown.

It's difficult to predict how much worse the situation will get once controllers miss a second paycheck. The impact of the staff shortages could also be magnified if controllers coordinated a large effort to call out sick across a certain region of the country. Both the National Air Traffic Controllers Association and Duffy have urged controllers not to consider that and continue reporting to work.

Mike McCormick, who used to oversee air traffic control for the FAA before he retired and is now a professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, said closing down part of the airspace and forcing planes

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 53 of 63

to fly around an area is routinely done when there is a major thunderstorm. The FAA may also close down part of the airspace if it is short on controllers at one of its regional radar centers that directs planes flying at high altitude across the country. This move is very similar to a ground delay program that FAA uses at an airport when it is short on controllers there or encounters an equipment failure.

Major airlines, aviation unions and the travel industry have been urging Congress to end this shutdown as soon as possible by voting to support the clean funding resolution that Republicans have proposed.

The U.S. Travel Association said in a letter to Congressional leaders this week that the economy has already lost more than \$4 billion because of the shutdown, and the industry worries the impact will get significantly worse if the shutdown continues into the holiday travel season.

"With Thanksgiving, the busiest travel period of the year, imminently approaching, the consequences of a continued shutdown will be immediate, deeply felt by millions of American travelers, and economically devastating to communities in every state," the U.S. Travel Association said.

Normally, airlines strive to have at least 80% of their flights depart and arrive within 15 minutes of when they are scheduled. Aviation analytics firm Cirium said that since the shutdown began on Oct. 1, the total number of delays overall has not fallen significantly below that goal because most of the disruptions so far have been no worse than what happens when a major thunderstorm moves across an airport.

But on Sunday, only about 56% of Newark's departures were on time, and the Orlando airport reported that only about 70% of its flights were on time, according to Cirium.

As of midday Tuesday, there have been 1,932 flight delays reported across the United States, according to www.FlightAware.com. That is lower than what is typical although the FAA did say that flights in Phoenix were being delayed Tuesday morning because of staffing shortages. Strong winds are also causing delays at the Newark and LaGuardia airports Tuesday.

Losses for Big Tech pull Wall Street lower

By DAMIAN J. TROISE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks fell on Wall Street Tuesday, pulled down by losses in the same big tech companies that have been the main drivers of the market's rally so far this year.

The downturn pulled every major index further away from the all-time highs set just last week. Losses were spread broadly throughout every sector, but technology stocks were the heaviest weights.

Palantir Technologies, which had more than doubled so far this year, fell 7.9% despite reporting results that beat analysts' forecasts. Nvidia also reversed course from a day earlier, falling 4%, while Microsoft fell 0.5%.

The technology sector is typically the driving force behind the market's broader movement, including its record-setting year. Huge values for companies including Nvidia and Microsoft give them outsize influence over the broader market's direction.

The S&P 500 fell 80.42 points, or 1.2% to 6,771.55. The index set its most recent all-time high last week, and is still up more than 15% for the year.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 251.44 points, or 0.5%, to 47,085.24. The technology heavy Nasdaq fell 486.09 points, or 2%, to 23,348.64.

Wall Street remains focused on corporate earnings. Roughly three out of every four companies within the S&P 500 have reported their latest results, which have been mostly better than analysts expected.

"However, expectations for technology firms seem higher, and disappointments appear to be having a disproportionately negative effect," Paul Christopher, head of global investment strategy at Wells Fargo Investment Institute, wrote in a note to investors.

Animal health care company Zoetis plunged 13.8% after cutting its sales forecast for the year. Norwegian Cruise Line slid 15.3% after giving Wall Street a mixed earnings report and forecast.

Uber slumped 5.1% despite reporting financial results that beat analysts' expectations.

Several big companies will report their latest financial results later this week, including McDonald's, Expedia Group and Qualcomm.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 54 of 63

The latest round of corporate profit reports and forecasts have taken on more significance for Wall Street amid the U.S. government shutdown. Investors and economists are trying to gauge the health and direction of the U.S. economy without the latest economic updates on inflation and employment.

The lack of timely economic data has also left the Federal Reserve without many of the resources it needs to make decisions on interest rate policy. That has added more doubts to whether the central bank will continue cutting its benchmark interest rate amid stubborn inflation and a weakening job market.

Consumer prices rose 3% in September, the highest increase since January. At the same time, hiring has stalled. That mix of conditions puts the Fed in a tough position. Cutting rates to help the economy endure a weakening job market could also result in hotter inflation.

The government shutdown has already resulted in a lack of monthly employment data for September and will likely result in a lack of data on consumer prices for October.

President Donald Trump's volatile trade war with China and other nations has also added to the ongoing uncertainty over the economy's path forward.

The central bank cut its benchmark interest rate in October for the second time this year. Fed Chair Jerome Powell has cautioned that further rate cuts aren't guaranteed. Other Fed members have since also expressed concerns about more rate cuts with inflation remaining stubbornly above the central bank's target of 2%.

Wall Street is forecasting a 70% chance of a rate cut at the Fed's next meeting in December, according to CME FedWatch. That's down from a 90.5% a week ago, just before the last Fed meeting.

Outside of earnings, Tesla fell 5.1% after Norway's sovereign wealth fund, one of the electric car maker's biggest investors, said Tuesday that it will vote against a proposed compensation package that could pay CEO Elon Musk as much as \$1 trillion over a decade.

There will be more than a dozen company proposals up for a vote Thursday during Tesla's annual meeting, but none have generated more division than Musk's potentially massive pay package.

Yum Brands jumped 7.3% after the company said it is considering selling its Pizza Hut unit, which has struggled to compete in a crowded pizza market.

Novo Nordisk slipped 1.8% after it raised its offer to buy drugmaker Metsera, which jumped 20.5%. Novo Nordisk is trying to outbid rival Pfizer, which fell 1.5%.

European markets were mostly lower and Asian markets fell overnight.

Treasury yields edged lower in the bond market. The yield on the 10-year Treasury edged down to 4.09% from 4.10% late Monday.

Dick Cheney, one of the most powerful and polarizing vice presidents in US history, dies at 84

By CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dick Cheney, the hard-charging conservative who became one of the most powerful and polarizing vice presidents in U.S. history and a leading advocate for the invasion of Iraq, has died at 84.

Cheney died Monday due to complications of pneumonia and cardiac and vascular disease, his family said Tuesday.

The quietly forceful Cheney led the armed forces as defense secretary during the Persian Gulf War under President George H.W. Bush before returning to public life as vice president under Bush's son George W. Bush.

Cheney was, in effect, the chief operating officer of the younger Bush's presidency. He often had a commanding hand in implementing decisions most important to the president and some of surpassing interest to himself — all while living with decades of heart disease and, post-administration, a heart transplant. Cheney consistently defended the extraordinary tools of surveillance, detention and inquisition employed in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"History will remember him as among the finest public servants of his generation — a patriot who brought integrity, high intelligence, and seriousness of purpose to every position he held," Bush said.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 55 of 63

Years after leaving office, Cheney became a target of President Donald Trump, especially after his daughter Liz Cheney became the leading Republican critic and examiner of Trump's attempts to stay in power after his 2020 election defeat and his actions in the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot.

Trump said nothing about Cheney publicly in the hours after his death was disclosed. The White House lowered flags to half-staff in remembrance of him but without the usual announcement or proclamation praising the deceased.

Cheney said last year he was voting for Democrat Kamala Harris for president against Trump.

For all his conservatism, Cheney was privately and publicly supportive of his daughter Mary Cheney after she came out as gay, years before same-sex marriage was broadly supported. "Freedom means freedom for everyone," he said.

In his time in office, no longer was the vice presidency merely a ceremonial afterthought. Instead, Cheney made it a network of back channels from which to influence policy on Iraq, terrorism, presidential powers and energy.

A hard-liner on Iraq, Cheney was proved wrong about the rationale for the Iraq War, a point he didn't acknowledge.

He alleged links between the 9/11 attacks and prewar Iraq that didn't exist. He said U.S. troops would be welcomed as liberators; they weren't.

He declared the Iraqi insurgency in its last throes in May 2005, when 1,661 U.S. service members had been killed, not even half the toll by the war's end.

Cheney and Bush struck an odd bargain, unspoken but well understood. Shelving ambitions he might have had to succeed Bush, Cheney was accorded extraordinary power.

His penchant for secrecy had a price. He came to be seen as a Machiavelli orchestrating a bungled response to criticism of the Iraq War. And when he shot a hunting companion with an errant shotgun blast in 2006, he and his coterie were slow to disclose that episode. The victim, his friend Harry Whittington, recovered and forgave him.

Bush asked Cheney to lead a search for his vice president, eventually deciding the job should go to Cheney himself. Their election in 2000 was ultimately sealed by the Supreme Court after a protracted legal fight.

On Capitol Hill, Cheney lobbied for the president's programs where he had once served as a deeply conservative member of Congress and the No. 2 Republican House leader.

On Sept. 11, 2001, with Bush out of town, the president gave Cheney approval to authorize the military to shoot down hijacked planes. By then, two airliners had hit the World Trade Center and a third was bearing down on the capital. A Secret Service agent burst into the West Wing room, grabbed Cheney by the belt and shoulder and led him to a bunker underneath the White House.

Cheney's career in Washington started with a congressional fellowship in 1968. He became a protégé of Rep. Donald Rumsfeld, R-Ill., serving under him in Gerald Ford's White House before he was elevated to chief of staff, the youngest ever, at age 34.

He later returned to Casper, Wyoming, and won the state's lone congressional seat, the first of six terms.

In 1989, Cheney became defense secretary and led the Pentagon during the 1990-91 Persian Gulf War. Between the two Bush administrations, Cheney led Dallas-based Halliburton Corp., an oil industry services company.

Cheney was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, son of a longtime Agriculture Department worker. Senior class president and football co-captain in Casper, he went to Yale on a full scholarship for a year but failed out.

He moved back to Wyoming and renewed a relationship with high school sweetheart Lynne Anne Vincent, marrying her in 1964. He is survived by his wife and daughters.

Dick Cheney, one of the most powerful and polarizing vice presidents in US history, dies at 84

By CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dick Cheney, the hard-charging conservative who became one of the most powerful

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 56 of 63

and polarizing vice presidents in U.S. history and a leading advocate for the invasion of Iraq, has died at 84. George W. Bush's vice president died Monday from complications of pneumonia and cardiac and vascular disease, his family said Tuesday in a statement.

In Cheney's hands, the vice presidency became a nexus of influence and manipulation — no longer the timid office whose occupants had tended their boss's ambitions, gone to endless banquets and often waited in the wings for their own shot at the prize.

When he bunkered in secure undisclosed locations after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, that was less an inconvenience for Cheney than a metaphor for a life of power that he exercised to maximum effect from the shadows.

He was the small man operating big levers as if from Oz. Machiavelli with a sardonic grin. "The Darth Vader of the administration," as Bush described the public's view.

No one seemed more amused at that perception than Cheney himself. "Am I the evil genius in the corner that nobody ever sees come out of his hole?" he asked. "It's a nice way to operate, actually."

The force was with him.

Cheney served father and son presidents, leading the armed forces as defense chief during the Persian Gulf War under President George H.W. Bush before returning to public life under his son.

Cheney was, in effect, the chief operating officer of the younger Bush's presidency. He had a hand, often a commanding one, in implementing decisions most important to the president and some of surpassing interest to himself — all while living with decades of heart disease and, post-administration, a heart transplant. Cheney consistently defended the extraordinary tools of surveillance, detention and inquisition employed in response to the Sept. 11 attacks.

"History will remember him as among the finest public servants of his generation — a patriot who brought integrity, high intelligence, and seriousness of purpose to every position he held," Bush said Tuesday.

Cheney assailed Trump

Years after leaving office, Cheney became a target of President Donald Trump, especially after his daughter Liz Cheney became the leading Republican critic and examiner of Trump's desperate attempts to stay in power after his 2020 election defeat and his actions in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol.

"In our nation's 246-year history, there has never been an individual who was a greater threat to our republic than Donald Trump," Cheney said in a television ad for his daughter. "He tried to steal the last election using lies and violence to keep himself in power after the voters had rejected him. He is a coward."

In a twist the Democrats of his era could never have imagined, Cheney said last year he was voting for their candidate, Kamala Harris, for president against Trump.

Trump said nothing about Cheney publicly in the hours after his death was disclosed. The White House lowered flags to half-staff in remembrance of him but without the usual announcement or proclamation praising the deceased.

For all his conservatism, Cheney was supportive of his daughter Mary Cheney after she came out as gay, years before gay marriage was broadly supported, then legalized. "Freedom means freedom for everyone," he said.

A survivor of five heart attacks, Cheney long thought he was living on borrowed time and declared in 2013 that he awoke each morning "with a smile on my face, thankful for the gift of another day," an odd image for a figure who always seemed to be manning the ramparts.

Cheney made his vice presidency a network of back channels from which to influence policy on Iraq, terrorism, presidential powers, energy and other conservative cornerstones.

Fixed with a seemingly permanent half-smile -- detractors called it a smirk -- Cheney joked about his outsize reputation as a stealthy manipulator.

Among those who worked with him and sometimes crossed him, Bush White House adviser Dan Bartlett told a Miller Center oral history series that you always knew where you stood with Cheney.

"In Washington and politics you get a lot of people who will stab you in the back," he said. "Dick Cheney was perfectly comfortable with stabbing you in the chest." He liked that about him.

The Iraq War

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 57 of 63

A hard-liner on Iraq who was increasingly isolated as other hawks left government, Cheney was proved wrong on point after point in the Iraq War, without losing the conviction he was essentially right.

He alleged links between the 9/11 attacks and prewar Iraq that didn't exist. He said U.S. troops would be welcomed as liberators; they weren't.

He declared the Iraqi insurgency in its last throes in May 2005, back when 1,661 U.S. service members had been killed, not even half the toll by war's end.

The U.S. intervention unseated the longtime autocratic leader, Saddam Hussein, but opened up a security vacuum that led to years of brutal civil war, the rise of extremist groups including the Islamic State and the expansion of Iranian influence.

On a busy street in Baghdad, Ahmad Jabar called former Cheney a "bloodthirsty person."

"They destroyed us," he said of the Bush administration, "and Dick Cheney specifically destroyed us. How are we supposed to remember him?"

For admirers, Cheney kept the faith in a shaky time, resolute even as the nation turned against the war and the leaders waging it.

But well into Bush's second term, Cheney's clout waned, checked by courts or shifting political realities.

Courts ruled against efforts he championed to broaden presidential authority and accord special harsh treatment to terrorism suspects. Bush did not fully embrace his hawkish positions on Iran and North Korea.

Cheney's relationship with Bush

From the beginning, Cheney and Bush struck an odd bargain, unspoken but well understood. Shelving any ambitions he might have had to succeed Bush, Cheney was accorded power comparable in some ways to the presidency itself.

That bargain largely held up.

As Cheney put it: "I made the decision when I signed on with the president that the only agenda I would have would be his agenda, that I was not going to be like most vice presidents — and that was angling, trying to figure out how I was going to be elected president when his term was over with."

His penchant for secrecy and backstage maneuvering had a price. He came to be seen as a thin-skinned figure orchestrating a bungled response to criticism of the Iraq War. And when he shot a hunting companion in the torso, neck and face with an errant shotgun blast in 2006, he and his coterie were slow to disclose that episode.

It was "one of the worst days of my life," Cheney said. The victim, his friend Harry Whittington, recovered and quickly forgave him. Comedians were relentless about it for months.

When Bush began his presidential quest, he sought help from Cheney, a Washington insider who had retreated to the oil business. Cheney led the team to find a vice presidential candidate.

Bush decided the best choice was the man picked to help with the choosing.

Together, the pair faced a protracted 2000 postelection battle before they could claim victory. Recounts and court challenges left the nation in limbo for weeks.

Cheney took charge of the presidential transition before victory was clear and helped give the Republican administration a smooth launch despite the lost time. In office, disputes among departments vying for a bigger piece of Bush's constrained budget came to his desk and often were settled there.

On Capitol Hill, Cheney lobbied for the president's programs in halls he had walked as a deeply conservative member of Congress and the No. 2 Republican House leader.

Jokes abounded about how Cheney was the real No. 1 in town; Bush didn't seem to mind and cracked a few himself. But such comments became less apt later in Bush's presidency as he clearly came into his own.

On Sept. 11, 2001, with Bush out of town, the president gave Cheney approval to authorize the military to shoot down any hijacked planes still in the sky. By then, two airliners had hit the World Trade Center and a third was bearing down on the capital from nearby Dulles airport in Virginia.

A Secret Service agent burst into the West Wing room, grabbed Cheney by the belt and shoulder and led him to a bunker underneath the White House. "He didn't say, 'Shall we go?'" Cheney told NBC News years later. "He wasn't polite about it."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 58 of 63

Cheney talked to Bush again from the bunker and told him, "Washington was under attack, as well as New York."

After Bush's return to the White House that night, Cheney was taken to a secret location to keep the president and vice president separated and try to ensure that at least one of them would survive any further attack.

Cheney said his first reaction to hearing of the crash of the fourth hijacked plane, in Pennsylvania, was that the U.S. might have shot it down per his order. It came down after passengers fought the hijackers.

He became the youngest chief of staff

Politics first lured Cheney to Washington in 1968, when he was a congressional fellow. He became a protégé of Rep. Donald Rumsfeld, R-Ill., serving under him in two agencies and in Gerald Ford's White House before he was elevated to chief of staff, the youngest ever, at age 34.

Cheney held the post for 14 months, then returned to Casper, Wyoming, where he had been raised, and ran for the state's lone congressional seat.

In that first race for the House, Cheney suffered a mild heart attack, prompting him to crack he was forming a group called "Cardiacs for Cheney." He still managed a decisive victory and went on to win five more terms.

In 1989, Cheney became defense secretary under the first President Bush and led the Pentagon during the 1990-91 Persian Gulf War, which drove Iraq's troops from Kuwait. Between the two Bush administrations, Cheney led Dallas-based Halliburton Corp., a large engineering and construction company for the oil industry.

Cheney was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, son of a longtime Agriculture Department worker. Senior class president and football co-captain in Casper, he went to Yale on a full scholarship for a year but failed out.

He moved back to Wyoming, eventually enrolled at the University of Wyoming and renewed a relationship with high school sweetheart Lynne Anne Vincent, marrying her in 1964. He is survived by his wife and daughters.

2 Massachusetts men are arrested in the weekend explosion at Harvard Medical School

By MICHAEL CASEY and LEAH WILLINGHAM Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Two Massachusetts men were arrested Tuesday in connection with a weekend explosion at Harvard Medical School, authorities said.

Logan David Patterson and Dominick Frank Cardoza face charges of conspiracy to damage by means of fire or an explosive, according to the charging document. Patterson, an 18-year-old from Plymouth, and Cardoza, a 20-year-old from Bourne, were arrested Tuesday morning and were due to be arraigned in federal court later in the day.

The explosion occurred early Saturday on the fourth floor of Harvard Medical School's Goldenson Building, which houses labs and offices associated with the school's neurobiology department. No one was injured.

"Anxiety levels naturally rise when the public learns that an explosion was intentionally caused. I would say those levels may rise even higher in the Boston area," U.S. Attorney Leah B. Foley said at a news conference, noting that the investigation is ongoing but that there's no further threat to the university.

According to the charging document, witnesses said the men were visiting Wentworth College for Halloween activities, including parties at area schools. On the day of the blast, surveillance footage captured the two walking toward Harvard's medical school. Witnesses said the pair chose the building because it looked abandoned and got into it via the roof, the charging document states.

Witnesses said the pair lit a roman candle outside of the building and placed a cherry bomb inside of a locker in the building that then exploded, according to the charging document.

"Let me be clear: Setting off an explosive device inside a locker at an institution geared toward higher education is not some harmless college prank. It's selfish, it's short-sighted, and it's a federal crime," said Ted Docks, the FBI's special agent in charge.

Neither Foley nor Docks would speculate as to the motive.

Medical school officials said the explosion caused no structural damage and that all labs and equipment remained intact. The Boston Fire Department determined that the explosion was intentional. Police said officers did not find additional devices during a sweep of the building.

An officer who responded to a fire alarm that morning encountered two people running from the building, university police said.

What to know about Dick Cheney's heart trouble and eventual transplant

Associated Press undefined

Former Vice President Dick Cheney battled heart disease for most of his adult life, a life extended thanks in part to a heart transplant in 2012.

Cheney, who died Monday due to complications of pneumonia and cardiac and vascular disease, had his first heart attack at the unusually young age of 37. He would go on to survive four more before his heart declined enough to qualify for that transplant.

Heart disease is the nation's No. 1 killer and Cheney's decades of health problems illustrate how heart trouble can accumulate — as well as the varied treatments.

Cheney's heart history

Over the years, Cheney underwent quadruple bypass surgery to reroute blood flow around clogged heart arteries as well as less invasive artery-clearing angioplasties. He had a pacemaker implanted to monitor his heartbeat. He also experienced blood vessel problems in his legs.

Heart attacks damage the heart's muscle, eventually making it harder to pump properly. After Cheney's fifth heart attack in 2010, he acknowledged "increasing congestive heart failure." He received another implant, a small pump called a "left ventricular assist device" or LVAD. That device took over the job of his heart's main pumping chamber, powered by batteries worn in a fanny pack.

Cheney had a heart transplant in 2012

Then in March 2012, at the age of 71, Cheney received a heart transplant. Like him, more than 70% of heart transplant recipients live at least five years, many longer. Cheney was older than a typical heart transplant recipient; most are 50 to 64 years old. But he was one of 362 people age 65 or older who received a new heart in 2012, according to the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplant Network, or OPTN.

Heart transplants are increasing, but not fast enough

There's a huge need for more transplantable hearts. Hundreds of thousands of adults suffer from advanced heart failure yet many are never placed on the transplant list, in part because of the organ shortage. According to the organ network, 4,572 people received a heart transplant last year. That number has grown gradually since Cheney's — there were 2,378 transplants in 2012. So have the number of recipients 65 or older — 905 last year.

Typhoon Kalmaegi leaves at least 26 dead in Philippines, with survivors trapped on roofs and in cars

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Typhoon Kalmaegi has left at least 26 people dead in the Philippines, mostly in flooding set off by the storm, which barreled across the central part of the country on Tuesday, disaster response officials said. Floodwaters trapped scores of people on their roofs and submerged cars.

A further six people were killed when a Philippine air force helicopter crashed in a separate incident in southern Agusan del Sur province while transporting humanitarian aid to provinces battered by Kalmaegi.

The bodies of all those aboard the Super Huey chopper that crashed near Loreto town were recovered after a search, the military's Eastern Mindanao Command said in a statement without providing other details, including what could have caused the crash.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 60 of 63

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.

Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV, deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defense, said that at least 26 people were reported killed — many in flooding in Cebu province and other central island provinces pummeled by Kalmaegi, the 20th tropical cyclone to batter the Philippine archipelago this year. Details of those typhoon deaths were still being verified, he said.

Among the dead was an older villager, who drowned in floodwaters in Southern Leyte, where a province-wide power outage was reported after the typhoon made landfall around midnight in one of its eastern towns. A resident died after being hit by a fallen tree in central Bohol province, provincial officials said.

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 1 million houses and displaced more than 4 million people in one of the country's poorest regions.

Before the typhoon's landfall, 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.

Rescuers in Nepal search for climbers' bodies in an avalanche

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Rescuers dug through ice and snow on a mountain in Nepal on Tuesday to look for the bodies of seven climbers who were killed by an avalanche, 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 the same day, but the weather cleared Tuesday and a helicopter landed with rescuers.

The Dolkha district administration office said that eight other climbers who were injured in the avalanche were flown to the capital, Kathmandu, for treatment. Among them were three French and five Nepali nationals.

At least three bodies were pulled out of the snow by Tuesday afternoon, police said.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 61 of 63

Isabelle Solange Thaon, 54, said she lost her husband, 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, adding that they lept over the rocks and swam in the snow until help arrived to pull them out.

"Unfortunately, Christian died ... because rocks hit his head," she said.

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

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

Meanwhile, the bodies of two missing Italian climbers were recovered Tuesday on a separate mountain, according to Nepal's Tourism Department.

Italy's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday said Nepalese authorities confirmed the deaths of Alessandro Caputo and Stefano Farronato. They were climbing Panbari Peak when contact was lost Friday.

"Their compatriots had been caught in heavy snowfall at Camp 1 (5,000 meters)," the Italian ministry said.

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 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.

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.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 62 of 63

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 conservation 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.

Today in History: November 5, Susan B. Anthony defies law and casts vote for president

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 5, the 309th day of 2025. There are 56 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 5, 1872, suffragist Susan B. Anthony defied the law by casting a vote in the presidential election; she was later arrested and charged with "knowingly voting without having a lawful right to vote." Found guilty at trial, she was fined \$100, which she refused to pay.

Also on this date:

In 1605, the "Gunpowder Plot" failed as Guy Fawkes was seized before he could blow up the English Parliament; Fawkes and his co-conspirators were later convicted of treason and hanged.

In 1912, Democrat Woodrow Wilson was elected president, defeating Progressive Party candidate Theodore Roosevelt, incumbent Republican William Howard Taft and Socialist Eugene V. Debs.

In 1930, novelist Sinclair Lewis became the first American to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

In 1940, Democratic incumbent Franklin D. Roosevelt won an unprecedented third term as president, defeating Republican challenger Wendell L. Willkie.

In 1968, Republican Richard M. Nixon won the presidency, defeating Democratic Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and American Independent Party candidate George C. Wallace.

In 1994, George Foreman became the oldest heavyweight boxing champion at age 45, knocking out Michael Moorer in the 10th round of their title bout.

In 1996, President Bill Clinton won a second term in the White House, defeating Republican Bob Dole.

In 2006, Saddam Hussein was convicted of crimes against humanity and sentenced by the Iraqi High Tribunal to death by hanging.

In 2009, a shooting rampage at the Fort Hood Army post in Texas left 13 people dead and wounded more than 30; Maj. Nidal Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, was later convicted of murder and sentenced to

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, November 05, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 154 ~ 63 of 63

death. He remains in prison on death row.

In 2017, a gunman armed with an assault rifle opened fire in the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, killing more than two dozen people; the shooter, Devin Patrick Kelley, was later found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

In 2021, Fans at a Houston music festival surged toward the stage during a performance by rapper Travis Scott, triggering panic that left 10 people dead and many more injured.

In 2024, Republican former President Donald Trump was elected to a second term, defeating Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris; he was the second president, after Grover Cleveland in 1892, to be elected to a nonconsecutive term.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Art Garfunkel is 84. Singer Peter Noone (Herman's Hermits) is 78. TV personality Kris Jenner is 70. Singer Bryan Adams is 66. Actor Tilda Swinton is 65. Actor Tatum O'Neal is 62. Actor Judy Reyes is 58. Actor Seth Gilliam is 57. Actor Sam Rockwell is 57. Musician Jonny Greenwood (Radiohead) is 54. Golfer Bubba Watson is 47. Olympic gold medal marathoner Eliud Kipchoge is 41. Musician Kevin Jonas (The Jonas Brothers) is 38.