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Saturday, Nov. 8

Sunday, Nov. 9

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

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

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m. (3rd graders receiving Bibles); at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

6th grade GBB practice, 2 p.m.

5th grade GBB practice, 4 p.m.

2nd grade GBB practice, 4 p.m.

Dance Team practice, 5 p.m.

Good Morning
Saturday Blessings

May His peace fill your heart
and give you strength for today.

May your soul be
refreshed with His
love, and may joy
overflow through
every step you
take today!

Psalm 16:11 "You
make known to me
the path of life; in
Your presence there
is fullness of joy; at
Your right hand are
pleasures
forevermore".

God's Spoken Word Ministries

Monday, Nov. 10

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes with ham, green peas, Mandarin orange salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Eggs.

School Lunch: Oriental chicken, egg roll.

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

Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

FFA District 1 LDE at Dolan, 1 p.m.

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

MS GBB hosts Britton-Hecla, 7th at 5:30 p.m., 8th at 6:30 p.m.

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

Groton Daily Independent
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1440

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

Cornell Funding Deal

Cornell University announced yesterday a \$60M deal with the Trump administration to restore over \$250M in federal research funds, becoming the fifth university to reach such a deal since early July. The administration began withholding funding from the Ivy League school in April over alleged civil rights violations, largely stemming from Israel-Gaza demonstrations last year.

Cornell admitted no wrongdoing under the deal, which requires it to pay the federal government \$30M over three years. The rural land-grant school will invest the remaining \$30M in initiatives to support US farmers, with a focus on artificial intelligence and robotics in agriculture. Cornell also agreed to share admissions data through 2028 and train staff on Department of Justice guidance disavowing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

University officials had announced a series of financial austerity measures in June, citing strain from the federal funding freeze, inflation, and an anticipated tax on income from its nearly \$12B endowment, among other factors.

Republican congresswoman Elise Stefanik to run for NY governor.

US Rep. Elise Stefanik (R, NY-21) entered New York's gubernatorial race yesterday. Her announcement video took aim at New York City's Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani (D) and Gov. Kathy Hochul (D), who is seeking reelection. President Donald Trump nominated Stefanik to be UN ambassador last year, but withdrew the pick over tight GOP House margins. The gubernatorial election is set for Nov. 3, 2026.

Researchers near more powerful, cheaper mRNA vaccines.

MIT researchers unveiled a new mRNA vaccine formulation yesterday that is as effective as existing mRNA vaccines but at approximately 1/100 the typical dose. The researchers first tested the formulation in a flu vaccine delivered to mice and believe it can be adapted to protect humans against COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

Sweetgreen to sell salad-making technology for over \$186M.

The salad chain is selling its robotics unit to Wonder Group, a startup that acquired Grubhub last year. The roughly \$100M cash and \$86M stock deal follows an 80% decline in Sweetgreen's market value this year. Sweetgreen will now purchase the technology, which reduces staffing needs by assembling up to 500 meals per hour, from Wonder, with plans to have it operating in over 30 stores by year's end.

James D. Watson, pioneer in DNA research, dies at 97.

Watson was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1962 for codiscovering DNA's double helix structure in his early 20s. The American scientist went on to direct the Human Genome Project, an international initiative that mapped the human genetic code. Though celebrated for his groundbreaking discoveries, Watson has been condemned for making racist remarks. He died in hospice care Thursday after a brief illness.

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame to welcome new inductees.

Cyndi Lauper and The White Stripes are among several rock outfits who will be welcomed into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame at a Los Angeles ceremony tonight. The nonprofit foundation has inducted honorees since 1986 and is based in Cleveland, where disc jockey Alan Freed popularized the term "rock and roll" in the 1950s. Explore the best resources we've found on the music genre here.

Separately, the Recording Academy yesterday announced nominees for the 2026 Grammy Awards, presented Feb. 1. Kendrick Lamar leads with nine nominations, followed by Lady Gaga, who's up for seven awards.

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Ex-NFL star Antonio Brown arrested on attempted murder charges.

The 37-year-old former wide receiver, who previously faced battery and domestic violence charges, is accused of shooting a man after a Miami boxing event in May. Brown allegedly used a handgun taken from a security staffer to fire two shots, one of which grazed the victim's neck. The 12-season NFL player was arrested by US Marshals in Dubai and is being held in New Jersey as he awaits extradition to Miami.

Humankind(ness)

Today, we're sharing a story from reader Ellen B. in Bend, Oregon.




"Last week, our niece reported that a huge tree had fallen across one of our favorite hiking trails, but because of the current government shutdown, US Forest Service staff wouldn't be able to remove the fallen tree. So my niece, my husband, our 9-year-old grandson, and I banded together and hiked in with saws and axes to take on the tree. Several hours and plenty of chopping later, we succeeded in cutting out an opening so that the trail remains accessible again."

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Class A - SoDak 16

#1 - Centerville School

 1 Dakota Valley	30-3	11/11 7:00 PM CT
 16 Platte-Geddes	14-19	

#2 - Mitchell High School

 2 Dell Rapids	26-6	11/11 6:30 PM CT
 15 Todd County	19-15	

#3 - Baltic High School

 3 Sioux Falls Christian	24-10	11/11 7:00 PM CT
 14 McCook Central/Montrose	12-13	

#4 - Watertown Civic Arena Watertown Hi...

 4 Clark/Willow Lake	24-1	11/11 7:00 PM CT
 13 Aberdeen Roncalli	18-11	


#5 - Chamberlain School District Chambe...

 5 Winner	25-6	11/11 7:00 PM CT
 12 Wagner	23-7	

#6 - Madison High School Main Gym

 6 Hamlin	20-4	11/11 7:00 PM CT
 11 West Central	22-8	

#7 - Stanley County High School

 7 Groton Area	25-5	11/11 5:30 PM CT
 10 Rapid City Christian	28-11	

#8 - Jones County High School Jones Co...

 8 Miller	23-7	11/11 7:00 PM CT
 9 St. Thomas More	28-9	

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Note from Groton Area Superintendent Joe Schwan:

With their win Thursday night over Britton-Hecla, the GHS Volleyball team has earned the opportunity to play in the SoDak 16 for a chance to go to the State Volleyball Tournament in Rapid City. Our game against Rapid City Christian is being held at Stanley County High School in Fort Pierre on Tuesday, November 11 at 5:30 PM.

Due to the travel distance and required leave times for those attending, the start time for our annual Veterans Day program has been adjusted to 12:30 PM in the GHS Arena. Following the conclusion of the program, students will be dismissed for the day. OST will be open regular hours following the program; those students will return to Groton Area Elementary following the program. Route buses will load from the high school and depart for regular routes at approximately 1:45 PM.

The District is coordinating a spectator charter through Sheyenne Transportation. Seats are available on a first come-first served basis at a cost of \$40 per person. All seats must be signed up for and paid by noon on Monday, November 10. If there isn't sufficient interest to cover cost of the bus, it will be canceled at that time and all funds returned. Students younger than 7th grade must travel with an adult chaperone. If there is enough interest, the bus will depart from Groton Area High School at 2:00 PM and return following the game in Fort Pierre. To get on the bus list, contact the High School Office at 605-397-8381.

Thank you for your flexibility. Go Tigers!

Joe Schwan
Superintendent

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Groton Post No. 39 American Legion

Annual Turkey Party

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025

Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

**Turkey, Ham and Bacon
to be given away**



Lunch served
by Auxiliary

DOOR
PRIZE!

FREE ADMISSION

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Frosty is Back!!!

Please check the Groton Daily Independent for daily clues as to who the Groton Area Mystery Frosty is. The unveiling of Frosty will take place at the Groton Area Snow Queen Contest on Sunday, November 30th, at 4:00 pm.

2025 Frosty Clues

4. Was born
in Miller, SD



The first snowfall of the season came overnight with about an inch on the grass as of 5 a.m. today.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Day County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: US Highway 12, mile marker 337, five miles west of Webster, SD

When: 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Driver 1: 73-year-old male from Groton, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2017 Toyota Rav 4

Seat belt Used: Yes

Day County, S.D.- A Groton, SD man died Sunday following a crash Wednesday, Oct. 29, five miles west of Webster, SD.

The name of the person involved has not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2017 Toyota Rav 4 was traveling on US Highway 12 when his vehicle entered the south ditch and struck a power line pole.

The driver was taken to an Aberdeen hospital with serious, life-threatening injuries. The driver died at the hospital on Sunday, November 2.

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

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

Important Medicare Update: SHIINE Urges South Dakotans to Take Action to Maintain Coverage as Medica and HealthPartners Leave South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. — If you're a South Dakota Medicare beneficiary enrolled in a Medica Advantage Value, Medica Advantage Select, or HealthPartners Cost plan, the South Dakota Senior Health Information and Insurance Education (SHIINE) program is reminding you to act soon to maintain your Medicare coverage in 2026.

The Medica Advantage Value, Medica Advantage Select, and HealthPartners Cost plans will no longer be available in South Dakota after 2025. If beneficiaries don't choose a new plan, their coverage will automatically switch to Original Medicare (Parts A and B only) starting January 1, 2026. This could leave beneficiaries without prescription drug coverage and may result in a late enrollment penalty.

Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in the impacted Medica and HealthPartners plans can:
Choose a new Medicare Advantage plan that is available in their area; or
Sign up for a stand-alone Part D (prescription drug) plan and a Medicare Supplement (Medigap) policy with no health questions asked; or
Enroll in a stand-alone Part D plan of their choosing.

SHIINE also advises that some Medica members may have received a brochure titled "2026 Quick Start Series" that incorrectly stated that no action was needed. That information is incorrect. If beneficiaries are enrolled in a Medica Advantage Value or Medica Advantage Select plan, they must make take action to select a new plan.

"We want to make sure South Dakotans don't lose important coverage," said CJ Swartz, Director of SHIINE. "Our SHIINE team is here to help beneficiaries understand their options and make the best choice for their health and budget. We encourage everyone affected by these plan changes to review their notices carefully and reach out to SHIINE for free, unbiased assistance. SHIINE appointments fill up fast."

For more information or one-on-one help, contact SHIINE at 1-888-854-5321 or visit www.shiine.net to get started.

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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6 School Board Meeting November 11, 2025 – 7:00 AM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approve of minutes of October 14, 2025 school board meeting as drafted.
2. Approve of October 2025 Financial Report, Custodial Accounts, and Investments.
3. Approve of October 2025 District bills for payment.
4. Approve of October 2025 School Lunch Report.
5. Approve of October 2025 School Transportation Report.
6. Authorize the Business Manager to pay district bills up to \$75,000 in advance, using the custodial advance payment account to be approved by the board for reimbursement at the following regular board meeting.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. First reading of recommended policy changes: DLA Payday Schedules, DJG Vendor Relations, DJ Purchasing, DJBA Incidental Accounts [Delete], DJF Purchasing Procedures [Delete]
2. Board discussion regarding school district elections.
3. Approve FY2025 District Audit.
4. Approve volunteer coaches for winter sports:
 - a. Girls Basketball: Justin Hanson
 - b. Boys Basketball: Ryan Tracy
 - c. Girls Wrestling: Jeremy Krueger
5. Open sealed bids for surplus district policy.

ADJOURN



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

US Supreme Court temporarily blocks November SNAP payments

South Dakota had said it would pay full benefits on Monday

BY: JACOB FISCHLER

The U.S. Supreme Court temporarily blocked Friday night a lower court's order that the Trump administration pay for a full month of food benefits, hours after some states began loading nutrition assistance funds on payment cards held by the 42 million Americans who use the program.

In a two-page filing, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson accepted the government's request to pause a Thursday order from Rhode Island Chief U.S. District Judge John J. McConnell while a lower appeals court hears the case.

His order Thursday compelled the U.S. Department of Agriculture to transfer funds from other programs to fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, for November. The Trump administration had said the ongoing government shutdown meant it could not pay November SNAP benefits.

"The applicants assert that, without intervention from this Court, they will have to 'transfer an estimated \$4 billion by tonight' to fund SNAP benefits through November," Jackson, who was appointed by President Joe Biden, wrote.

A stay is needed to reach an "expeditious resolution," she wrote.

Jackson's order froze SNAP payments to states that the USDA had appeared to authorize earlier Friday before the administration appealed to the high court.

It was unclear Friday night what effect that might have on individual recipients' electronic benefit transfer, or EBT, cards. A press release earlier Friday from California Gov. Gavin Newsom said some Californians had begun to see full benefits on their cards, following an order from a lower court.

High court challenge

In a Friday evening brief to the Supreme Court that followed a day of conflicting messages from the administration, U.S. Solicitor General D. John Sauer said the high court should step in to protect the executive branch's power from what he characterized as unprecedented overreach by McConnell.

By demanding that the USDA transfer money from a \$23 billion fund for child nutrition programs to pay for November SNAP benefits, McConnell substituted his judgment for the agency's, a violation of the constitutional separation-of-powers doctrine, Sauer argued.

The department's decision to pay for partial November benefits, by using the roughly \$5 billion remaining in a contingency fund, rather than by paying about \$9 billion for a full month of benefits, was its decision to make and not reviewable by courts, Sauer said.

"USDA reasonably determined that the best course was to combine partial SNAP payments with stable funding for Child Nutrition Programs—versus jeopardize the latter to guarantee full payments with the former," Sauer wrote. "The district court would have done otherwise. But it had no legal basis to 'substitute its own policy judgment for that of the agency.'"

Confusion in states

The lower court order — as well a midday Friday letter from the USDA to state SNAP administrators — had also led to confusion among states who started to demand SNAP funds in a way Sauer compared to a bank run.

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Several states announced full funding would be available and began sending money to beneficiaries. Immediately after McConnell's order was published, Wisconsin demanded "100% of SNAP benefits," Sauer wrote. Even though the USDA system rejected the file, the private-sector processor of the payment "moved forward, resulting in Wisconsin currently overdrawing its letter of credit by \$20 million," he said. Kansas made a similar move. And some California SNAP users received their full benefits, according to Sauer's brief.

16 million children on SNAP

McConnell on Thursday had ruled the department's decision to withhold SNAP benefits arbitrary and capricious — the standard for judicial review of an executive branch action.

The \$23 billion fund could spare the \$4 billion needed to make November SNAP benefits whole and still maintain its intended purpose well beyond the month, so there was no need to maintain that fund at that level, he wrote.

Instead, the decision "predictably magnifies harm and undermines the very purpose of the program it administers," McConnell wrote.

While federal agencies are due discretion from courts, such a "poor" use of decision-making power must be remedied, he said.

"Contrary to what the Defendants claim, 29 million children who participate in the Child Nutrition Program are not at risk of immediately going hungry in the event of a transfer," he said. "Instead, SNAP recipients—16 million of whom are children—will go hungry if they do not receive their SNAP benefits this month."

'Starve Peter to feed Paul'

But Sauer responded that was not McConnell's call to make.

The trial judge's ruling improperly assumed that Congress would eventually replenish the child nutrition program fund, but the USDA was within its right to take a more cautious approach toward protecting the child nutrition funding, said the solicitor general.

"It obviously was not unlawful for the agency to see things differently—and refuse to starve Peter to feed Paul, by gambling school lunches tomorrow in exchange for more SNAP money today," he wrote. "Indeed, that sort of hard tradeoff is precisely the sort of decision that Congress committed to agency discretion and placed beyond the reach of judges."

While the USDA had not denied that it was able to move money to different priorities after Congress had appropriated it, the government did not have to do so, Sauer said.

Allowing McConnell's ruling to stand would invite a stampede to litigation, the government maintained. "If allowed to stand, this decision will metastasize and sow further shutdown chaos," Sauer said. "Every beneficiary of a federal program could run into court, point to an agency's general discretion to prioritize funding, and claim that failing to prioritize their chosen program was arbitrary and capricious."

Trump social media post

Sauer also said McConnell read too much into Trump's social media post this week that threatened to withhold SNAP funding for the duration of the shutdowns.

McConnell cited in his order the post, in which Trump said SNAP benefits would "be given only when the Radical Left Democrats open up government, which they can easily do, and not before!" showed the true purpose of the USDA move was political leverage.

Sauer said that was improper.

"The court below had no basis to transfer of billions of dollars from school lunches to its preferred program based on its tendentious view of 'the administration's true motivations.'"

In a statement, Skye Perryman, the president and CEO of Democracy Forward, an advocacy group that is leading the litigation to force SNAP payments, said the group would continue to work to "secure

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benefits for the American people”

“The Trump-Vance administration continues to attempt — over and over — to take food out of the hands of families, seniors, workers, and children,” Perryman said. “And every time they tried, the courts told them what the law already makes clear: they cannot. American families should not be used as political props in a shutdown that this White House manufactured.”

Prior to Supreme Court order, South Dakota pledged full benefits FROM SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

The South Dakota Department of Social Services said Friday afternoon that it is projecting a payment date of Monday for full November SNAP benefits, which is the normal date that benefits are loaded onto payment cards.

The announcement came before the U.S. Supreme Court on Friday night blocked a lower court’s order that the Trump administration pay for a full month of food benefits.

In the state department’s Friday afternoon news release, it said if there are delays in payments, “they will be communicated as soon as they are known.”

The threat of SNAP benefit disruptions has “generated a tremendous response” from food-relief organizations, grocers and retailers, the department added, saying it “extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude for this generous response.”

About 75,000 people in South Dakota receive SNAP benefits, amounting to about \$15 million monthly. The average household receives about \$390 per month.

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.

South Dakota opens its \$20 million state-owned shooting range

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR

The state of South Dakota opened its \$20 million, 400-acre shooting range complex Friday.

Members of the state Game, Fish and Parks Commission and other dignitaries were on hand for a grand opening ceremony.

“On behalf of the commission, we are excited for what the Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Sports Complex will mean for South Dakota’s outdoor future,” Commission Chairwoman Stephanie Rissler told South Dakota Searchlight in advance of the event.

The complex, located about 10 miles north of Rapid City, is one of the largest public shooting ranges in the nation. It includes rifle, pistol, shotgun and archery ranges, and will host recreational shooters, safety programs, marksmanship competitions and law enforcement training.

The complex is open seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. May through August, and from 8:30 a.m. to sunset September through April.

The facility’s 50-, 100- and 300-yard shooting bays and archery range are free to use on a first-come, first-served basis. Memberships are required for the long-range bay, shotgun area, sporting clays course and north range. An individual membership is \$100, a family membership is \$150 and a day pass is \$20.

Rissler said the facility gives new and experienced shooters a place to learn and practice in a safe environment.

“This complex will serve outdoor enthusiasts today and for generations to come,” she said. “A big thank you to all the partners and sponsors who helped make this vision a reality and continue to showcase the incredible outdoor opportunities South Dakota has to offer.”

The project did not have a smooth path. Lawmakers refused to appropriate state money for it, and some were angered last year when they learned that then-Gov. Kristi Noem gave the project \$13.5 million from the governor-controlled Future Fund.

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South Dakota employers pay a fee to the Future Fund when they submit payroll taxes to the unemployment benefits program. State law says the Future Fund must be used "for purposes related to research and economic development for the state." Unlike other funds administered by the Governor's Office of Economic Development, Future Fund expenses don't go through a board of citizen appointees for vetting or approval.

An additional \$6.6 million of funding for the shooting range complex has been given or pledged by a total of 58 donors. The Department of Game, Fish and Parks said this week that \$3.4 million of the donations are in hand, and \$3.2 million are pledged.

The donations include about \$2 million from gun-industry companies or organizations, including Smith & Wesson, a Tennessee-based gun manufacturer, and Glock, an Austrian gun manufacturer.

Pete Lien and Sons Inc., a mining, concrete and construction aggregate company based in Rapid City, obtained naming rights for the facility with an \$800,000 donation and an additional \$1.2 million pledge, to be paid within three years.

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.

Air travel snarls as cutbacks due to government shutdown begin

BY: JACOB FISCHLER

The first flights affected by a new Federal Aviation Administration directive led to widespread delays and cancellations Friday.

The FAA will ramp up to a 10% reduction in flights at 40 of the nation's busiest airports by Nov. 14, starting with a 4% reduction Friday.

More than 1,000 flights had been canceled by 5 p.m. Eastern Friday, according to the flight tracker FlightAware.com, compared with just more than 200 on Thursday.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford announced the plan Wednesday. The reductions would help ease the strain on air traffic controllers, who have been working without pay during the government shutdown that began Oct. 1.

Duffy said controllers were taking second jobs to make ends meet and were experiencing fatigue and stress, leading to safety concerns.

Shutdown delays in D.C., Chicago, Atlanta and more

Seven airports on the list of 40 had ground delays Friday, with staffing shortages at 18 air traffic control towers triggering delays at others, according to an FAA advisory.

Departures at Washington Reagan National Airport, just outside the nation's capital in Northern Virginia, were averaging a four-hour delay Friday afternoon, according to FAA data.

The airport led the nation with 73 cancellations Friday, according to FlightAware. Chicago O'Hare, Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson, Denver International and Dallas/Fort Worth airports were also in the top five for cancellations.

Duffy visited Washington Reagan National earlier in the day to check in with travelers and brief reporters. He said he couldn't give an exact figure on the number of affected flights, but said he hoped the reduction in flights would help controllers miss less work.

"I don't want to see the disruption," he said. "I don't want to see the delays. Now, there could be a benefit if I can get the controllers to come back to work."

Duffy recommended Friday that travelers continue to book flights now, rather than waiting for the shutdown to end. He said in an ABC News interview that waiting to book a flight could put fliers in the position of paying higher prices.

Regional carriers

Nate Vallier, a partner at Alaska Travel Desk, a travel agency, said in a Friday press release the cancellations appeared to mostly hit smaller regional carriers.

"We're seeing a lot of randomness in the cancellations, as a way to spread the pain per se," Vallier said. "But the majority of canceled flights so far are with regional jets, such as those flown by SkyWest, Horizon, and American Eagle's Envoy Divisions."

Alaska Beacon reporter James Brooks 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.

Struggle in US Senate over government shutdown likely to drag through the weekend

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA

WASHINGTON — Senators on Friday said they plan to remain in town for the weekend, a sign negotiations may be picking up to approve a stopgap spending measure and end the government shutdown, now at day 38.

A vote on a package of spending bills could come either Saturday or Sunday that would partially fund the government, Senate Majority Leader John Thune told reporters.

"Our members are going to be advised to be available if there's a need to vote," Thune said. "We will see what happens and whether or not, over the course of the next couple of days, the Democrats can find a way to reengage again."

Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer offered a proposal from Democrats to agree to reopen the government if health care tax subsidies are continued for a year.

As open enrollment begins, people who buy their health insurance through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace are seeing a drastic increase in premium costs.

"We'd like to offer a simple proposal," the New York Democrat said. "To reopen the government and extend the (Affordable Care Act) tax credits simultaneously."

Republicans have maintained that any discussion on extending the health care tax credits set to expire at the end of the year will only happen after government funding resumes. House Speaker Mike Johnson this week said he would not promise a vote on the GOP-controlled House floor regarding the issue.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office in September found that if lawmakers permanently extend the enhanced tax credits for certain people who buy their health insurance through the ACA Marketplace, it would cost the government \$350 billion over 10 years and increase the number of those with health insurance by 3.8 million.

But it was unclear how much traction Schumer would get. Several Republicans called the proposal a "non-starter," such as Sen. Mike Rounds of South Dakota.

Rounds also questioned if the stopgap spending bill that Democrats agreed to support is the House-passed version that would extend government funding only to Nov. 21 or another that would run longer.

"It's good that they're recognizing that we have to open up the government," Rounds said of Democrats.

Oklahoma Sen. Markwayne Mullin called the proposal from Democrats "absurd," and said there was no way senators could negotiate a deal on health care quickly.

He added that Trump also wants to be part of the negotiations on health care.

"Whatever we do as Republicans, we've got to really work close with the president," Mullin said. "The President wants to be involved in this negotiation."

Separately, senators failed Friday in a 53-43 vote to move forward on a bill from Wisconsin GOP Sen.

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Ron Johnson to pay federal workers who Friday missed their second paycheck. Georgia's Democratic Sens. Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock voted with Republicans. Sixty votes were needed.

President Donald Trump on social media said, "The United States Senate should not leave town until they have a Deal to end the Democrat Shutdown. If they can't reach a Deal, the Republicans should terminate the Filibuster, IMMEDIATELY, and take care of our Great American Workers!"

Flight cutbacks, food aid disruption

The Senate has failed 14 times to move forward on approving a stopgap spending measure to fund the government until Nov. 21.

As the government shutdown has dragged on for nearly seven weeks, major airports have been hit as they struggle to maintain flight schedules, with air traffic controllers now more than a month without pay.

Meanwhile, federal courts have forced the Trump administration to release billions in emergency funds to provide critical food assistance to 42 million people. On Friday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said it would issue full November benefits for food assistance in compliance with a court order.

As the debate in Congress goes on, Democrats have refused to back the House-passed version of the GOP stopgap measure over their concerns about the expiration of health care subsidies.

Democrats also want to see federal workers laid off by the Trump administration amid the shutdown rehired. Major wins across the country for Democrats in Tuesday elections in the states bolstered their resolve to reject efforts to end the government shutdown that do not include certain policy wins.

Historically, lawmakers who have forced shutdowns over policy preferences have not been successful.

In 2013, the GOP tried to repeal or delay the Affordable Care Act, which did not happen, and in the 2018-2019 shutdown, Trump, in his first term, insisted on additional funding for a border wall. But that shutdown — which set a record exceeded only by the ongoing shutdown — concluded 35 days later with the same amount of money included in the original appropriations bill.

Thune lament

Thune told reporters Friday that he thought progress was being made on striking a deal to resume government funding, but he said after Democrats' Thursday caucus meeting, their tune changed.

"Right now, we've got to get the Democrats kind of back engaged," Thune said.

Following Thursday's meeting, Democrats remained tight-lipped and did not seem any closer to an internal agreement on how to move forward with resolving the government shutdown.

"I thought we were on a track," Thune, a South Dakota Republican said. "We'd give them everything they wanted or had asked for."

Senate Republicans have agreed to allow a floor vote on the Affordable Care Act subsidies and have opened the door to rehiring federal workers, but have not gone further.

"At some point ... they have to take yes for an answer, and they were trending in that direction," Thune said. "And then yesterday, everything kind of, the wheels came off, so to speak, but it's up to them."

Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut told reporters Thursday that voters this week made a strong showing in rebuking the Trump administration and that Democrats need to continue their fight amid the government shutdown.

"On Tuesday, all of us in the caucus heard that loud and clear," Murphy said. "We want to stay together and unified. I think everybody understands the importance of what happened on Tuesday, and wants us to move forward in a way that honors that."

Bill to pay federal workers

Federal workers going without salaries for more than a month now remains a concern, and Johnson tried to pass his bill through unanimous consent that would send them paychecks. Employees are paid after the end of a shutdown, under the law.

Michigan's Gary Peters objected to Johnson's bill over concerns that the Trump administration would not

use the funds to pay federal workers, and the measure would not prevent the firing of federal workers. Peters pointed to how the Trump administration initially appealed a federal court order that compelled the U.S. Department of Agriculture to pay \$9 billion in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits.

Peters offered his own bill to set "guardrails" on the president's authority to ensure that the funds are used to pay federal workers and not moved around. The Trump administration has moved around billions in multi-year research funds within the Defense Department to ensure that troops are paid.

"He walks over Congress all the time," Peters said of the president while on the Senate floor.

Johnson objected to Peters' bill. He argued that his bill does not expand presidential powers.

"We were very careful that it wouldn't do that," Johnson told reporters of his bill.

The American Federation of Government Employees, a union that represents 800,000 federal workers, urged Democrats Friday to support Johnson's bill.

AFGE National President Everett Kelley said in a letter to senators Friday that with Thanksgiving in less than three weeks, Congress needs to come to an agreement on funding the government.

"Every missed paycheck deepens the financial hole in which federal workers and their families find themselves," Kelley said. "By the time Congress reaches a compromise, the damage will have been done to their bank accounts, their credit ratings, their health, and their dignity."

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.

States' death penalty policies are heading in sharply different directions

Forty-one people have been executed so far this year, the highest number since 2012

BY: AMANDA WATFORD

States are moving in sharply different directions on the death penalty, with some looking to broaden when and how executions occur while others try to scale them back or end them entirely.

Lawmakers in more than half of the states have introduced over 100 bills this year to either expand or limit capital punishment, to alter execution protocols, and to change how death sentences are imposed, according to the Death Penalty Information Center, a nonprofit that studies capital punishment. The group does not take a position on the death penalty, but it is critical of how it is carried out.

Some of the bills seeking to expand the death penalty would have included crimes that have been hot-button issues, such as the killing of police officers, sexual offenses against children, abortion and crimes committed by people living in the country illegally. Lawmakers in at least seven states this year also have attempted to legalize alternative methods of execution.

Earlier in the year, however, some Republican legislators in conservative states — including Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Ohio and Oklahoma — proposed measures to abolish the death penalty or impose moratoriums to halt pending and future executions. None of those efforts advanced through their legislatures.

Georgia, meanwhile, enacted a law barring the execution of people with intellectual disabilities.

Nationally, and with about two months left in the year, states have carried out 41 executions. This marks the largest number of executions in the nation since 2012, when there were 43. Five more are scheduled in Florida, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Tennessee.

"Executions mark a particular moment in time. They mark the punitiveness of the moment. ... It's no surprise to me to see execution spiking," Corinna Lain, a law professor at the University of Richmond, told Stateline. Lain also is the author of the book "Secrets of the Killing State: The Untold Story of Lethal Injection."

The surge in executions comes as President Donald Trump has encouraged use of the death penalty. On his first day in office in January, he signed an executive order ending the Biden-era federal moratorium on

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executions and directing the U.S. attorney general to seek the death penalty “for all crimes of a severity demanding its use.”

The order requires federal prosecutors to pursue capital punishment in two circumstances — when a law enforcement officer is killed or when the accused is an immigrant living in the country illegally — regardless of other factors. It also instructs the U.S. Department of Justice to help states obtain lethal injection drugs, though it remains unclear how it would do so.

Stateline asked the Department of Justice whether U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi has taken any steps to help states obtain lethal injection drugs. The department declined to comment.

Trump’s January executive order further calls on the U.S. attorney general to urge state and local prosecutors to pursue the death penalty in all eligible cases and to seek the reversal of Supreme Court precedents that limit state and federal authority to impose capital punishment.

The order applies only to federal crimes; states set their own death penalty laws.

Since 2009, seven states — Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Virginia — have legislatively abolished the death penalty, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Twenty-seven states allow the death penalty, but four — California, Ohio, Oregon and Pennsylvania — have paused executions.

Seventeen death penalty-related bills were enacted into law this year across nine states, according to the Death Penalty Information Center’s legislative tracker: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, North Carolina and Oklahoma. Seven of those laws expand death eligibility or add aggravating factors for capital cases. Others focus on limiting eligibility, modifying execution protocols — including adding alternative methods of execution — or changing the appeals process.

Despite the surge in executions this year, the number of new death sentences imposed on convicted murderers continues to fall amid concerns about how executions are carried out, and because prosecutors are seeking the punishment less often. And both the number of executions and new sentences remain far below their historic highs in the 1990s.

“Death sentencing is falling in the United States for reasons that an executive order cannot fix,” Lain said.

‘Iryna’s Law’

One of the most sweeping measures this year came out of North Carolina.

Known as “Iryna’s Law,” it makes broad changes to the state’s criminal code following the August killing of Iryna Zarutka on Charlotte’s light rail system. The law imposes stricter pretrial release conditions on defendants, mandates mental health evaluations for some defendants, shortens appeal timelines in capital cases and adds new execution methods.

“I hope we can finally get justice for victims’ families and for the people of North Carolina,” Republican state Sen. Phil Berger said in a news release. Berger has long backed efforts to resume executions in North Carolina. The state has not carried out an execution since 2006. There are 122 people on North Carolina’s death row.

Under the law, courts must schedule hearings for any capital case filings older than two years by December 2026 and resolve them by the end of 2027 — an accelerated timeline aimed at moving stalled cases through the system. The measure also adds a new aggravating factor allowing prosecutors to seek the death penalty for murders committed on public transportation.

The law lifts state bans on electrocution and lethal gas as execution methods, though it keeps lethal injection as the primary method. If lethal injection were to be ruled unconstitutional, the state could adopt any execution method used elsewhere that has not been struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Democratic Gov. Josh Stein signed the measure into law in October, but raised concerns about the provisions that open the possibility of alternative execution methods.

“It’s barbaric,” Stein said in a video explaining his decision to sign the bill. “There will be no firing squads in North Carolina during my time as governor.”

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Florida has led the nation with 15 executions so far in 2025. Alabama and Texas have had the second-highest number of executions this year, with five each. The vast majority of executions this year occurred in Southern states, with only five taking place elsewhere — two in Arizona, two in Indiana and one in Missouri.

States have faced chronic shortages of lethal injection drugs for years, and many manufacturers and pharmacies refuse to supply them for ethical reasons. Combined with high costs and drugs that often expire before use, these challenges have forced delays, cancellations or the use of alternative execution methods.

Executions often occur decades after the original sentence, as people on death row may spend up to 30 years exhausting their appeals. Nationally, nearly 2,100 people are currently on death row, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

Legal precedents

Expanding the death penalty to crimes beyond murder has become a central focus of federal and state officials seeking to reshape capital punishment laws.

A key precedent comes from the 2008 Supreme Court case *Kennedy v. Louisiana*, in which the court ruled it unconstitutional to impose the death penalty for crimes other than homicide or crimes against the state. In that case, a man had been given the death penalty after raping his then-8-year-old stepdaughter.

In September, Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier led 15 Republican state attorneys general in sending a letter to Bondi and White House counsel David Warrington, seeking federal support to challenge Supreme Court precedent and uphold death sentences for child rape.

"We believe repairing Kennedy's flawed outcome is within the power of the States," the attorneys general wrote.

The letter cited Trump's January executive order and noted the recent enactment of state laws authorizing the death penalty for child sexual abuse in several states, including Arkansas, Florida and Tennessee. This year, both Idaho and Oklahoma made sexual assaults of children offenses eligible for death.

"For many victims, the pain and trauma never fully go away," Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin, a Republican, wrote in an email to Stateline. "The death penalty is entirely appropriate and necessary to deter future wrongdoers and achieve justice for the victims."

Griffin also wrote that he hopes to bring a case before the Supreme Court to challenge the *Kennedy* precedent in the future.

Sentencing trends

So far this year, 16 people across the country have been sentenced to death — one of the lowest totals in more than a decade, according to Lain, who independently tracks new death sentences. In 2024, 26 people were sentenced to death.

She said this reflects a long-term shift: Juries and prosecutors are seeking the death penalty less often, but the states that continue to use it are doing so more aggressively.

"Today's death sentences are tomorrow's executions," Lain said in an interview. "If you don't have new death sentences feeding the machinery of death, the death penalty will die on the vine."

The push to expand the death penalty comes as support for it has waned. A Gallup poll in October found 52% of Americans back capital punishment for murder, down sharply from 80% in 1994.

Critics have long highlighted persistent racial disparities and the risk of wrongful convictions. Since 1973, at least 201 former death row prisoners have been exonerated, and about 40% of current death row inmates are Black, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

A 2024 analysis by the nonprofit Reprieve, which advocates against the death penalty, found that since 1982, 8% of lethal injection executions of Black people were botched, compared with 4% of executions of white people. Lethal injection is the most commonly used execution method across the country, though it is also the method with the most recorded botches or mistakes.

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The high costs of imprisoning death row inmates, buying lethal injection drugs from unregulated “gray market” compounding pharmacies and navigating decades-long appeals — along with questions about the death penalty’s effectiveness as a deterrent and the secrecy surrounding how executions are carried out — have cast uncertainty over the future of capital punishment across the states.

Indiana Republican Gov. Mike Braun revealed in June that the state spent nearly \$1.2 million on four doses of execution drugs, half of which — \$600,000 worth — expired before they could be used.

Braun said he does not plan to purchase more drugs, saying, “[S]omething that costs, I think, \$300,000 a pop that has a 90-day shelf life — I’m not going to be for putting it on the shelf and then letting them expire.”

Idaho has faced similar challenges. In court filings, state officials said they spent \$200,000 on execution drugs that went unused, and a new facility for firing squad executions is expected to cost more than \$1 million.

In Texas, state officials have spent more than \$775,000 on pentobarbital, one of the commonly used drugs in lethal injections, since October 2024, according to records obtained by NBC News. Tennessee spent \$600,000 on lethal injection drugs between 2017 and March 2025, according to records obtained by The Tennessean. During that period, the state carried out two executions via lethal injection.

“At some point, states have to look at the death penalty and say, ‘Is it worth the money?’” Lain said.

Stateline reporter Amanda Watford can be reached at ahernandez@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.

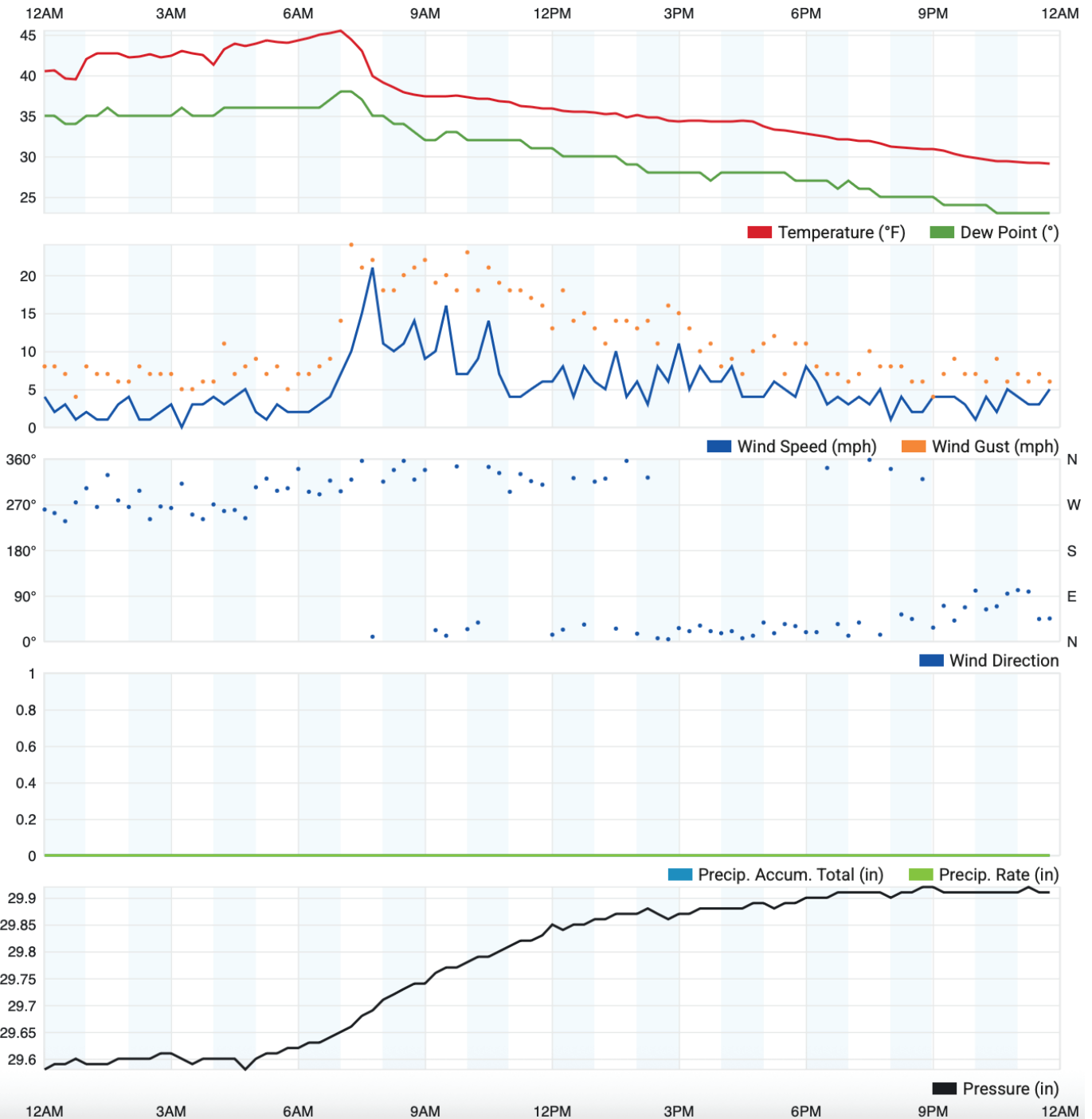
Amanda Watford (formerly Hernández) covers criminal justice for Stateline. She has reported for both national and local outlets, including ABC News, USA Today and NBC4 Washington.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

November 7, 2025



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Today

Tonight

Sunday

Sunday Night

Monday



High: 31 °F

Low: 12 °F

High: 32 °F

Low: 10 °F

High: 36 °F

Snow Likely
then Slight
Chance Snow

Partly Cloudy

Sunny

Mostly Clear

Mostly Sunny



Light snow today - increasing winds

November 8, 2025
3:43 AM

Strongest wind gusts expected today across central/western South Dakota

Key Messages

- Rain/Snow mix continues across northeast SD/western MN this morning
 - Trace to inch or two accumulations
- 2nd wave of light snow follows this afternoon (less coverage, lighter intensity)
 - Dusting to ½ inch
- Winds on the increase today →
- Colder weather incoming - stays through the weekend
- Back to above normal temperatures & dry conditions next week

	Sat				Sun						
	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm
Aberdeen	26↓	26↓	21↓	20↓	20↓	20↓	21↓	23↓	24↓	23↓	14↓
Britton	25↓	26↓	22↓	22↓	20↓	21↓	24↓	26↓	26↓	25↓	17↓
Chamberlain	35↓	35↓	30↓	23↓	20↓	17↓	20↓	23↓	25↓	24↓	15↓
Clark	24↓	26↓	24↓	24↓	23↓	23↓	24↓	28↓	28↓	26↓	18↓
Eagle Butte	43↓	37↓	28↓	22↓	21↓	21↓	20↓	20↓	20↓	17↓	10↓
Eureka	28↓	28↓	23↓	21↓	20↓	20↓	21↓	24↓	24↓	23↓	14↓
Gettysburg	33↓	32↓	25↓	22↓	20↓	21↓	21↓	24↓	24↓	23↓	14↓
McIntosh	32↓	31↓	23↓	20↓	17↓	18↓	18↓	20↓	20↓	16↓	8↓
Milbank	20↓	25↓	25↓	24↓	23↓	23↓	25↓	28↓	28↓	26↓	20↓
Miller	30↓	30↓	24↓	21↓	18↓	20↓	22↓	24↓	24↓	23↓	15↓
Mobridge	32↓	30↓	24↓	21↓	18↓	18↓	20↓	22↓	22↓	20↓	12↓
Murdo	41↓	38↓	28↓	22↓	20↓	18↓	17↓	22↓	23↓	22↓	12↓
Pierre	38↓	37↓	28↓	21↓	16↓	17↓	16↓	21↓	22↓	21↓	13↓
Redfield	29↓	29↓	24↓	22↓	20↓	20↓	22↓	24↓	25↓	24↓	15↓
Sisseton	23↓	24↓	23↓	22↓	21↓	23↓	25↓	28↓	28↓	26↓	18↓
Watertown	23↓	25↓	25↓	24↓	23↓	23↓	25↓	28↓	29↓	28↓	21↓
Webster	24↓	26↓	24↓	24↓	23↓	24↓	25↓	28↓	29↓	28↓	20↓
Wheaton	20↓	22↓	22↓	23↓	22↓	23↓	24↓	28↓	26↓	24↓	18↓



Band of light to moderate snow continues to move east across the James Valley, headed into the Glacial Lakes region. Accumulations expected to top out at a dusting to 1 to 2 inches. Bridges and overpasses may be a little icy this morning too.

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Chilly Temps & Near Zero Wind Chills

November 8, 2025
3:29 AM

	Temperature Trends												Wind Chills Timeline												
	Sat				Sun				Mon				Sat			Sun			Mon						
	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm
Aberdeen	29	28	22	20	18	15	14	19	28	28	20	15	12	11	11	18	17	8	2	1	17	8	5	5	23
Britton	27	28	22	20	17	15	14	18	26	28	20	16	15	14	14	20	16	8	2	0	13	9	7	7	23
Chamberlain	37	32	28	25	23	21	17	22	30	32	25	21	17	16	16	23	19	14	10	4	19	16	9	9	33
Clark	29	27	22	20	19	18	16	18	24	25	20	18	15	14	14	18	15	7	4	2	10	9	5	7	19
Eagle Butte	33	30	26	23	18	14	14	19	27	30	22	19	18	18	19	24	17	10	-1	-1	16	12	7	8	30
Eureka	28	25	20	19	16	14	12	16	24	25	17	14	13	12	13	20	12	6	-1	-4	10	6	3	3	23
Gettysburg	32	29	23	19	18	15	14	19	27	28	19	15	14	14	14	21	17	6	0	-1	15	8	3	3	26
McIntosh	30	27	22	19	17	16	14	18	26	26	21	18	18	18	19	24	14	7	3	0	15	10	6	6	28
Milbank	31	31	22	22	18	18	17	20	27	29	24	20	19	18	18	22	20	9	5	3	14	12	10	12	27
Miller	32	29	23	21	18	16	15	19	29	28	20	16	14	13	14	22	17	9	3	1	18	7	5	5	27
Mobridge	33	28	23	21	18	16	14	18	26	28	22	18	17	17	17	23	15	8	3	0	15	15	7	7	29
Murdo	39	33	28	25	21	18	18	21	29	32	24	20	17	16	16	24	20	13	5	4	18	12	5	5	36
Pierre	38	34	30	26	23	18	17	21	30	34	25	21	19	17	17	24	22	15	6	4	19	17	10	9	35
Redfield	32	30	23	21	19	17	15	20	28	28	20	16	12	10	11	18	19	9	4	1	16	7	3	3	23
Sisseton	30	27	23	20	19	18	17	20	27	29	24	20	19	17	18	22	16	7	4	2	14	11	10	11	26
Watertown	29	29	23	20	19	16	15	17	26	27	22	19	16	14	14	20	18	7	2	0	13	10	7	7	22
Webster	27	27	21	20	18	16	15	19	24	26	21	19	16	15	15	20	15	7	2	0	11	10	8	8	21
Wheaton	31	30	24	22	20	18	18	21	27	29	24	22	19	18	18	22	19	9	4	4	14	12	10	12	27

Don't see your city? Check out weather.gov/forecastpoints

Colder air is here, and sticks around through the weekend. Wind chills around zero Sunday morning, single digits Monday morning. Warm up for next week looks to last the week though with temps back into the 50s.

first snow

The first snow of the year can often cause major problems on the road as people adjust to the poor driving conditions.

safety tips

- Slow down
- Don't use cruise control
- Leave plenty of distance between you and other vehicles

"Sneaky" Winter Hazards

The winter season brings many weather events that can "sneak" up on you. These are weather hazards that cause big impacts and make travel difficult without making big news.

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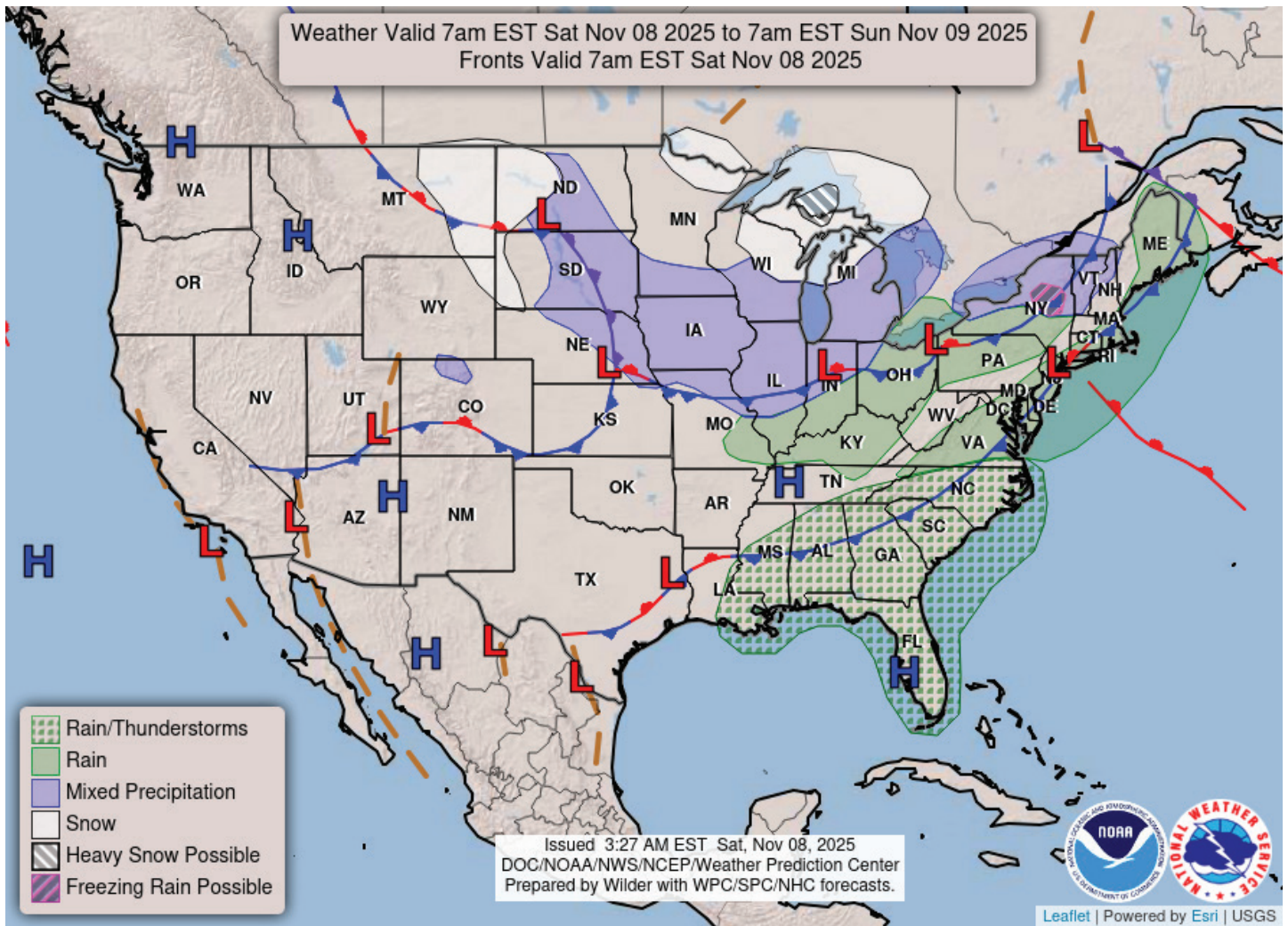
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 46 °F at 6:59 AM
Low Temp: 29 °F at 11:14 PM
Wind: 24 mph at 7:11 AM
Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 77 in 1999
Record Low: -3 in 1936
Average High: 46
Average Low: 23
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.256
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 20.73
Precip Year to Date: 23.51
Sunset Tonight: 5:10 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:23 am



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Today in Weather History

November 8th, 1985: Southern South Dakota saw heavy snow from the morning of the 8th through the evening on the 10th. Snowfall ranged from 5-10 inches over the area, with up to a foot or more in the Black Hills. The most significant amount was 18 inches in the higher elevations of the Black Hills. Winds gusting around 40 mph at times, combined with falling snow, produced near-blizzard conditions during the afternoon of the 9th through the early morning hours on the 10th, in the southwest. Some storm total snowfall amounts include; 16.0 inches near Presho; 11.5 inches in Kennebec; 9.0 inches in Murdo; and 4.0 inches in Timber Lake and near Onida.

1870: The U.S. Signal Corps Weather Service issued the first storm warning on this day. Professor Increase A. Lapham believed that warnings of deadly storms on the Great Lakes could be derived from telegraphed weather observations. As a result, a bill was introduced and signed into law to establish a national telegraphic weather service. The Signal Corps began taking observations of November 1st, 1870. On this date, Lapham would issue the first storm warning, a cautionary forecast for the Great Lakes.

1879: A tornado struck Crawford County, Arkansas, killing several people.

1913: The Great Lakes Storm of November 7-13, 1913, was a blizzard with hurricane-force winds that devastated the Great Lakes Region, sinking as many as 19 ships and stranding 19 others. This storm would be the deadliest and most destructive natural disaster ever to hit the Great Lakes.

1943 - An early season snowstorm raged across eastern South Dakota and Minnesota into northern Wisconsin. The storm produced 22 inches of snow at Fairbault and Marshall MN, 20 inches at Redwood Falls MN, and 10.1 inches at Minneapolis. Drifts fifteen feet high were reported in Cottonwood County MN. The storm produced up to two feet of snow in South Dakota smothering a million Thanksgiving day turkeys. (6th-8th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1953 - Residents of New York City suffered through ten days of smog resulting in 200 deaths. (The Weather Channel)

1966 - The temperature in downtown San Francisco reached a November record of 86 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms over Texas produced locally heavy rains in the Hill Country, with 3.50 inches reported at Lakeway, and 3.72 inches reported at Anderson Mill. Thunderstorms over Louisiana produced hail an inch in diameter at Clay and at Provencial. Blustery northwest winds, ushering cold air into western Kansas and into northwest Texas, gusted to 46 mph at Hill City KS. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Fair weather prevailed across much of the nation for Election Day. Midland TX equalled their record for November with an afternoon high of 89 degrees, and the record high of 87 degrees at Roswell NM was their fifth in eight days. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms developing along and ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from northern Louisiana into central Georgia. Thunderstorms spawned three tornadoes, and there were sixty-four reports of large hail or damaging winds. A late afternoon thunderstorm in central Georgia spawned a tornado which killed one person and injured eight others at Pineview. Late afternoon thunderstorms in central Mississippi produced baseball size hail around Jackson, and wind gusts to 70 mph Walnut Grove. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1994: The twelfth and final tropical cyclone of the Atlantic hurricane season formed in the southwestern Caribbean. While Hurricane Gordon was only a Category 1, it killed 1,149 individuals, including 1,122 in Haiti.

When Anxiety Strikes

If you are troubled by anxious thoughts, ask God for what you need and give thanks for all you have.

Philippians 4:4-7: 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

If you needed help understanding something, would you hire just anyone? Of course not. You'd want to be sure the person teaching you had experience and was qualified. That's why the apostle Paul is an excellent person to help us understand the value of contentment. After all, he wrote on the subject while under confinement by Roman authorities.

In today's passage, Paul says that prayer safeguards the believer's heart from anxiety, and there is no greater prayer than the one Jesus Himself taught us. The Lord's Prayer underscores adoration of the Father and de-emphasizes focusing on oneself (Matthew 6:9-13). Concentrating on God's greatness puts our needs in perspective and encourages us to rest in His strength.

Also consider Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46). Even as He was crying out for relief, Jesus nevertheless submitted to the Father's will (v. 39). As a result, a supernatural peace fortified the Savior and enabled Him to face His executioners.

In today's reading, Paul offered a radical peace plan: Praise the Lord while suffering persecution; thank Him when facing trials; pray about everything. Each prayer braces your heart against anxiety. That's solid advice from a man who practiced what he preached.

We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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Upcoming Groton Events

- 11/15/2025 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm
- 11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving 11:30am-1:30pm Community Center (Thanksgiving)
- 11/30/2025 Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.
- 12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.07.25

16 21 23 48 70 5

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$900,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.05.25

1 26 35 50 51 5

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$6,410,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 40 Mins
47 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.07.25

5 9 16 30 41 2

TOP PRIZE:
\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 55 Mins 47
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.05.25

7 17 18 25 27

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$75,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 55 Mins 47
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.05.25

7 10 18 21 61 11

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 24 Mins 46
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.05.25

9 17 29 61 66 26

Power Play: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$467,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 24 Mins 46
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

All Nations=

Class 9A=

State Championship=

Winnebago, Neb. 36, Todd County 8

Class 9B=

State Championship=

McLaughlin 28, White River 8

SDHSAA Playoffs=

Class 9A=

Semifinal=

Wall 56, Philip 6

Howard 18, Alcester-Hudson 12

Class 9AA=

Semifinal=

Elkton/Lake Benton 14, Parkston 8

Freeman-Marion-FA 45, Hamlin 12

Class 9B=

Semifinal=

Avon 38, Colman-Egan 28

Dell Rapids St Mary's 22, Faulkton 16

Class 11A=

Semifinal=

Lennox 15, Dell Rapids 14

Sioux Falls Christian 35, West Central 0

Class 11AA=

Semifinal=

T F Riggs High School 28, Huron 13

Yankton 41, Sturgis Brown High School 28

Class 11AAA=

Semifinal=

Brandon Valley 38, Harrisburg 14

Sioux Falls Lincoln 42, Sioux Falls Jefferson 28

Class 11B=

Semifinal=

Elk Point-Jefferson 43, Deuel 36

St Thomas More 50, Clark-Willow Lake 14

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

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Rapid City Central, 25-11, 25-13, 25-8

Sioux Falls Washington def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-11, 25-13, 25-21

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

Snow forecast for Northern Plains and potential record cold in the South

By JACK DURA Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Some of the first wintry weather of the season is on the way for much of the U.S. in the coming days, including potentially record low temperatures for parts of the South and snow in the Northern Plains.

“Seems like a shot across the bow,” said Judah Cohen, a research scientist at MIT.

The Dakotas and parts of southern Minnesota have the highest potential for snowfall late Friday through Saturday morning, including some areas that could see as much as 2 to 3 inches (5 to 8 centimeters) of snow, said Ashton Robinson Cook, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service’s Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland.

Temperatures from the 60s to the 80s (15 to 27 Celsius) on Friday across much of the central U.S. are expected to plummet as a front spreads from the Northern Plains to the South through the weekend. Highs will likely stay in the 30s in parts of Nebraska, Iowa and northern Missouri by Sunday, and the chilly temperatures are expected to spread into Oklahoma and northwestern Arkansas, Cook said.

“It’s a little bit unusual to have this strong of a cold push this early in the season,” Cook said.

On Monday, temperatures in the 30s and 40s are forecast to move from the Ohio Valley to the southern U.S., where the cold air could produce daily record lows on Tuesday of 24 in Knoxville, Tennessee; 26 in Birmingham, Alabama; 32 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and 40 near Orlando, Florida, Cook said.

In the South, organizers of festivals held outdoors in November during the region’s typically mild climate are bracing for the unusually bitter cold that seems ahead of schedule for this time of year.

At this weekend’s Molena Bigfoot Fest in the small town of Molena, Georgia, organizers hope the cold weather will be as elusive as the legendary beast — and the temperature doesn’t dip until after the festival concludes Saturday evening.

The animal shows, music performances and most activities will be held outside on Saturday, said Alla Drake, an assistant city clerk who helps out with the festival.

Planning for the Bigfoot festival has been going on all year, so hopes are high for warm weather and no rain, Molena City Clerk Tina Lee said. It celebrates the evidence collected by Pike County Sheriff’s Deputy James Akin, who was called repeatedly to strange events near Elkins Creek in the 1990s. He made plaster casts of an enormous footprint famous for its level of detail.

Warmer temperatures should spread through the South beginning Wednesday.

At the Roosevelt Park Zoo in Minot, North Dakota, where up to 3 inches (8 centimeters) of snow is forecast Friday night, the staff has begun typical preparations for the cold, General Curator Chelsea Mihalick said. African animals, including a giraffe calf born Sunday, are already inside heated buildings, and maintenance workers make sure heaters are working properly.

“We’ve gotten pretty lucky as far as we haven’t gotten anything yet, or the cold weather just now has come,” Mihalick said.

Some animals, such as tigers, love the snow. Cubs were born at the zoo in May.

“This will be their first snowfall, so it will be fun to see them running around in the snow,” Mihalick said.

The expected cold spell won’t last, though, as warmer temperatures are forecast for much of the central U.S. starting Wednesday and Thursday, Cook said.

“This is a brief cold snap. It won’t stay around very long,” he said.

UPS and FedEx grounding MD-11 planes following deadly Kentucky crash

By HALLIE GOLDEN and BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — UPS and FedEx said they are grounding their fleets of McDonnell Douglas MD-11 planes “out of an abundance of caution” following a deadly crash at the UPS global aviation hub in Kentucky.

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The crash Tuesday at UPS Worldport in Louisville killed 14 people, including the three pilots on the MD-11 that was headed for Honolulu.

MD-11 aircrafts make up about 9% of of the UPS airline fleet and 4% of the FedEx fleet, the companies said.

"We made this decision proactively at the recommendation of the aircraft manufacturer," a UPS statement said late Friday. "Nothing is more important to us than the safety of our employees and the communities we serve."

FedEx said in an email that it will be grounding the aircrafts while it conducts "a thorough safety review based on the recommendation of the manufacturer."

Boeing, which merged with McDonnell Douglas in 1997, did not immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press asking the reasoning behind the recommendation.

Western Global Airlines is the only other U.S. cargo airline that flies MD-11s, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium. The airline has 16 MD-11s in its fleet but 12 of them have already been put in storage. The company did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment outside of business hours early Saturday.

Boeing announced in 1998 that it would be phasing out its MD-11 jetliner production, with final deliveries due in 2000.

The UPS cargo plane, built in 1991, was nearly airborne Tuesday when a bell sounded in the cockpit, National Transportation Safety Board member Todd Inman said earlier Friday. For the next 25 seconds, the bell rang and the pilots tried to control the aircraft as it barely lifted off the runway, its left wing ablaze and missing an engine, and then plowed into the ground in a spectacular fireball.

The cockpit voice recorder captured the bell, which sounded about 37 seconds after the crew called for takeoff thrust, Inman said. There are different types of alarms with varying meanings, he said, and investigators haven't determined why the bell rang, though they know the left wing was burning and the engine on that side had detached.

Inman said it would be months before a transcript of the cockpit recording is made public as part of that investigation process.

Jeff Guzzetti, a former federal crash investigator, said the bell likely was signaling the engine fire.

"It occurred at a point in the takeoff where they were likely past their decision speed to abort the takeoff," Guzzetti told The Associated Press after Inman's news conference. "They were likely past their critical decision speed to remain on the runway and stop safely. ... They'll need to thoroughly investigate the options the crew may or may not have had."

Dramatic video captured the aircraft crashing into businesses and erupting in a fireball. Footage from phones, cars and security cameras has given investigators evidence of what happened from many different angles.

Flight records suggest the UPS MD-11 that crashed underwent maintenance while it was on the ground in San Antonio for more than a month until mid-October. It is not clear what work was done.

The UPS package handling facility in Louisville is the company's largest. The hub employs more than 20,000 people in the region, handles 300 flights daily and sorts more than 400,000 packages an hour.

UPS Worldport operations resumed Wednesday night with its Next Day Air, or night sort, operation, spokesperson Jim Mayer said.

Pakistan says peace talks with Afghanistan are deadlocked despite mediation

By SUZAN FRASER and MUNIR AHMED Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Peace talks in Istanbul between Pakistan and Afghanistan were at a deadlock on Friday, a day after both sides accused each other of mounting border clashes that risked breaching a ceasefire brokered by Qatar.

The update on the talks by Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar came after an Afghan official

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said four Afghan civilians were killed and five others wounded in clashes between Pakistani and Afghan forces along their shared border despite the joint negotiations.

Pakistan's state media reported that the Pakistan delegation is leaving for the airport to return home. Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Asif also told Pakistan's independent Geo news channel that "as we speak, the talks are over."

Asif said the ceasefire will remain intact until there is no breach of it from the Afghan side.

In a statement thanking Turkey and Qatar for mediating the talks, Tarar maintained that the Afghan Taliban has failed to meet pledges it made with the international community about curbing terrorism under a 2021 Doha peace accord.

Tarar said that Pakistan "will not support any steps by the Taliban government that are not in the interest of the Afghan people or neighboring countries." He did not elaborate further, but added that Islamabad continues to seek peace and goodwill for Afghans but will take "all necessary measures" to protect its own people and sovereignty.

In Kabul, Afghan government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid also thanked Turkey and Qatar for hosting and mediating the Istanbul talks, saying on Saturday that the Afghan representatives "participated in good faith and with appropriate authority," hoping for constructive engagement from Pakistan.

However, in a statement he said the discussions did not produce tangible results, citing differences over security responsibilities. He reiterated that Afghanistan "will not allow anyone to use its territory against another country," and affirmed that the Islamic Emirate "will firmly defend the people and land of Afghanistan against any aggression, with the help of Allah and the support of its people."

Ali Mohammad Haqmal, head of the Information and Culture Department in Afghanistan's Spin Boldak district, blamed Pakistan for initiating the overnight shooting, but said Afghan forces did not respond due to the peace talks in Istanbul.

However, a tense calm largely prevailed along the Chaman border in southwest Pakistan, where the two sides briefly exchanged fire Thursday night, with both sides blaming the other.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman Tahir Andrabi on Friday said Afghanistan initiated the shooting. Pakistan's Ministry of Information said late Thursday on social platform X that "the shooting was initiated from the Afghan side, but the situation was brought under control."

The ministry said a ceasefire brokered by Qatar on Oct. 19 remained intact.

Andrabi said Pakistan's national security adviser Lt. Gen. Asim Malik is leading the Pakistani delegation in the talks with Afghanistan. The Afghan side is being led by Abdul Haq Wasiq, director of general intelligence, according to Mujahid.

Pakistan has long accused Afghanistan's Taliban government of harboring Pakistani militants who carry out cross-border attacks, a charge Kabul denies.

Tensions have remained high since last month, when deadly border clashes erupted, killing dozens — including soldiers, civilians and suspected militants — and wounding hundreds on both sides. The fighting began after explosions in Kabul on Oct. 9 that the Taliban government blamed on Pakistan and vowed to avenge.

The violence, the worst between the neighbors in recent years, subsided after Qatar brokered a ceasefire.

Pakistan has seen a sharp rise in militant attacks in recent months, most claimed by the Pakistani Taliban — known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP — a group designated as a terrorist organization by the United Nations and the United States.

Though separate, the TTP is closely allied with the Afghan Taliban. Many of its leaders and fighters are believed to have taken refuge in Afghanistan since the Taliban's return to power in 2021, further straining ties between the two countries.

Typhoon Kalmaegi rampages across Vietnam as the Philippines prepares for a new storm

By ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL and JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

DAK LAK, Vietnam (AP) — Typhoon Kalmaegi brought fierce winds and torrential rains to Vietnam on Friday, killing at least five people, flattening homes, blowing off roofs and uprooting trees. In the Philippines, where the storm left at least 204 dead earlier in the week, survivors wept over the coffins of their loved ones and braced for another typhoon.

As the storm moved on, recovery work began in battered towns and villages in both countries. Across central Vietnamese provinces, people cleared debris and repaired roofs on their homes.

Jimmy Abatayo, who lost his wife and nine close relatives after the typhoon unleashed flooding in the central Philippine province of Cebu, was overwhelmed with sorrow and guilt as he ran his palm over his wife's casket.

"I was able to swim. I told my family to swim, you will be saved, just swim, be brave and keep swimming," said Abatayo, 53, pausing and then breaking into tears. "They did not hear what I said because I would never see them again."

Mourning the dead in the Philippines

In Cebu, 141 people died, mostly in floodings. Villagers on Friday gathered to say goodbye to their dead, including at a basketball gym turned funeral parlor where relatives wept before a row of white coffins bedecked with flowers and small portraits of the deceased.

A state of national emergency declared by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday was still effect in the Philippines, as the country braced for another potentially powerful storm, Typhoon Fung-wong, known locally as Uwan.

Marcos, who visited Cebu on Friday, said an unusually large volume of rain overwhelmed dikes and flood-control safeguards and caused rivers to rapidly overflow on Tuesday, flooding nearby residential communities, where residents scrambled to climb to the upper floors or roofs of their houses in panic.

Across the country, Kalmaegi left at least 204 people dead and 109 missing, the Philippines Office of Civil Defense said, and more than half a million people were displaced.

Nearly 450,000 were evacuated to shelters, and nearly 400,000 remained in evacuation centers or homes of relatives as of Saturday.

The weather bureau said Fung-wong would come early next week and predicted it would span an estimated 1,400 kilometers (870 miles) before making landfall late Sunday or early Monday in northern Aurora province. It could also potentially affect the densely populated capital region of Manila.

The toll in Vietnam

State media said five people were killed in Vietnam — three in Dak Lak and two in Gia Lai provinces — while three remained missing in Quang Ngai.

Fifty-two houses collapsed and nearly 2,600 others were damaged or had their roofs blown off, including more than 2,400 in Gia Lai alone. The storm also caused multiple power grid failures and knocked down hundreds of power poles, cutting electricity to more than 1.6 million households. Authorities said Saturday that power had been restored to most areas, but about 500,000 households remained without electricity.

Factories lost their roofs and equipment was damaged because of flooding in Binh Dinh province.

In hard-hit Quy Nhon, residents woke up to find corrugated metal roofs and household items scattered along the streets. Later on Friday, families crowded into a brightly lit shopping mall — one of the few places with backup power in the city — clutching tangled extension cords and their phones. Children rejoiced at the unexpected outing while parents lined up at every available outlet, charging their devices and anxiously calling relatives to make sure they were safe.

As the skies cleared and sunlight broke through on Friday morning, residents in Dak Lak province stepped out to assess the wreckage left behind.

Streets were littered with fallen branches and twisted sheets of metal, and muddy water still pooled in low-lying areas where the river had surged to record heights overnight. Shopkeepers dragged out wa-

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terlogged goods to dry in the sun, while families swept mud from their doorsteps and patched together missing roof tiles.

Many areas in Vietnam reported uprooted trees, damaged power lines and flattened buildings as Kalmaegi weakened into a tropical storm and moved into Cambodia on Friday.

In Vietnam's financial capital Ho Chi Minh City, many waded through flooded streets Friday as high tides and lingering rains from Typhoon Kalmaegi swamped low-lying neighborhoods.

In Lam Dong province, officials evacuated around 100 households near an irrigation lake after discovering leaks in the dam. Local authorities told state media that the evacuation was a precaution to prevent a potential disaster.

Tropical cyclones slamming the region

Kalmaegi struck Vietnam as the country's central region was still reeling from floods caused by record-breaking rains. Authorities said more than 537,000 people were evacuated, many by boat, as floodwaters rose and landslides loomed. The storm was forecast to dump up to 24 inches (600 millimeters) of rain in some areas before moving into Laos and northeast Thailand later on Friday.

Three fishermen were reported missing Thursday after their boat was swept away by strong waves near Ly Son Island off Quang Ngai province. Search efforts were later suspended due to worsening weather, state media said.

The Philippines experiences about 20 typhoons and storms each year and is among the world's most disaster-prone countries.

Vietnam, which is hit by around a dozen storms annually, has endured a relentless series this year. Typhoon Ragasa dumped torrential rain in late September, followed by Typhoon Bualoi and Typhoon Matmo, which together left more than 85 people dead or missing and caused an estimated \$1.36 billion in damage.

Scientists warn that a warming climate is intensifying storms and rainfall across Southeast Asia, making floods and typhoons increasingly destructive and frequent.

Kristen Corbosiero, a professor of atmospheric and environmental sciences at the University at Albany, said a normal year has 23 named storms by this time, but Kalmaegi and Fung-Wong are the 26th and 27th named storms. Kalmaegi is the fourth strongest typhoon this season, she said.

"If you look at the climatology for the Philippines and for Vietnam, it's almost the entire year that they can get them because the warm waters that fuel the storm just are there," Corbosiero said.

Some states are requiring gun safety lessons in schools that teach kids 'stop, don't touch'

By KRISTIN M. HALL and ADRIAN SAINZ Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — This school year, students in elementary, middle and high schools in some states will get a new lesson on safety: what to do if they find a firearm.

Arkansas, Tennessee and Utah are the first states to enact laws that require public schools to teach children as young as 5 the basics of gun safety and how to properly store guns in the home. Only Utah's law allows students to opt out of the lesson if requested by parents or guardians.

A similar law in Arizona was vetoed by the Democratic governor, and lawmakers in at least five other states have introduced such proposals, putting schools at the forefront of yet another debate about gun violence.

In Tennessee, lesson plans could include stickers, games, quizzes, or videos with music and colorful firearm illustrations, including a gun made out of Lego-style bricks and an explanation of what a muzzleloader is.

The reality is that many children in the U.S. grow up around firearms.

At Berclair Elementary School in Memphis, a class of 16 fifth graders were asked how many had seen a real gun. Nearly all raised their hands.

"It just shows you how much a class like this is needed," said Tammie Chapman, a health and physical education instructor, who has been leading the lessons at this school.

"While there is some controversy around guns, there doesn't always have to be," said Emily Buck, direc-

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tor of public relations for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, which created a curriculum with the state Department of Education. "I think that having some education and foundational knowledge really can be beneficial in the long run."

Stop, don't touch, leave quickly, tell an adult

The lessons are often adapted from hunting safety courses already administered by state hunting and wildlife agencies, but with key differences.

Hunter safety courses typically involve hands-on instruction and explanations of how to safely handle and fire a gun. These classroom lessons, on the other hand, emphasize that children should not touch a firearm.

In Tennessee, the legislation prohibits any use of actual firearms, but in Arkansas, the law allows parents to opt into alternative curriculums, such as an off-campus firearm safety course that could include live guns.

The main takeaway is a series of steps for when a child finds a gun: Stop, don't touch, leave quickly, tell an adult. This is consistent with instructions created by other organizations, including one from the National Rifle Association that features animated characters, videos and coloring pages.

At Berclair Elementary School, the faculty designed a relay-race game to keep students engaged. In the gym, students took turns running to buckets that had different photos. Students who found a picture of a gun then reported it to one of the adults. They also listened to a catchy jingle emphasizing the steps.

Buck acknowledged that adults might be the ones responsible for creating unsafe situations at home and said children should be prepared if they find guns in unusual spots, like on shelves or under a mattress.

"We hope that maybe students will take some of what they learned back to their house, back to the parents and maybe they'll encourage their parents to adjust their storage method," said Buck.

The lessons are supposed to be neutral

Gun legislation is a partisan issue across the U.S., with Democratic-led states enacting more limits on access to guns and efforts to tighten gun laws often failing in Republican-controlled legislatures.

Republicans sponsored and supported the education bills in Arkansas, Tennessee and Utah. The legislation says the curriculum must have neutral viewpoints on any gun-related topics, such as gun ownership in general.

Voices for a Safer Tennessee, a nonpartisan nonprofit created by parents after The Covenant School shooting in Nashville, supported the legislation. The organization supports gun ownership and advocates for policies like expanded background checks.

These lessons may encourage families to start necessary conversations, said Jessica Jaglois, director of communications for the organization.

"It could possibly prevent a firearm tragedy from occurring, because we know that a moment of access can lead to a lifetime of tragedy," said Jaglois.

In 2022, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that firearms were the leading cause of death among children and teens. Arkansas and Tennessee have rates of firearm deaths among children and teens that exceed the national average, according to an AP analysis. But some Democrats and gun control advocates argue this kind of legislation is the wrong approach to gun violence.

"Using the school day to teach kids about guns won't stop adults from leaving their firearms unsecured or keeping deadly weapons out of dangerous hands," said Meg Beauregard, policy counsel fellow at Everytown for Gun Safety, in a statement. "If lawmakers were serious about protecting students, they'd pass laws that hold adults accountable, such as secure storage — not put the burden on kids to keep themselves safe."

How will schools teach the lessons?

The states gave school districts some discretion on whether to use provided lesson plans or go with other instructions that adhere to the laws' language. The schools also can decide which faculty or staff will lead the lessons, or in some instances bring in police officers to talk about gun safety.

In Arkansas, schools might choose to incorporate the lessons as a part of annual safety training, such as when they are practicing fire safety or tornado drills, said Spencer Griffith, a deputy director with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

"We hope they will interject this in a way that kind of helps to maybe prevent some of these accidents

from occurring, but not in a way that puts a political focus or fear around that, because it's just not the place for that," said Griffith.

Berclair Principal Clint Davis said the issue of children getting hurt in firearm accidents is not new, even if this curriculum is.

"It's not something that's necessarily just become a modern issue. It's always been there," said Davis. "And I think we're just now really responding to the need to provide that sort of training in school."

Supreme Court issues emergency order to block full SNAP food aid payments

By DAVID A. LIEB, MICHAEL CASEY, SCOTT BAUER and MIKE CATALINI Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Friday granted the Trump administration's emergency appeal to temporarily block a court order to fully fund SNAP food aid payments amid the government shutdown, even though residents in some states already have received the funds.

A judge had given the Republican administration until Friday to make the payments through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. But the administration asked an appeals court to suspend any court orders requiring it to spend more money than is available in a contingency fund, and instead allow it to continue with planned partial SNAP payments for the month.

After a Boston appeals court declined to immediately intervene, Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson issued an order late Friday pausing the requirement to distribute full SNAP payments until the appeals court rules on whether to issue a more lasting pause. Jackson handles emergency matters from Massachusetts.

Her order will remain in place until 48 hours after the appeals court rules, giving the administration time to return to the Supreme Court if the appeals court refuses to step in.

The food program serves about 1 in 8 Americans, mostly with lower incomes.

Officials in more than a half-dozen states confirmed that some SNAP recipients already were issued full November payments on Friday. But Jackson's order could prevent other states from initiating the payments.

Which states issued SNAP payments

In Wisconsin, more than \$104 million of monthly food benefits became available at midnight on electronic cards for about 337,000 households, a spokesperson for Democratic Gov. Tony Evers said. The state was able to access the federal money so quickly by submitting a request to its electronic benefit card vendor to process the SNAP payments within hours of a Thursday court order to provide full benefits.

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek, a Democrat, said state employees "worked through the night" to issue full November benefits "to make sure every Oregon family relying on SNAP could buy groceries" by Friday.

Hawaii had the information for November's monthly payments ready to go, so it could submit it quickly for processing after Thursday's court order — and before a higher court could potentially pause it, Joseph Campos II, deputy director of Hawaii's Department of Human Services, told The Associated Press.

"We moved with haste once we verified everything," Campos said.

Trump's administration told the Supreme Court that the fast-acting states were "trying to seize what they could of the agency's finite set of remaining funds, before any appeal could even be filed, and to the detriment of other States' allotments."

"Once those billions are out the door, there is no ready mechanism for the government to recover those funds," Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote in the court filing.

Officials in California, Kansas, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington state also said they moved quickly to issue full SNAP benefits Friday, while other states said they expected full benefits to arrive over the weekend or early next week. Still others said they were waiting for further federal guidance.

Many SNAP recipients face uncertainty

The court wrangling prolonged weeks of uncertainty for Americans with lower incomes.

An individual can receive a monthly maximum food benefit of nearly \$300 and a family of four up to nearly \$1,000, although many receive less than that under a formula that takes into consideration their income.

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For some SNAP participants, it remained unclear when they would receive their benefits.

Jasmen Youngbey of Newark, New Jersey, waited in line Friday at a food pantry in the state's largest city. As a single mom attending college, Youngbey said she relies on SNAP to help feed her 7-month-old and 4-year-old sons. But she said her account balance was at \$0.

"Not everybody has cash to pull out and say, 'OK, I'm going to go and get this,' especially with the cost of food right now," she said.

Later Friday, Youngbey said, she received her monthly SNAP benefits.

The legal battle over SNAP takes another twist

Because of the federal government shutdown, the Trump administration originally had said SNAP benefits would not be available in November. However, two judges ruled last week that the administration could not skip November's benefits entirely because of the shutdown. One of those judges was U.S. District Judge John J. McConnell Jr., who ordered the full payments Thursday.

In both cases, the judges ordered the government to use one emergency reserve fund containing more than \$4.6 billion to pay for SNAP for November but gave it leeway to tap other money to make the full payments, which cost between \$8.5 billion and \$9 billion each month.

On Monday, the administration said it would not use additional money, saying it was up to Congress to appropriate the funds for the program and that the other money was needed to shore up other child hunger programs.

Thursday's federal court order rejected the Trump administration's decision to cover only 65% of the maximum monthly benefit, a decision that could have left some recipients getting nothing for this month.

In its court filings Friday, Trump's administration contended that the judge usurped both legislative and executive authority in ordering SNAP benefits to be fully funded.

"This unprecedented injunction makes a mockery of the separation of powers," Sauer told the Supreme Court.

States are taking different approaches to food aid

Some states said they stood ready to distribute SNAP money as quickly as possible.

Colorado and Massachusetts said SNAP participants could receive their full November payments as soon as Saturday. New York said access to full SNAP benefits should begin by Sunday. New Hampshire said full benefits should be available by this weekend. Arizona and Connecticut said full benefits should be accessible in the coming days.

Officials in North Carolina said they distributed partial SNAP payments Friday and full benefits could be available by this weekend. Officials in Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana and North Dakota also said they distributed partial November payments.

Amid the federal uncertainty, Delaware's Democratic Gov. Matt Meyer said the state used its own funds Friday to provide the first of what could be a weekly relief payment to SNAP recipients.

Judge rules Trump administration failed to meet legal requirements for deploying troops to Portland

By CLAIRE RUSH and GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A federal judge in Oregon ruled Friday that President Donald Trump's administration failed to meet the legal requirements for deploying the National Guard to Portland after the city and state sued in September to block the deployment.

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

The administration said the troops were needed to protect federal personnel and property in a city that Trump described as "war ravaged" with "fires all over the place."

In a 106-page opinion, Immergut found that even though the president is entitled to "great deference"

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in his decision on whether to call up the Guard, he did not have a legal basis for doing so because he did not establish that there was a rebellion or danger of rebellion, or that he was unable to enforce the law with regular forces.

"The trial record showed that although protests outside the Portland ICE building occurred nightly between June and October 2025, ever since a few particularly disruptive days in mid-June, protests have remained peaceful with only isolated and sporadic instances of violence," Immergut wrote. "The occasional interference to federal officers has been minimal, and there is no evidence that these small-scale protests have significantly impeded the execution of any immigration laws."

The Trump administration criticized the judge's ruling.

"The facts haven't changed. Amidst ongoing violent riots and lawlessness, that local leaders have refused to step in to quell, President Trump has exercised his lawful authority to protect federal officers and assets. President Trump will not turn a blind eye to the lawlessness plaguing American cities and we expect to be vindicated by a higher court," said Abigail Jackson, a White House spokeswoman.

"The courts are holding this administration accountable to the truth and the rule of law," Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield said in an e-mailed statement. "From the beginning, this case has been about making sure that facts, not political whims, guide how the law is applied. Today's decision protects that principle."

Democratic cities fight back

Democratic cities targeted by Trump for military involvement — including Chicago, which has filed a separate lawsuit on the issue — have been pushing back. They argue the president has not satisfied the legal threshold for deploying troops and that doing so would violate states' sovereignty.

Immergut issued two orders in early October that had blocked the deployment of the troops leading up to the trial. The first order blocked Trump from deploying 200 members of the Oregon National Guard; the second, issued a day later, blocked him from deploying members of any state's National Guard to Oregon, after he tried to evade the first order by sending California troops instead.

Immergut has called Trump's apocalyptic descriptions of Portland "simply untethered to the facts."

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has already ordered that the troops not be deployed pending further action by the appeals court. The trial Immergut held further developed the factual record in the case, which could serve as the basis for further appellate rulings.

Demonstrations at ICE building peaked in June

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

The Trump administration said it has had to shuffle federal agents from elsewhere around the country to respond to the Portland protests, which it has characterized as a "rebellion" or "danger of rebellion."

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

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

Attorneys for Portland and Oregon said city police have been able to respond to the protests. After the police department declared a riot on June 14, it changed its strategy to direct officers to intervene when person and property crime occurs, and crowd numbers have largely diminished since the end of that month, police officials testified.

The ICE building closed for three weeks over the summer because of property damage, according to court documents and testimony. The regional field office director for ICE's Enforcement and Removal

Operations, Camilla Wamsley, said her employees worked from another building during that period. The plaintiffs argued that was evidence that they were able to continue their work functions.

House cleaner shot to death on front porch after going to wrong house in Indianapolis suburb

By TODD RICHMOND Associated Press

Authorities are considering whether to charge an Indiana homeowner who they say shot and killed a woman working as a house cleaner after she mistakenly went to the wrong address.

Police officers found 32-year-old Maria Florinda Rios Perez dead just before 7 a.m. Wednesday on the front porch of the home in Whitestown, an Indianapolis suburb of about 10,000 people, according to a police news release. She was part of a cleaning crew that had gone to the wrong address, the release said.

Rios Perez's husband, Mauricio Velazquez, told WRTV in Indianapolis that he and his wife had been cleaning homes for seven months. Velazquez said he was standing with her at the home's front door on Wednesday morning but didn't realize she had been shot until she fell into his arms, bleeding.

On a fundraising page, her brother described Rios Perez as a mother of four children. Police said Friday that she was from Indianapolis but the family plans to bury her in Guatemala, according to her obituary and her brother's fundraising page. The Associated Press was not able to reach family members directly on Friday.

Authorities have not publicly identified the shooter. Police turned over the findings from their investigation to Boone County Prosecutor Kent Eastwood on Friday afternoon, but the prosecutor said the decision on whether to file charges won't be easy.

The case brings Indiana's castle doctrine laws squarely into play, he said. Those laws allow a person to use reasonable force, including deadly force, to stop what they reasonably believe is an unlawful entry into their dwelling. Thirty-one states have similar laws on the books, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

In similar cases elsewhere, prosecutors have successfully brought charges against people who opened fire outside their homes, including a guilty plea by an 86-year-old man who shot Ralph Yarl after the Black teenager came to his door by mistake. In New York, a man was convicted of second-degree murder for fatally shooting a woman inside a car who came down his driveway by mistake.

Eastwood said he will have to pore over investigators' findings to understand what happened in the moments leading up to the shooting. That means reviewing "every second" of witnesses' taped interviews and doorbell footage if police bring him any, he said.

"You need to understand all the details so you can understand what happened and what is reasonable," Eastwood said. "One of the hardest things today in this world is to agree on what's reasonable. As a prosecutor, those are things we have to grapple with."

Republicans swat down Democratic offer to end shutdown as impasse continues into 38th day

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader John Thune quickly swatted down a Democratic offer to reopen the government and extend expiring health care subsidies for a year, calling it a "nonstarter" as the partisan impasse over the shutdown continued into its 38th day.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer made the offer to reopen the government on Friday as Republicans have refused to negotiate on demands to extend health care subsidies. It was a much narrowed version of a broad proposal Democrats laid out a month ago to make the health tax credits permanent and reverse Medicaid cuts that Republicans enacted earlier this year.

Schumer offered Republicans simultaneous votes to end the government shutdown and extend the expir-

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ing health care subsidies, along with a bipartisan committee to address Republican demands for changes to the Affordable Care Act.

"All Republicans have to do is say yes," Schumer said.

But Republicans quickly said no, and Thune reiterated that they would not trade offers on health care until the government is reopened. "That's what we're going to negotiate once the government opens up," Thune said after Schumer made his proposal on the floor.

Thune said he thinks the offer is an indication that Democrats are "feeling the heat."

"I guess you could characterize that as progress," he said. "But I just don't think it gets anywhere close to what we need to do here."

Republicans met Friday afternoon with no resolution about steps forward.

"We're back to square one," said Sen. John Kennedy, adding that he could not predict when the shutdown will end.

Despite the stalemate, lawmakers in both parties were feeling increased urgency to reopen the government as airlines were forced to cut more than 1,000 flights, government workers remained unpaid and food aid was delayed for millions of people. Thune pleaded with Democrats as he opened the Senate on Friday to "end these weeks of misery."

It was unclear what may happen next. Thune was keeping the Senate in session over the weekend as a group of moderate Democrats worked on a possible compromise proposal. President Donald Trump called on the Senate to stay in town "until they have a Deal to end the Democrat Shutdown."

Moderates continue to negotiate

As leaders of the two parties disagreed, the small group of Democrats led by New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen continued to negotiate among themselves and with rank-and-file Republicans on a deal that would end the shutdown.

The group has been discussing for weeks a vote for a series of bills that would pay for parts of government — food aid, veterans programs and the legislative branch, among other things — and extend funding for everything else until December or January. The three annual spending bills that would likely be included are the product of bipartisan negotiations that have continued through the shutdown.

But the contours of that agreement would only come with the promise of a future health care vote, rather than a guarantee that Affordable Care Act subsidies are extended by the end of the year. Many Democrats have said that's unacceptable.

Still, Republican leaders only need five additional votes to fund the government, and the group involved in the talks has ranged from 10 to 12 Democratic senators.

"Unfortunately the Republicans made it very clear that they were not going to go along with the offer that Senator Schumer put on the floor, so we need another path forward," Shaheen said Friday evening as she left a meeting with the other moderates. "We're working on it."

Republicans eye new package of bills

Trump urged Republicans at a White House breakfast Wednesday to end the shutdown quickly and scrap the legislative filibuster, which requires 60 Senate votes for most legislation, so they can bypass Democrats altogether.

"I am totally in favor of terminating the filibuster, and we would be back to work within 10 minutes after that vote took place," Trump said Friday.

Republicans have emphatically rejected Trump's call, and Thune has instead been eyeing a bipartisan package that mirrors the proposal the moderate Democrats have been sketching out. But it unclear what Thune, who has refused to negotiate, would promise on health care.

The package would replace the House-passed legislation that the Democrats have now rejected fourteen times. That bill would only extend government funding until Nov. 21, a date that is rapidly approaching after six weeks of inaction.

A choice for Democrats

A test vote on new legislation could come in the next few days if Thune decides to move forward.

Then Democrats would have a crucial choice to make: Do they keep fighting for a meaningful deal on

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extending the subsidies that expire in January, while prolonging the pain of the shutdown? Or do they vote to reopen the government and hope for the best as Republicans promise an eventual health care vote, but not a guaranteed outcome?

After a caucus meeting Thursday, most Democrats suggested they would continue to hold out for Trump and Republican leaders to agree to negotiations.

"That's what leaders do," said Sen. Ben Ray Lujan, D-N.M. "You have the gavel, you have the majority, you have to bring people together."

Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, said Democrats are "obviously not unanimous" but "without something on health care, the vote is very unlikely to succeed."

Johnson delivers setback to bipartisan talks

Democrats are facing pressure from unions eager for the shutdown to end and from allied groups that want them to hold firm. Many Democrats have argued that the wins for Democrats on Election Day show voters want them to continue the fight until Republicans yield and agree to extend the health tax credits.

A vote on the health care subsidies "has got to mean something," said Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent who caucuses with the Democrats. "That means a commitment by the speaker of the House, that he will support the legislation, that the president will sign."

But Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., made clear he will not make any commitments. "I'm not promising anybody anything," Johnson said Thursday when asked if he could promise a vote on a health care bill.

US airlines cancel 1,000 flights while complying with shutdown order

By JOSH FUNK and RIO YAMAT Associated Press

Anxious travelers across the U.S. felt a bit of relief Friday as airlines mostly stayed on schedule while still cutting more than 1,000 flights largely because of the government shutdown.

Plenty of nervousness remained, though, as more canceled flights are coming over the next week to comply with the Federal Aviation Administration's order to reduce service at the nation's busiest airports.

The order is in response to air traffic controllers — who haven't been paid in nearly a month as the shutdown drags on — calling out of work in higher numbers as they deal with financial pressure.

While it's left some passengers making backup plans and reserving rental cars, the flights canceled Friday represented just a small portion of overall flights nationwide.

Passengers still faced last-minute cancellations and long security lines at the 40 airports targeted by the slowdown including major hubs in Atlanta, Dallas, Denver and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Airlines expect limited disruptions this weekend and stressed that international flights are not expected to be affected.

But if the shutdown persists much longer, and more controllers call out of work after they miss their second paycheck on Tuesday, the number of cancellations could jump from the initial 10% reduction of flights to 15% or 20%, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said on Fox News on Friday.

Long lines and, for some, long drives

Those who showed up before sunrise Friday at Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport faced security lines that barely moved, prompting some people to lie down while they waited.

"It was snaking around all different parts of the regular area," Cara Bergeron said after flying from Houston to Atlanta. "I've never seen anything like that."

Others were less fortunate.

Karen Soika from Greenwich, Connecticut, found her flight out of Newark, New Jersey, was rebooked for an hour earlier. Then she learned her plane was actually leaving from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, at least an hour away.

Soika, a surgeon, unsuccessfully tried to book a rental car to get to Utah for a weekend trip before settling on an option that seemed straight out of Hollywood.

"I'm going to U-Haul and I'm going to drive a truck cross-country," said Soika, who is advising on medical scenes there for a spinoff of the TV series "Yellowstone."

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Hertz reported a sharp increase in one-way car rentals.

Airlines scramble to rebook passengers

More than 1,000 flights were called off nationwide Friday — five times the number canceled Thursday, according to FlightAware, a website that tracks flight disruptions.

Reagan National Airport was hit the hardest with at least 18% of its arrivals — 81 flights — canceled Friday. The major hubs of O'Hare, Atlanta, Denver and Dallas-Fort Worth rounded out the top five airports for cancellations, but those airports only lost around 3% of their flights.

Not all the cancellations were due to the FAA order, and both United and American airlines said they were able to quickly rebook most travelers.

The airlines focused their cuts on smaller regional routes to airports where they have multiple flights a day, helping minimize the number of passengers impacted.

Delta Air Lines said it scratched roughly 170 flights Friday while American planned to cut 220 each day through Monday. Southwest Airlines cut about 120 flights Friday.

The FAA said the reductions impacting all commercial airlines are starting at 4% of flights at the busiest airports and will ramp up to 10% over the coming week.

"I just don't want to be stranded at the airport sleeping on a bench," Michele Cuthbert, of Columbus, Ohio, said about an upcoming flight to Dallas. "Everyone's paying the price for the politics that's going on. We're just collateral damage."

If the shutdown continues, there may be another knock-on effect ahead of the holidays.

Nearly half of all U.S. air freight is shipped in the bellies of passenger aircraft, so the disruption could raise costs for shipping goods, said Patrick Penfield, professor of supply chain practice at Syracuse University.

"Air travel is part of the infrastructure backbone of the American economy," said Greg Raiff, CEO of the Elevate Aviation Group consultancy. "This shutdown is going to impact everything from cargo aircraft to people getting to business meetings to tourists being able to travel."

Why is this happening?

The FAA said the cuts are necessary to relieve pressure on air traffic controllers. Many are pulling six-day work weeks with mandatory overtime, and increasing numbers have begun calling out as the financial strain and exhaustion mount.

"I don't want to see the disruption. I don't want to see the delays," Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy told reporters at Ronald Reagan National Airport, just outside of Washington.

The FAA's order comes as the Trump administration ramps up pressure on Democrats in Congress to end the shutdown.

Ending the government shutdown would ease the situation for controllers, but the FAA said the flight cuts will remain in place until their safety data improves.

Denver International Airport is working to fill in the gap, creating a food pantry for its federal employees and asking the FAA for permission to use the airport's revenue to pay for controllers' wages. The airport said Friday it has not heard back from the FAA yet.

What can airlines and travelers do?

Airlines are in uncharted territory, said Kerry Tan, a professor at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore who has studied the industry.

"The uncertainty associated with the government shutdown makes it challenging for airlines to rationally plan their response and optimize their flight operations," Tan said.

Carriers are required to refund customers whose flights are canceled but not to cover costs such as food and hotels unless a delay or cancellation results from a factor within the control of the airlines, according to the Department of Transportation.

Christina Schlegel, who is booked on a flight to Florida on Wednesday ahead of a Bahamas cruise, said her husband suggested they drive if their flight is canceled, but she'd rather try a different flight or airport.

Schlegel, a travel adviser from Arlington, Virginia, has told clients to not panic, to monitor their flights and to arrive at the airport early.

"People really should be thinking, 'What else can I do?'" she said. "Can I already research some other potential flights? What other flights are out there?" Have that information in your back pocket."

Cornell University to pay \$60M in deal with Trump administration to restore federal funding

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cornell University has agreed to pay \$60 million and accept the Trump administration's interpretation of civil rights laws in order to restore federal funding and end investigations into the Ivy League school.

Cornell President Michael Kotlikoff announced the agreement on Friday, saying it upholds the university's academic freedom while restoring more than \$250 million in research funding that the government withheld amid investigations into alleged civil rights violations. He said the government's funding freeze had stalled research, upended careers and threatened the future of academic programs.

The university agreed to pay \$30 million directly to the U.S. government along with another \$30 million toward research that will support U.S. farmers.

The agreement is the latest struck between President Donald Trump's administration and elite colleges he has accused of tolerating antisemitism and promoting far-left ideas. Trump is still locked in a standoff with Harvard, the nation's oldest and wealthiest university, and lately has tried an incentive-based approach by offering preferential access to federal funding for other schools that sign onto his political agenda.

Kotlikoff said the agreement revives the campus' partnership with the federal government "while affirming the university's commitment to the principles of academic freedom, independence, and institutional autonomy that, from our founding, have been integral to our excellence."

The six-page agreement is similar to one signed by the University of Virginia last month. It's shorter and less prescriptive than others signed by Columbia University and Brown University.

A statement from Cornell's chapter of the American Association of University Professors said the deal "omits many of the worst provisions" in agreements struck by other colleges. Still, it said Cornell's deal poses a threat to academic freedom and goes beyond what the law requires.

"One of the major concerns with these agreements generally has been, if you make a deal with somebody when they're just extorting you, well, that only encourages future extortion," said David Bateman, the chapter president, in an interview.

The agreement requires Cornell to comply with the government's interpretation of civil rights laws on issues involving antisemitism, racial discrimination and transgender issues. A Justice Department memo that orders colleges to abandon diversity, equity and inclusion programs and transgender-friendly policies will be used as a training resource for Cornell's faculty and staff.

The campus must also provide a wealth of admissions data that the government has separately sought from campuses to ensure race is no longer being considered as a factor in admissions decisions. Trump has suggested some campuses are ignoring a 2023 Supreme Court decision ending affirmative action in admissions.

Education Secretary Linda McMahon called it a transformative commitment that puts a focus on "merit, rigor, and truth-seeking."

"These reforms are a huge win in the fight to restore excellence to American higher education and make our schools the greatest in the world," McMahon said on X.

Attorney General Pam Bondi said the agreement illustrates the value for colleges that work with the administration. Colleges that receive federal funding "must fully adhere to federal civil rights laws and ensure that harmful DEI policies do not discriminate against students," Bondi said in a statement.

Cornell's president must personally certify compliance with the agreement each quarter. The deal is effective through the end of 2028.

It appears to split the difference on a contentious issue colleges have grappled with as they negotiate an exit from federal scrutiny: payments made directly to the government. Columbia agreed to pay \$200

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million directly to the government, while Brown University reached an agreement to pay \$50 million to state workforce organizations. Virginia's deal included no payment at all.

The agriculture investment will be made over three years, aimed at programs that incorporate artificial intelligence and robotics with the goal of supporting research that reduces costs for U.S. farmers. Founded as a land-grant school, Cornell has longstanding ties with American agriculture.

Kotlikoff was among hundreds of university presidents who signed an April letter opposing "unprecedented government overreach and political interference" from the Trump administration.

Kotlikoff emphasized that Cornell was not found in violation of federal law and said the agreement will preserve the campus' independence. "In short, it recognizes our rights, as a private university, to define the conditions on our campuses that advance learning and produce new knowledge," he wrote.

The campus AAUP raised concerns with several provisions of the deal. The group said the agreement invites future federal intrusion through requirements to share enrollment data and to conduct campus surveys on antisemitism. It also opposed the \$30 million payment to the government, calling it "extortion plain and simple."

Stocks wind up mixed on Wall Street after spending most of the day in the red

By DAMIAN J. TROISE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks wavered to a mixed finish on Wall Street Friday and notched their first weekly loss in the last four.

Major indexes wobbled throughout most of the week, but ultimately pulled back from records set the prior week. Technology stocks once again determined the broader direction of the market.

The S&P 500 spent most of the day in the red and was down as much as 1.3%. It ultimately eked out a gain, rising 8.48 points, or 0.1%, to close at 6,728.80. The Dow Jones Industrial Average made a similar reversal and rose 74.80 points, or 0.2%, to close at 46,987.10.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq was down as much as 2.1% at one point during trading, but recovered most of the losses. It fell 49.46 points, or 0.2% to 23,004.54.

The market was weighed down by technology stocks, especially several big names with huge valuations that give them outsized influence over the direction of the market. Google's parent company, Alphabet, fell 2.1% and Broadcom fell 1.7%.

Wall Street remained focused on the latest quarterly reports and forecasts from U.S. companies.

Payments company Block, which operates the Square and Cash App businesses, sank 7.7% after turning in results that fell short of forecasts. Exercise equipment maker Peloton jumped 14.2% after its results beat estimates.

Expedia Group surged 17.5% after beating analysts' quarterly earnings forecasts.

More than 90% of companies within the S&P 500 have reported earnings for their latest quarter. Most companies have reported growth beyond Wall Street expectations and the influential tech sector has the strongest growth, according to data from FactSet.

Corporate profits and forecasts were already being scrutinized by Wall Street as investors try to gauge whether the market's overall high value is justified. The results have taken on more significance amid a lack of other data about the economy because of the U.S. government shutdown, which is now the longest on record.

The shutdown is now responsible for yet another missing economic report typically relied on by Wall Street and economists. The monthly employment data for October was unavailable, as was the monthly data for September previously. The lack of data on employment is especially troubling because the job market was already weakening.

Wall Street still has several private sources of economic data to turn to, outside of earnings. The latest came Friday from the University of Michigan, with its monthly consumer sentiment report. The latest report showed that consumer sentiment fell sharply from a month ago and hit a three-year low. Economists

had expected a slight increase.

"Consumers are starting to get concerned about the potential effects of the government's shutdown on economic activity," Eugenio Aleman, chief economist for Raymond James, wrote in a note to investors.

The survey also showed that inflation expectations edged slightly higher. Government data on consumer prices and other measures of inflation are among the information Wall Street and others lack because of the government shutdown. Inflation has been stubbornly high and remains a key concern, especially amid a volatile U.S. trade war that could add fuel to rising inflation.

The lack of inflation and employment data is a problem for the Federal Reserve, which has signaled a more cautious approach on interest rate cuts moving forward. Wall Street's big gains this year have been partly due to anticipation for interest rate cuts, which can help stimulate the economy by making loans less expensive.

The Fed has already cut its benchmark rate twice this year as it tries to counter the impact that a weakening employment market could have on economic growth. Cutting rates could worsen inflation at a time when levels are stubbornly higher than the central bank's 2% goal, however.

Wall Street is still mostly betting that the Fed will cut interest rates at its December meeting. Investors are forecasting a 67% chance of another interest rate cut, according to CME FedWatch.

Treasury yields held steady in the bond market. The yield on the 10-year Treasury remained at 4.09% from late Thursday. The yield on the two-year Treasury held at 3.56% from late Thursday.

Markets in Europe fell and markets in Asia closed lower. China reported that its exports contracted 1.1% in October, as shipments to the United States dropped by 25% from a year earlier. But economists expect Chinese exports to recover after U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping agreed last week to de-escalate the trade war between the two largest economies.

Trump says US to boycott G20 in South Africa, repeating allegations about treatment of white farmers

By SEUNG MIN KIM and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday that no U.S. government officials would be attending the Group of 20 summit this year in South Africa, citing the country's treatment of white farmers.

Trump had already announced he would not attend the annual summit for heads of state from the globe's leading and emerging economies. Vice President JD Vance had been scheduled to attend in Trump's place, but a person familiar with Vance's plans who was granted anonymity to talk about his schedule said Vance would no longer travel there for the summit.

"It is a total disgrace that the G20 will be held in South Africa," Trump said on his social media site. In his post, Trump cited "abuses" of Afrikaners, including violence and death as well as confiscation of their land and farms.

The Trump administration has long accused the South African government of allowing minority white Afrikaner farmers to be persecuted and attacked. As it restricted the number of refugees admitted annually to the U.S. to 7,500, the administration indicated that most will be white South Africans who it claimed faced discrimination and violence at home.

But the government of South Africa has said it is surprised by the accusations of discrimination, because white people in the country generally have a much higher standard of living than its Black residents, more than three decades after the end of the apartheid system of white minority rule.

The country's president, Cyril Ramaphosa, has said he's told Trump that information about the alleged discrimination and persecution of Afrikaners is "completely false."

Nonetheless, the administration has kept up its criticisms of the South African government. Earlier this week during an economic speech in Miami, Trump said South Africa should be thrown out of the Group of 20.

Earlier this year, Secretary of State Marco Rubio boycotted a G20 meeting for foreign ministers because its agenda focused on diversity, inclusion and climate change efforts.

James Watson, co-discoverer of the double-helix shape of DNA, has died at age 97

By MALCOLM RITTER AP Science Writer

James D. Watson, whose co-discovery of the twisted-ladder structure of DNA in 1953 helped light the long fuse on a revolution in medicine, crimefighting, genealogy and ethics, has died. He was 97.

The breakthrough — made when the brash, Chicago-born Watson was just 24 — turned him into a halloved figure in the world of science for decades. But near the end of his life, he faced condemnation and professional censure for offensive remarks, including saying Black people are less intelligent than white people.

Watson shared a 1962 Nobel Prize with Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins for discovering that deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, is a double helix, consisting of two strands that coil around each other to create what resembles a long, gently twisting ladder.

That realization was a breakthrough. It instantly suggested how hereditary information is stored and how cells duplicate their DNA when they divide. The duplication begins with the two strands of DNA pulling apart like a zipper.

Even among non-scientists, the double helix would become an instantly recognized symbol of science, showing up in such places as the work of Salvador Dali and a British postage stamp.

The discovery helped open the door to more recent developments such as tinkering with the genetic makeup of living things, treating disease by inserting genes into patients, identifying human remains and criminal suspects from DNA samples, and tracing family trees and ancient human ancestors. But it has also raised a host of ethical questions, such as whether we should be altering the body's blueprint for cosmetic reasons or in a way that is transmitted to a person's offspring.

"Francis Crick and I made the discovery of the century, that was pretty clear," Watson once said. He later wrote: "There was no way we could have foreseen the explosive impact of the double helix on science and society."

Watson never made another lab finding that big. But in the decades that followed, he wrote influential textbooks and a best-selling memoir and helped guide the project to map the human genome. He picked out bright young scientists and helped them. And he used his prestige and contacts to influence science policy.

Watson died in hospice care after a brief illness, his son said Friday. His former research lab confirmed he passed away a day earlier.

"He never stopped fighting for people who were suffering from disease," Duncan Watson said of his father.

Watson's initial motivation for supporting the gene project was personal: His son Rufus had been hospitalized with a possible diagnosis of schizophrenia, and Watson figured that knowing the complete makeup of DNA would be crucial for understanding that disease — maybe in time to help his son.

He gained unwelcome attention in 2007, when the Sunday Times Magazine of London quoted him as saying he was "inherently gloomy about the prospect of Africa" because "all our social policies are based on the fact that their intelligence is the same as ours — where all the testing says not really." He said that while he hopes everyone is equal, "people who have to deal with Black employees find this is not true."

He apologized, but after an international furor he was suspended from his job as chancellor of the prestigious Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. He retired a week later. He had served in various leadership jobs there for nearly 40 years.

In a television documentary that aired in early 2019, Watson was asked if his views had changed. "No, not at all," he said. In response, the Cold Spring Harbor lab revoked several honorary titles it had given Watson, saying his statements were "reprehensible" and "unsupported by science."

Watson's combination of scientific achievement and controversial remarks created a complicated legacy.

He has shown "a regrettable tendency toward inflammatory and offensive remarks, especially late in his career," Dr. Francis Collins, then-director of the National Institutes of Health, said in 2019. "His outbursts, particularly when they reflected on race, were both profoundly misguided and deeply hurtful. I only wish

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that Jim's views on society and humanity could have matched his brilliant scientific insights."

Long before that, Watson scorned political correctness.

"A goodly number of scientists are not only narrow-minded and dull, but also just stupid," he wrote in "The Double Helix," his bestselling 1968 book about the DNA discovery.

For success in science, he wrote: "You have to avoid dumb people. ... Never do anything that bores you. ... If you can't stand to be with your real peers (including scientific competitors) get out of science. ... To make a huge success, a scientist has to be prepared to get into deep trouble."

It was in the fall of 1951 that the tall, skinny Watson — already the holder of a Ph.D. at 23 — arrived at Britain's Cambridge University, where he met Crick. As a Watson biographer later said, "It was intellectual love at first sight."

Crick himself wrote that the partnership thrived in part because the two men shared "a certain youthful arrogance, a ruthlessness, and an impatience with sloppy thinking."

Together they sought to tackle the structure of DNA, aided by X-ray research by colleague Rosalind Franklin and her graduate student Raymond Gosling. Watson was later criticized for a disparaging portrayal of Franklin in "The Double Helix," and today she is considered a prominent example of a female scientist whose contributions were overlooked. (She died in 1958.)

Watson and Crick built Tinker Toy-like models to work out the molecule's structure. One Saturday morning in 1953, after fiddling with bits of cardboard he had carefully cut to represent fragments of the DNA molecule, Watson suddenly realized how these pieces could form the "rungs" of a double helix ladder.

His first reaction: "It's so beautiful."

Figuring out the double helix "goes down as one of the three most important discoveries in the history of biology," alongside Charles Darwin's theory of evolution through natural selection and Gregor Mendel's fundamental laws of genetics, said Cold Spring Harbor lab's president, Bruce Stillman.

Following the discovery, Watson spent two years at the California Institute of Technology, then joined the faculty at Harvard in 1955. Before leaving Harvard in 1976, he essentially created the university's program for molecular biology, scientist Mark Ptashne recalled in a 1999 interview.

Watson became director of the Cold Spring Harbor lab in 1968, its president in 1994 and its chancellor 10 years later. He made the lab on Long Island an educational center for scientists and non-scientists, focused research on cancer, instilled a sense of excitement and raised huge amounts of money.

He transformed the lab into a "vibrant, incredibly important center," Ptashne said. It was "one of the miracles of Jim: a more disheveled, less smooth, less typically ingratiating person you could hardly imagine."

From 1988 to 1992, Watson directed the federal effort to identify the detailed makeup of human DNA. He created the project's huge investment in ethics research by simply announcing it at a news conference. He later said it was "probably the wisest thing I've done over the past decade."

Watson was on hand at the White House in 2000 for the announcement that the federal project had completed an important goal: a "working draft" of the human genome, basically a road map to an estimated 90 percent of human genes.

Researchers presented Watson with the detailed description of his own genome in 2007. It was one of the first genomes of an individual to be deciphered.

Watson knew that genetic research could produce findings that make some people uncomfortable. In 2007, he wrote that when scientists identify genetic variants that predispose people to crime or significantly affect intelligence, the findings should be publicized rather than squelched out of political correctness.

James Dewey Watson was born in Chicago on April 6, 1928, into "a family that believed in books, birds and the Democratic Party," as he put it. From his birdwatcher father he inherited an interest in ornithology and a distaste for explanations that didn't rely on reason or science.

Watson was a precocious child who loved to read, studying books like "The World Telegraph Almanac of Facts." He entered the University of Chicago on a scholarship at 15, graduated at 19 and earned his doctorate in zoology at Indiana University three years later.

He got interested in genetics at age 17 when he read a book that said genes were the essence of life.

"I thought, 'Well, if the gene is the essence of life, I want to know more about it,'" he later recalled.

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"And that was fateful because, otherwise, I would have spent my life studying birds and no one would have heard of me."

At the time, it wasn't clear that genes were made of DNA, at least for any life form other than bacteria. But Watson went to Europe to study the biochemistry of nucleic acids like DNA. At a conference in Italy, Watson saw an X-ray image that indicated DNA could form crystals.

"Suddenly I was excited about chemistry," Watson wrote in "The Double Helix." "If genes could crystallize, they must have a regular structure that could be solved in a straightforward fashion."

"A potential key to the secret of life was impossible to push out of my mind," he recalled.

In the decades after his discovery, Watson's fame persisted. Apple Computer used his picture in an ad campaign. At conferences, graduate students who weren't even born when he worked at Cambridge nudged each other and whispered, "There's Watson. There's Watson." They got him to autograph napkins or copies of "The Double Helix."

A reporter asked him 2018 if any building at the Cold Spring Harbor lab was named after him. No, Watson replied, "I don't need a building named after me. I have the double helix."

His 2007 remarks on race were not the first time Watson struck a nerve with his comments. In a speech in 2000, he suggested that sex drive is related to skin color. And earlier he told a newspaper that if a gene governing sexuality were found and could be detected in the womb, a woman who didn't want to have a gay child should be allowed to have an abortion.

More than a half-century after winning the Nobel, Watson put the gold medal up for auction in 2014. The winning bid, \$4.7 million, set a record for a Nobel. The medal was eventually returned to Watson.

Both of Watson's Nobel co-winners, Crick and Wilkins, died in 2004.

Kendrick Lamar leads 2026 Grammy nominations, followed by Lady Gaga, Jack Antonoff and Cirkut

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Not like us? More like him: Kendrick Lamar leads the 2026 Grammy Award nominations, announced Friday.

The rapper is up for nine trophies at February's ceremony: record, song and album of the year — marking the third time he's had simultaneous nominations in those big categories — as well as pop duo/group performance, melodic rap performance, rap song and rap album. He's also nominated twice in the rap performance category.

Lamar, who is riding the success of last year's blockbuster "GNX" album, has 22 Grammy career wins and 66 nominations. "GNX" is his fifth consecutive studio album to be nominated for album of the year, something no other artist has ever done. If it wins, it will be his first win in the category. And it will be only the third rap album to win the top prize, following Outkast in 2004 for "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" and Lauryn Hill in 1999 for "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill."

Lady Gaga, Jack Antonoff and Canadian record producer/songwriter Cirkut follow Lamar with seven nominations each.

Lady Gaga is up for song, record and album of the year — her first time receiving nominations in all three categories simultaneously. She could also score potential wins in the pop solo performance, pop vocal album, dance pop recording and traditional pop vocal album categories.

Antonoff is nominated in the record, album and song of the year categories twice, for his work with Lamar and Sabrina Carpenter. He's also nominated for rap song for the first time. That's for "tv off" with Lamar, featuring Lefty Gunplay.

Antonoff and Cirkut will face off in the producer of the year, non-Classical category. If Antonoff wins, he will tie Babyface's record of most career wins in the category, with four.

That's not all. Cirkut is up for both record and song of the year, twice — for Lady Gaga's "Abracadabra" and Rosé and Bruno Mars' "APT." — as well as album of the year and best dance pop recording.

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In addition to Lady Gaga's "Mayhem" and Lamar's "GNX," the album of the year category is rounded out by Carpenter's "Man's Best Friend," Bad Bunny's "Debí Tirar Más Fotos," Justin Bieber's "Swag," Clipse, Pusha T & Malice's "Let God Sort Em Out," Leon Thomas' "Mutt" and Tyler, the Creator's "Chromakopia."

This is the first time three albums have been up for both rap album and album of the year: "GNX," "Let God Sort Em Out" and "Chromakopia."

Additionally, Bad Bunny's "Debí Tirar Más Fotos" is only the second time an all-Spanish language album has been nominated for the top prize. The first was also a Bad Bunny release — in 2023, for "Un Verano Sin Ti." Harry Styles' "Harry's House" won that year.

Carpenter, Bad Bunny, Leon Thomas and Serban Ghenea all boast six nominations. Andrew Watt, Clipse, Doechii, Sounwave, SZA, Turnstile and Tyler, the Creator have five each.

Only recordings commercially released in the U.S. between Aug. 31, 2024 through Aug. 30, 2025 were eligible for nominations. The final round of Grammy voting, which determines its winners, will take place Dec. 12 through Jan. 5.

In the best new artist category, global girl group Katseye, Olivia Dean, The Marias, Addison Rae, sombr, Leon Thomas, Alex Warren and Lola Young will all go head-to-head.

The record of the year category is made up of Bad Bunny's "DtMF," Carpenter's "Manchild," Doechii's "Anxiety," Billie Eilish's "Wildflower," Lady Gaga's "Abracadabra," Lamar and SZA's "luther," Chappell Roan's "The Subway" and Rosé and Bruno Mars' "APT."

Rosé, perhaps best known as one-fourth of the juggernaut girl group BLACKPINK, is the first K-pop artist to ever receive a nomination in the record of the year field.

Some may be surprised to see Eilish included in the bunch, as "Wildflower" was released on her spring 2024 album, "Hit Me Hard and Soft," ahead of the eligibility window. However, there is a Recording Academy rule that allows albums released during the previous ceremony's eligibility period to be considered, "provided the same tracks were not entered the previous year and the album did not win a Grammy," with a few exceptions. By that rule, Eilish's "Wildflower" — which was not previously entered — is eligible.

Song of the year — an award for a track's songwriters, which sometimes include the performer but not always — is made up of an almost identical list to record of the year, except Roan is replaced by "Golden" from the "KPop Demon Hunters" soundtrack.

"The Grammy Awards are our opportunity to honor the people who make this community so vibrant and this year's nominees remind us of the incredible talent that is driving music forward," said Recording Academy CEO Harvey Mason jr. in a statement. "From emerging talent to influential icons, these nominees reflect today's broad and diverse musical landscape, and I am excited to celebrate them in the coming weeks ahead."

There are a number of first-time nominees as well this year, including Tate McRae, Zara Larsson, PinkPantheress, JID and Timothée Chalamet. You read that correctly.

The 2026 Grammy Awards will air Feb. 1 live on CBS and Paramount+ from the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles.

The shutdown has disrupted air travel.

Will that drive a surge in car rentals and train bookings?

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. government shutdown has rattled air travel — most recently with an unprecedented effort from the Federal Aviation Administration to cut flights by 10% at airports nationwide. And the disruptions are causing some to instead hit the road or buy a train ticket.

That could mean more business for car rentals, long-haul buses and commuter rails like Amtrak — particularly if flight delays and cancellations continue piling up as the U.S. approaches Thanksgiving and other peak holiday travel.

Amid the latest scramble, Hertz is already reporting a sharp increase in one-way car rentals. One-way reservations have spiked more than 20% through the coming weekend compared with the same period last

year, according to the company, which has also pointed to the shutdown's ongoing strain on travel overall.

"We join the airlines in urging Congress to swiftly pass a clean continuing resolution and restore certainty for travelers," Hertz CEO Gil West said in a statement. "Every day of delay creates unnecessary disruption."

A press contact for peer-to-peer car-sharing company Turo said Friday that the platform's nationwide bookings were also up 30% year-over-year. And Avis similarly noted it had also seen "an increase in one-way rental activity as airlines adjust flight schedules," maintaining that it would continue "to serve customers in the best way possible as travel conditions evolve."

Amtrak, meanwhile, is predicting record Thanksgiving numbers.

The rail service said it began to see those bookings grow before the shutdown began — but told The Associated Press on Thursday that it was also "reasonable to expect an increased share shift to Amtrak" if flight disruptions mount. Amtrak has maintained that its routes are running normally amid the shutdown.

FlixBus North America, the parent company of FlixBus and Greyhound, is also preparing for more demand.

"Our message is simple: you still have options," said Kai Boysan, CEO of FlixBus North America.

Boysan maintained that intercity buses are "one of the most dependable ways to get around" — and not impacted by the shutdown like flights are. "We anticipate more travelers may turn to ground transportation in the days ahead, and we're monitoring demand closely and prepared to add capacity where needed to ensure people can keep moving," he added.

A FlixBus spokesperson said Friday that many of its bookings typically occur within 24 to 72 hours of departure, noting that the company should have a "clearer picture" of the overall impact in the coming days.

Still, train and bus routes are sometimes more available in certain parts of the country than others. And some have also encountered sold-out tickets or rentals in recent days — instead turning to other creative options.

Karen Soika from Greenwich, Connecticut, found out Friday morning that her flight out of Newark, New Jersey, was rebooked for an hour earlier. But she later learned her plane was actually leaving from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport instead, at least an hour away.

She unsuccessfully tried to book a rental car to get to Utah for a weekend trip, before settling on another option: booking a U-Haul.

"I'm going to U-Haul and I'm going to drive a truck cross country," said Soika.

Meanwhile, others are hoping to avoid lengthy alternatives.

Christina Schlegel, of Arlington, Virginia, is keeping an eye on the Wednesday flight she's booked to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. When word of cancellations broke, her husband suggested they just drive if their flight is among those affected, but Schlegel says she'd rather pivot to a different flight or airport.

"I don't want to drive 12 hours," said Schlegel, who is heading to Florida ahead of a Bahamas cruise.

It can be overwhelming for travelers to navigate whether or not their trips will be impacted — particularly if the trip is farther down the road. And the costs of buying backup options can add up overall. That's caused some to sit on their current bookings.

"Everything is so fluid right now that many travelers are taking a 'wait and see' approach, especially looking ahead to Thanksgiving travel," Aixa Diaz, spokesperson for motor group AAA, said in a Friday email.

Diaz urges consumers to stay informed, make flexible backup plans and take steps to reduce future headaches — such as carving out more travel time overall or taking a taxi or public transport to an airport instead of parking your own car, in case your return trip gets canceled or rerouted.

"Controlling what you can is key," she noted.

Trump pardons former Mets great Darryl Strawberry on past tax evasion and drug charges

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has pardoned former New York Mets great Darryl Strawberry on past tax evasion and drug charges, citing the 1983 National League Rookie of the Year's post-career embrace of his Christian faith and longtime sobriety.

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Strawberry was an outfielder and eight-time All-Star, including seven with the Mets from 1983-90. He hit 335 homers and had 1,000 RBIs and 221 stolen bases in 17 seasons.

Plagued by later legal, health and personal problems, Strawberry was indicted for tax evasion and eventually pleaded guilty in 1995 to a single felony count. That was based on his failure to report \$350,000 in income from autographs, personal appearances and sales of memorabilia.

Strawberry agreed to pay more than \$430,000 as part of the case. He was diagnosed with colon cancer and underwent surgery and chemotherapy in 1998.

The following year, Strawberry was sentenced to probation and suspended from baseball after pleading no contest to charges of possession of cocaine and soliciting a prostitute. He eventually spoke in court about struggling with depression, and was charged with violating his probation numerous times — including on his 40th birthday in 2002.

Strawberry ultimately served 11 months in Florida state prison, and was released in 2003.

A White House official said Friday that Trump approved a pardon for Strawberry, who had served time and paid back taxes. Speaking on condition of anonymity to detail a pardon that had not yet been formally announced, the official noted that Strawberry found faith in Christianity and has been sober for more than a decade, and that he'd become active in ministry and started a still-active recovery center.

Strawberry posted on Instagram a picture of himself and Trump and wrote, "Thank you, President @realdonaldtrump for my full pardon and for finalizing this part of my life, allowing me to be truly free and clean from all of my past."

He described being home Thursday afternoon, caring for his wife, who was recovering from surgery, "when my phone kept ringing relentlessly."

"Half asleep, I glanced over and saw a call from Washington DC. Curious, I answered, and to my amazement, the lady on the line said, 'Darryl Strawberry, you have a call from the President of the United States, Donald Trump,'" Strawberry wrote. "I put it on speakerphone with my wife nearby, and President Trump spoke warmly about my baseball days in NYC, praising me as one the greatest player of the '80s and celebrating the Mets. Then, he told me he was granting me a full pardon from my past."

Trump was a New York real estate mogul before becoming a reality television star and twice winning the presidency.

Strawberry said he was "overwhelmed with gratitude — thanking God for setting me free from my past, helping me become a better Man, Husband and Father."

"This experience has deepened my faith and commitment to working for His kingdom as a true follower of Jesus Christ," Strawberry wrote, while also noting, "This has nothing to do with politics — it's about a Man, President Trump, caring deeply for a friend. God used him as a vessel to set me free forever!"

The president has broad constitutional powers to grant pardons, which don't expunge the recipient's criminal record but can be seen as acts of justice or mercy, often in cases that can further public welfare.

Strawberry's followed Trump issuing pardons this week for a former Republican speaker of the Tennessee House and a onetime aide on public corruption charges. It also adds to a list of celebrities and political allies who have similarly received unlikely pardons — including a former Republican governor of Connecticut, an ex-GOP congressman and reality TV stars who had been convicted of cheating banks and evading taxes.

Strawberry played for the Mets, New York Yankees, Los Angeles Dodgers and San Francisco Giants between 1983 and 1999. He won the World Series with the 1986 Mets, starring alongside the likes of Dwight Gooden and Keith Hernandez, and with the Yankees in 1996, 1998 and 1999.

Strawberry was hospitalized with a heart attack in March 2024, a day before he turned 62. That same year, the Mets retired his No. 18 and an emotional Strawberry told the Citi Field crowd: "I'm truly, deeply sorry that I ever left you guys. I never played baseball in front of fans greater than you guys."

Denmark's government aims to ban access to social media for children under 15

By JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

Denmark's government on Friday announced an agreement to ban access to social media for anyone under 15, ratcheting up pressure on Big Tech platforms as concerns grow that kids are getting too swept up in a digitized world of harmful content and commercial interests.

The move would give some parents — after a specific assessment — the right to let their children access social media from age 13. It wasn't immediately clear how such a ban would be enforced: Many tech platforms already restrict pre-teens from signing up. Officials and experts say such restrictions don't always work.

Such a measure would be among the most sweeping steps yet by a European Union government to limit use of social media among teens and younger children, which has drawn concerns in many parts of an increasingly online world.

Speaking to The Associated Press, Caroline Stage, Denmark's minister for digital affairs, said 94% of Danish children under age 13 have profiles on at least one social media platform, and more than half of those under 10 do.

"The amount of time they spend online — the amount of violence, self-harm that they are exposed to online — is simply too great a risk for our children," she said, while praising tech giants as "the greatest companies that we have. They have an absurd amount of money available, but they're simply not willing to invest in the safety of our children, invest in the safety of all of us."

No rush to legislation, no loopholes for tech giants

Stage said a ban won't take effect immediately. Allied lawmakers on the issue from across the political spectrum who make up a majority in parliament will likely take months to pass relevant legislation.

"I can assure you that Denmark will hurry, but we won't do it too quickly because we need to make sure that the regulation is right and that there is no loopholes for the tech giants to go through," Stage said. Her ministry said pressure from tech giants' business models was "too massive."

It follows a move in December in Australia, where parliament enacted the world's first ban on social media for children — setting the minimum age at 16.

That made platforms including TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit, X and Instagram subject to fines of up to 50 million Australian dollars (\$33 million) for systemic failures to prevent children younger than 16 from holding accounts.

Officials in Denmark didn't say how such a ban would be enforced in a world where millions of children have easy access to screens. But Stage noted that Denmark has a national electronic ID system — nearly all Danish citizens over age 13 have such an ID — and plans to set up an age-verification app. Several other EU countries are testing such apps.

"We cannot force the tech giants to use our app, but what we can do is force the tech giants to make proper age verification, and if they don't, we will be able to enforce through the EU commission and make sure that they will be fined up to 6% of their global income."

Aiming to shield kids from harmful content online

Many governments have been grappling with ways of limiting harmful fallout from online technologies, without overly squelching their promise. Stage said Denmark's legislative push was "not about excluding children from everything digital" — but keeping them away from harmful content.

China — which manufacturers many of the world's digital devices — has set limits on online game time and smart-phone time for kids.

Prosecutors in Paris this week announced an investigation into allegations that TikTok allows content promoting suicide and that its algorithms may encourage vulnerable young people to take their own lives.

"Children and young people have their sleep disrupted, lose their peace and concentration, and experience increasing pressure from digital relationships where adults are not always present," the Danish ministry said. "This is a development that no parent, teacher or educator can stop alone."

The EU's Digital Services Act, which took effect two years ago, forbids children younger than 13 to hold accounts on social media like TikTok and Instagram, video sharing platforms like YouTube and Twitch, and sites like Reddit and Discord, as well as AI companions.

Many social media platforms have for years banned anyone 13 or under from signing up for their services. TikTok users can verify their ages by submitting a selfie that will be analyzed to estimate their age. Meta Platforms, parent of Instagram and Facebook, says it uses a similar system for video selfies and AI to help figure out a user's age.

TikTok said in an email that it recognizes the importance of Denmark's initiative.

"At TikTok, we have steadfastly created a robust trust and safety track record, with more than 50 preset safety features for teen accounts, as well as age appropriate experiences and tools for guardians such as Family Pairing," a tool allowing parents, guardians, and teens to customize safety settings.

We look forward to working constructively on solutions that apply consistently across the industry," it added.

Meta didn't respond immediately to requests for comment from the AP.

"We've given the tech giants so many chances to stand up and to do something about what is happening on their platforms. They haven't done it," said Stage, the Danish minister. "So now we will take over the steering wheel and make sure that our children's futures are safe."

Supreme Court weighs longshot appeal to overturn decision legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A call to overturn the landmark Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide is on the agenda Friday for the justices' closed-door conference.

Among the new cases the justices are expected to consider is a longshot appeal from Kim Davis, the former Kentucky court clerk who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples following the court's 2015 ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

Davis had been trying to get the court to overturn a lower court order for her to pay \$360,000 in damages and attorney's fees to a couple whom she denied a marriage license.

The justices could say as early as Monday what they'll do.

In urging the court to take up her case, Davis' lawyers repeatedly invoked the words of Justice Clarence Thomas, who alone among the nine justices has called for erasing the same-sex marriage ruling.

Thomas was one of four dissenting justices in 2015. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito are the other dissenters who also remain on the court.

Roberts has been silent on the subject since he wrote a dissenting opinion in the case. Alito has continued to criticize the decision, but said recently he was not advocating that it be overturned.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who was not on the court in 2015, has said there are times when the court should correct mistakes and overturn decisions, as it did in the 2022 case that ended a constitutional right to abortion.

But Barrett has suggested recently that same-sex marriage might be in a different category than abortion because people have relied on the decision when they married and had children.

Davis drew national attention to eastern Kentucky's Rowan County when she turned away same-sex couples, saying her faith prevented her from complying with the high court ruling. She defied court orders to issue the licenses until a federal judge jailed her for contempt of court in September 2015.

She was released after her staff issued the licenses on her behalf but removed her name from the form. The Kentucky Legislature later enacted a law removing the names of all county clerks from state marriage licenses.

Davis lost a reelection bid in 2018.

Ex-NFL player Antonio Brown waives extradition on attempted murder charge, will return to Miami

By CURT ANDERSON Associated Press

Former NFL player Antonio Brown will return to Miami from a New Jersey jail after deciding not to contest his extradition to Florida on an attempted murder charge, officials said Friday.

Brown, 37, was brought to the jail in Essex County, New Jersey, after his arrest by U.S. Marshals in Dubai. He waived extradition at a brief court hearing Friday.

"Brown is back at the Essex County Jail in Newark where he is awaiting pick up by Florida authorities," said Carmen Martin, spokeswoman for the Essex County Prosecutor's Office.

According to an arrest warrant, Brown is accused of grabbing a handgun from a security staffer after a celebrity boxing match on May 16 and firing two shots at a man he had gotten into a fistfight with earlier. The victim, Zul-Qarnain Kwame Nantambu, told investigators one of the bullets grazed his neck.

"Cellphone video obtained from social media showed Mr. Brown with the firearm in his hand advancing toward Mr. Nantambu on the outside walk. The video captures two shots which occur as Mr. Brown is within several feet of Mr. Nantambu," the arrest affidavit says. "The video also captures Mr. Nantambu ducking after the first shot is heard."

Brown was not immediately arrested that night because initially police did not identify Nantambu as a victim. It wasn't until May 21 that Nantambu gave a full statement about the incident to police and identified Brown as the shooter, the affidavit says.

Based on his social media posts, Brown had been living in Dubai for several months. It wasn't immediately clear why it took investigators so long to arrest him, or why he was brought to New Jersey rather than Miami. It also wasn't clear from court or jail records if Brown has a lawyer.

In a social media post after the altercation, Brown said he was defending himself because he was "jumped by multiple individuals who tried to steal my jewelry and cause physical harm to me."

A second-degree attempted murder charge in Florida carries a maximum 15-year prison sentence and up to a \$10,000 fine in the event of a conviction.

Brown, who spent 12 years in the NFL, was an All-Pro wide receiver who last played in 2021 for Tampa Bay but spent most of his career with Pittsburgh. For his career, Brown had 928 receptions for more than 12,000 yards and 88 touchdowns. He was a seven-time Pro Bowl selection.

He was a key part of the Buccaneers team that defeated Kansas City in the 2021 Super Bowl, including a touchdown pass thrown by Tom Brady.

Brown has dealt with several legal problems over the years. He previously had been accused of battery of a moving truck driver, several domestic violence charges, failure to pay child support and other incidents.

During a 2021 game with Tampa Bay against the New York Jets, Brown took off his jersey, shoulder pads and gloves and ran off the field, leading to his release by the Buccaneers and effectively ending his football career.

Trump has accused boat crews of being narco-terrorists.

The truth, AP found, is more nuanced

By REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

GÜIRIA, Venezuela (AP) — One was a fisherman struggling to eke out a living on \$100 a month. Another was a career criminal. A third was a former military cadet. And a fourth was a down-on-his-luck bus driver.

The men had little in common beyond their Venezuelan seaside hometowns and the fact all four were among the more than 60 people killed since early September when the U.S. military began attacking boats that the Trump administration alleges were smuggling drugs. President Donald Trump and top U.S. officials have alleged the craft were being operated by narco-terrorists and cartel members bound with deadly drugs for American communities.

The Associated Press learned the identities of four of the men — and pieced together details about at

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least five others – who were slain, providing the first detailed account of those who died in the strikes.

In dozens of interviews in villages on Venezuela's breathtaking northeastern coast, from which some of the boats departed, residents and relatives said the dead men had indeed been running drugs but were not narco-terrorists or leaders of a cartel or gang.

Most of the nine men were crewing such craft for the first or second time, making at least \$500 per trip, residents and relatives said. They were laborers, a fisherman, a motorcycle taxi driver. Two were low-level career criminals. One was a well-known local crime boss who contracted out his smuggling services to traffickers.

The men lived on the Paria Peninsula, in mostly unpainted cinderblock homes that can go weeks without water service and regularly lose power for several hours a day. They awoke to panoramic views of a national park's tropical forests, the Gulf of Paria's shallows and the Caribbean's sparkling sapphire waters. When the time came for their drug runs, they boarded open-hulled fishing skiffs that relied on powerful outboard motors to haul their drugs to nearby Trinidad and other islands.

The residents and relatives interviewed by the AP requested anonymity out of fear of reprisals from drug smugglers, the Venezuelan government or the Trump administration. They said they were incensed that the men were killed without due process. In the past, their boats would have been interdicted by the U.S. authorities and the crewmen charged with federal crimes, affording them a day in court.

The U.S. government "should have stopped them," a man's relative said.

It has been difficult for relatives to learn much about their dead loved ones because criminal gangs and the Venezuelan government have long repressed the flow of information in the region.

Venezuelan officials have blasted the U.S. government over the strikes, and the nation's ambassador to the U.N. called the attacks "extrajudicial executions." They have also steadfastly denied that drug traffickers operate in the country and have yet to acknowledge that any of its citizens have been killed in boat strikes. Spokespeople for Venezuela's government did not respond to a request for comment.

The Trump administration has justified the strikes by declaring drug cartels to be "unlawful combatants" and said the U.S. is now in an "armed conflict" with them. Trump has said each sunken boat has saved 25,000 American lives, presumably from overdoses. The boats, however, appear to have been transporting cocaine, not the far more deadly synthetic opioids that kill tens of thousands of Americans each year.

Sean Parnell, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said in a statement to the AP that the Defense Department has "consistently said that our intelligence did indeed confirm that the individuals involved in these drug operations were narco-terrorists, and we stand by that assessment."

So far, the U.S. military has blown up 17 vessels, killing more than 60 people. Nine of the craft were targeted in the Caribbean, and at least three of those had departed from Venezuela, according to the Trump administration. The military is striking the boats at the same time the administration is applying increasing pressure on Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. The Justice Department doubled a reward for his arrest to \$50 million, and the U.S. military has built up an unusually large force in the Caribbean Sea and the waters off Venezuela and has flown pairs of supersonic, heavy bombers along the country's coast.

Relatives and acquaintances said they have confirmed the deaths through word-of-mouth and inexplicit social media posts that sought to convey information about the dead men without drawing the attention of Venezuelan authorities. They have also made what they described as reasonable deductions: The men have not returned phone calls or texts in weeks, or reached out to say they were OK; Venezuelan authorities, residents said, have also searched some of the homes of the dead men.

"I want an answer, but who can I ask?" said a relative of one of the men. "I can't say anything."

The fisherman

A native of Güiría, a village on the southeast side of the peninsula, Robert Sánchez dropped out of school as a teenager and like many others in the region became a fisherman like his father, according to friends and relatives. The 42-year-old was considered among the peninsula's best pilots, they said, having spent the better part of three decades mastering the area's currents and winds, so much so he could navigate the waters at night without instruments.

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As part of hired crews, the father of four spent his days fishing for snapper, kingfish and dogfish. The fisherman wanted to save enough money to buy a 75-horsepower boat engine so he could operate his own boat and not work for others. It was a dream Sánchez knew he was likely to never realize, relatives said: Most of his income — about \$100 a month — went to feed his children.

He was not alone in that situation.

The peninsula is part of Sucre state, one of Venezuela's poorest. Sucre was once home to several fish processing plants, an auto assembly plant and a large public university, all of which offered well-paying jobs. Most have shuttered. The peninsula is dotted by the unfulfilled promises of 26 years of a self-described socialist government, including an abandoned shipyard and the rusted infrastructure meant for a natural gas complex.

With its proximity to the Caribbean Sea, the area is a popular transit hub for cocaine making its way from Colombia to Trinidad and other Caribbean islands before heading to Europe. Colombian cocaine destined for the U.S. is generally smuggled out of Colombia through the Pacific coast.

The larger economic pressures — and Sánchez's goal of owning a boat engine — are what pushed the fisherman to accept an offer to help traffickers navigate the tricky waters he knew so well, friends and relatives said.

Sánchez had just finished offloading a day's catch last month when he told his mother he would be taking a short trip and would see her in a couple of days. They had no idea where he was going.

After seeing clips on social media that mentioned his death, relatives broke the news to his mother, but not until after ensuring she had taken her blood pressure medication. Sánchez's youngest son, a third grader, could not accept for days that his father was gone. He kept asking adults if his father could have survived the explosion, noting he might still be at sea.

No, the adults told the boy. His father was gone.

One of the first to die

Luis "Che" Martínez was killed in the first strike. A burly 60-year-old, Martínez was a longtime local crime boss, and he made most of his living smuggling drugs and people across borders, according to several people who knew him.

He had been jailed by Venezuelan authorities on human-trafficking charges after a boat he had operated capsized in December 2020, killing about two dozen people, law enforcement officials said at the time. Among those who died in the accident were two of his sons and a granddaughter, relatives told the AP. The AP was not able to determine the disposition of his criminal case, but Martínez was eventually released from custody and returned to smuggling people and drugs, according to acquaintances.

Though they detested what he did for a living — and the control Martínez and similar criminals exerted over their villages — several residents said they appreciated how Martínez contributed annually to the town's festival of the Virgin of the Valley, the patroness of fishermen, and he spent lavishly in local shops and restaurants. He also bet heavily on cockfights, a popular pastime, a bird breeder said.

Martínez was killed, a relative and several acquaintances said, in the first known U.S. strike, which took place Sept. 2. Trump quickly took to social media to claim the vessel had departed from Venezuela and had been carrying drugs. The 11-man crew, the president said, had been members of the Tren de Aragua gang. He said all of the men were killed and also posted a short video clip of a small vessel appearing to explode in flames.

Martínez's relatives said they did not believe the underworld figure was a member of that gang.

They said they have been provided no information from the Venezuelan government about his fate. They figured it out when they came across a photo of a body that had washed ashore in Trinidad. The photo had been shared on social media and messaging apps and depicted a badly mutilated body. The people familiar with Martínez said they knew instantly the stout corpse was Martínez because, on his left wrist, was strapped one of his most treasured belongings: an ostentatious watch.

The former cadet and bus driver

Dushak Milovcic, 24, was drawn to crime by the adrenaline rush and money, so much that he dropped out of the country's National Guard Academy, according to those who knew him. He started as a lookout

for smugglers, they said. Though he had no experience at sea, he eventually won a promotion to the more lucrative and coveted jobs on drug-running boats.

It's not clear how many trips he had undertaken before he was killed last month.

Juan Carlos "El Guaramero" Fuentes had operated a transit bus for several years but was facing dire financial circumstances when it had broken down. The government had been unable — or unwilling — to fix it. That meant he was losing money because bus drivers in Venezuela typically pocket a portion of the fares, making it nearly impossible for him to feed and clothe his family.

Villagers said they were not surprised that Fuentes, who had no nautical experience, turned to smuggling to make ends meet. The higher-level traffickers who typically crewed such boats had been staying ashore to avoid being targeted by U.S. missiles. In their place, villagers said, they had been increasingly hiring novices like Fuentes.

Fuentes told friends he had been nervous about his first smuggling run, knowing it would be filled with risks from weather, rival gangs, even the U.S. military. The September trip had gone surprisingly smoothly, he told friends, and he readily agreed to join another crew. Fuentes was killed in a missile strike last month, friends said, the precise one unknown.

Multiple explosions shake a mosque in an Indonesian high school and injure 54

By NINIEK KARMINI Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian authorities said Friday they have identified a 17-year-old boy as the suspect in an attack that shook a mosque at a high school in the capital, Jakarta, injuring at least 54 people, mostly students.

Witnesses told local television stations that they heard at least two loud blasts around midday, just as the sermon had started at Friday prayers, from inside and outside the mosque at SMA 72, a state high school within a navy compound in Jakarta's northern Kelapa Gading neighborhood.

Students and others ran out in panic as gray smoke filled the mosque.

Police said they had recovered a toy submachine gun belonging to the suspect and inscribed with what appeared to be white supremacist slogans. However, they brushed away speculation that the blasts were a terror attack.

"The suspect is a 17-year-old male student" who was undergoing surgery, Deputy House Speaker Sufmi Dasco Ahmad told reporters after visiting victims at a hospital. He gave no more details.

National Police Chief Listyo Sigit said the suspect was one of two students having surgery for injuries from the blasts.

"Our personnel are currently conducting an in-depth investigation to determine the suspect's identity and the environment where he lives, including his house and others," Sigit told a news conference at the presidential palace in Jakarta.

References to Christchurch attack

Sigit said investigators are still collecting information to determine a motive, including how the suspect was able to assemble a toy submachine gun with words inscribed on it including "14 words. For Agartha," and "Brenton Tarrant: Welcome to hell."

"14 words" is generally a reference to a white supremacist slogan, while Brenton Tarrant is the perpetrator of a 2019 mass shooting at a mosque and Islamic center in Christchurch, New Zealand, that killed 51 and injured dozens of others.

"We discovered the weapon was a toy gun with specific markings, which we are also investigating to understand the motive, including how he assembled it and carried out the attack," Sigit said.

Most of the victims suffered burns and injuries from flying glass. The type of explosives used was not immediately known but the blasts came from near the mosque's loudspeaker, according to Jakarta Police Chief Asep Edi Suheri.

He warned against speculation that the incident was a terror attack before the police investigation is

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completed.

Police confirmed they were looking into reports in local media that the suspect was a grade 12 student who had been bullied and wanted revenge by carrying out what was intended to be a suicide attack.

"We are still investigating the possibility that bullying was a factor that motivated the suspect to carry out the attack," Jakarta Police's spokesperson Budi Hermanto told reporters late Friday.

"There are several obstacles in obtaining information from witnesses as they are also victims who need medical treatment to recover," Hermanto said, adding that authorities are providing "trauma healing" for students and teachers.

He revised the number of people injured to 54 instead of 55 as police said earlier, saying most of the victims were standing close to the loudspeaker and suffered hearing loss from the blasts inside the mosque. About 33 students remain hospitalized in two hospitals for burns and wounds from blast fragments.

Hermanto said the capital is safe and security is under control, and he urged people not to be anxious. Families gather at hospitals

Videos circulating on social media showed dozens of students in school uniform running in panic across the school's basketball court, some covering their ears with their hands, apparently to protect themselves from the blasts.

Some of the injured were carried on stretchers to waiting cars.

Shocked relatives gathered at centers set up at Yarsi and Cempaka Putih hospitals to seek information about their loved ones. Parents told television stations their children had wounds from being hit in the head, feet and hands by sharp nails and pieces of exploding objects.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, was struck by a major militant attack in 2002 when al-Qaida staged bombings on the resort island of Bali that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists.

In subsequent years, there have been mostly smaller, less deadly strikes that have targeted the government, police and anti-terrorism forces, as well as those considered infidels by militant groups.

Friday's attack was not the first mosque attack. In 2011, a Muslim militant blew himself up in a mosque at a police compound in Cirebon packed with officers during Friday prayers, injuring 30 people.

In December 2022, a Muslim militant and convicted bombmaker who was released from prison the previous year blew himself up at a police station in West Java, killing an officer and wounding 11 people.

Since 2023, the Southeast Asian nation has experienced what authorities call a "zero attack phenomenon." Security experts say the government is responsible for the stable situation.

Republican US Rep. Elise Stefanik is running for governor of New York

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, a close Republican ally of President Donald Trump, announced Friday that she's running for governor of New York, a place she depicted in a campaign launch video as being "in ashes" because of lawlessness and a high cost of living.

In her video, a narrator declares "The Empire State has fallen" as it paints a grim picture of urban, liberal leadership and life in New York City, though the message appeared to be aimed at audiences in other, more conservative parts of the state.

Her candidacy sets up a potential battle with Gov. Kathy Hochul, a centrist Democrat, though both candidates would have to first clear the field of any intraparty rivals before next November's election.

Stefanik, 41, has teased a run for months, often castigating Hochul, 67, as the "worst governor in America." She's also assailed Hochul for endorsing the ascendent, democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani, now the mayor-elect of New York City.

In a written statement, Stefanik said she is running to make "New York affordable and safe for families all across our great state."

"Our campaign will unify Republicans, Democrats, and Independents to Fire Kathy Hochul once and for all to Save New York," she said.

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Hochul's campaign released its own attack ad Friday against the Republican, dubbing her "Sellout Stefanik," and blamed her for enabling Trump's tariffs and federal funding cuts to education and health care.

"Apparently, screwing over New Yorkers in Congress wasn't enough — now she's trying to bring Trump's chaos and skyrocketing costs to our state," said Hochul campaign spokesperson Sarafina Chitika.

Representing a conservative congressional district in northern New York, Stefanik had once been a pragmatic and moderate Republican who would avoid uttering Trump's name, simply calling him "my party's presidential nominee."

But in recent years she has reshaped herself into a brash disciple and ardent defender of Trump's MAGA movement, rising through the ranks of the Republican Party's congressional hierarchy as it molded to Trump's political style.

Last year, Stefanik was tapped to become the president's ambassador to the United Nations, though her nomination was later pulled over concerns about her party's tight margins in the House. She then began to angle toward a run for governor, and very quickly got a public nod of support from Trump.

Her announcement video, which was titled "From the Ashes," casts New York as a dangerous place plagued by "migrant crime" and economic crisis, placing the blame on "Kathy Hochul's failed policies," as urgent, ominous music plays in the background.

New York City police officials have long touted drops in crime and this week said the city is in its eighth consecutive quarter of major crime decline.

The Republican primary field remains unclear ahead of the 2026 race.

On Long Island, Republican Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman has said he's weighing a run for governor. In a statement Friday, he said he has "tremendous respect" for Stefanik but that the GOP needs to nominate a candidate who has "broad based appeal with independents and common sense Democrats."

"The party must nominate the candidate with the best chance to defeat Kathy Hochul and I have been urged by business, community and political leaders across the state to make the run and I am seriously considering it," said Blakeman, who handily won reelection to another four-year term on Tuesday.

U.S. Rep. Mike Lawler had been contemplating a run but instead decided to seek reelection in his battleground House district in the Hudson Valley.

Hochul faces a contested primary, with her own lieutenant governor, Antonio Delgado, running against her.

Democrats have a major voter registration edge in New York. The state's last Republican governor was former Gov. George Pataki, who left office about two decades ago.

Still, Republican Lee Zeldin, a former Long Island congressman and current head of the Environmental Protection Agency, made a serious run for the office in 2022, coming within striking distance of upsetting Hochul.

European Union vessel reaches ship raided by pirates off Somalia; all 24 crew on board safe

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A European Union naval force on Friday reached a Malta-flagged tanker earlier attacked by pirates off the coast of Somalia, finding all its 24 mariners safe after an assault that raised renewed fears about piracy in the region.

The seizure of the Hellas Aphrodite, carrying a load of gasoline from India to South Africa, ended as the ESPS Victoria came alongside the vessel.

Special forces from the Spanish frigate boarded the tanker and released the 24 crew members who had locked themselves inside the ship's citadel when the attack began Thursday, said the EU's Operation Atalanta, an anti-piracy coalition.

Operation Atalanta said "an early show of force" by the Victoria encouraged the pirates to flee the vessel, without elaborating. The operation included a helicopter, a drone and another aircraft alongside the frigate.

"The threat assessment in the area surrounding the incident remains critical," Operation Atalanta warned. "The mother ship and the pirates remain in the area. A coordinated joint operation is ongoing to intercept

the dhow used in this attack.”

The private security firm Diaplous Group said the Victoria would remain alongside the Hellas Aphrodite until it could restart its engines and sail away.

The pirates fired machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in their assault Thursday. Tracking data analyzed by The Associated Press showed the tanker over 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) off the Somali coast Friday.

As the vessel rushed to the scene, the British military’s United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center warned of another incident in the same area on Friday. The UKMTO said a small vessel carrying three people, believed to be part of the same pirate group responsible for the seizure of the Hellas Aphrodite, tried to get close to another ship, but the ship outran the pirate vessel.

The attack on the Hellas Aphrodite comes after another vessel, the Cayman Islands-flagged Stolt Saga-land, was targeted Monday in a suspected pirate attack that saw its armed security force and the attackers shooting at each other, the EU force said. Other incidents also have been linked to the same pirate gang, believed to be operating from an Iranian fishing boat it earlier seized.

Piracy off the Somali coast peaked in 2011, when 237 attacks were reported. Somali piracy in the region in 2011 cost the world’s economy some \$7 billion, with \$160 million paid out in ransoms, according to the Oceans Beyond Piracy monitoring group.

The threat was diminished by increased international naval patrols, a strengthening central government in Somalia, and other efforts.

However, Somali pirate attacks have resumed at a greater pace over the last year, in part due to the insecurity caused by Yemen’s Houthi rebels launching attacks in the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

In 2024, there were seven reported incidents off Somalia, according to the International Maritime Bureau. So far this year, multiple fishing boats have been seized by Somali pirates. The Hellas Aphrodite represents the first commercial ship seized by pirates off Somalia since May 2024.

Local fisherman Osman Abdi, who lives in Mogadishu, said pirate attacks fueled fear and caused stigma for his nation.

“Since the pirates have committed hijackings today, it creates a problem for us,” Abdi said. “Their actions could be held against us, as many will consider us fishers to be pirates as well, and that instills fear in us.”

China seeks to project power far beyond its coast with the new Fujian aircraft carrier

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — China has commissioned its latest aircraft carrier after extensive sea trials, state media reported Friday, adding a ship that experts say will help what is already the world’s largest navy expand its power farther beyond its own waters.

The official Xinhua news agency said the Fujian had been commissioned Wednesday at a naval base on southern China’s Hainan island in a ceremony attended by top leader Xi Jinping.

The Fujian is China’s third carrier and the first that it both designed and built itself. It is perhaps the most visible example so far of Xi’s massive military overhaul and expansion that aims to have a modernized force by 2035 and one that is “world class” by mid century — which most take to mean capable of going toe-to-toe with the United States.

With it, Beijing takes another step toward closing the gap with the U.S. Navy and its carrier fleet and network of bases that allow it to maintain a presence around the world.

“Carriers are key to Chinese leadership’s vision of China as a great power with a blue-water navy,” or one that can project power far from its coastal waters, said Greg Poling, director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

China wants to contest waters as far as Guam

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For China's navy, one goal is to dominate the near waters of the South China Sea, East China Sea and Yellow Sea around the so-called First Island Chain, which runs south through Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines. But deeper into the Pacific, it also wants to be able to contest control of the Second Island Chain, where the U.S. has important military facilities on Guam and elsewhere, Poling said.

"A carrier doesn't really help you in the First Island Chain, but it's key to that contest, if you want one, with the Americans in the wider Indo-Pacific," Poling said.

China's "increasingly capable military" and ability to "project power globally" is one of the reasons the Pentagon in its latest report to Congress continued to call it "the only competitor to the United States with the intent and, increasingly, the capacity to reshape the international order."

At the same time, it is Beijing's right to "transform its navy into a blue-water strategic navy commensurate with China's national strength," said Song Zhongping, a Hong Kong-based military affairs expert.

"China's carriers cannot just operate near home, they must operate in the distant oceans and far seas to carry out various training and support missions," Song said. "China is a great power and our overseas interests span the globe; we need to be globally present."

News that the Fujian had been commissioned was met with wariness in nearby Japan. Minoru Kihara, a former defense minister and now chief cabinet secretary in Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's new government, said it underscores that China is "extensively and rapidly strengthening its military power without transparency."

"We believe that China's military intends to advance its operational capability at distant sea and air by strengthening sea power," he told reporters, emphasizing that Japan was watching China's military activity and would "calmly but decisively respond" if necessary.

One possibility that raises concerns in foreign capitals is a possible Chinese blockade or invasion of the democratically self-governed island of Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory and which leader Xi Jinping has not ruled out taking by force.

Though the island sits right off of China's coast, if China had the ability to position an aircraft carrier group or groups around the Second Island Chain — between Taiwan and the U.S. Pacific Fleet headquarters in Hawaii — that could delay possible American military assistance in the event of a Chinese attack.

"They want those aircraft carriers to play a part in kind of extending the strategic perimeter farther out from China, and one of the important things that an aircraft carrier can do is extend the range of China's domain awareness to keep an eye on activities in the air, on the sea, and below the sea," said Brian Hart, deputy director of CSIS's China Power Project

With the Fujian, China's warplanes can deploy far from its shores

China's first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, was Soviet made and its second, the Shandong, was built in China but based on the Soviet model. Both use older-style ski-jump type systems to help planes take flight.

The Fujian skips past the steam catapult technology used on most American carriers to employ an electromagnetic launch system found only on the latest U.S. Navy Ford-class carriers.

The system causes less stress to the aircraft and the ship, allows for more precise control over speed and can launch a wider range of aircraft than the steam system. Compared to the ski-jump system, it gives China the ability to launch heavier aircraft, with full fuel loads, like the KJ-600 early warning and control plane, which it successfully tested during its sea trials.

Its latest J-35 stealth fighter and J-15T heavy fighter were also launched from the Fujian, giving the new carrier "full-deck operation capability" according to the Chinese navy.

The ability to carry its own reconnaissance aircraft means unlike its first two carriers, it won't be operating blind when out of the range of land-based support, giving it the ability to operate its most advanced aircraft far afield including the Second Island Chain.

"The Fujian carrier is a big leapfrog for China in terms of the capabilities of its aircraft carriers compared to the first two," Hart said .

China's carriers aren't nuclear powered, limiting their range

Still, Hart noted, China's navy lags behind the U.S. in several significant ways.

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Numerically it only has three carriers compared to the U.S. Navy's 11, and while China's carriers are all conventionally powered, the U.S.'s are all nuclear powered which means they can operate almost indefinitely without being refueled — dramatically increasing their range. The Ford-class carrier, of which only one is currently in service but more are being built, is also larger, can carry more aircraft on its flight deck, and has a third elevator that means it can move more aircraft from lower deck hangars in less time.

China also lags behind the U.S. in guided missile cruisers and destroyers, which are critical in providing air and submarine defense and support for larger naval groups, as well as nuclear-powered submarines.

The U.S. is also ahead in vertical launching system cells — basically the systems for holding and launching missiles from ships — which is a measure of how much firepower vessels can carry, though China is increasing that capacity, Hart said.

Beyond just equipment, China lacks the network of overseas bases that the U.S. has, which are critical for resupplying carriers and also providing alternative runways should aircraft not be able to return safely to the carrier.

China is working on expanding its foreign bases, however, and has a nuclear propulsion system for a carrier in development.

There's also evidence that China is already building another carrier. Chinese shipyards have the capabilities to build more than one at once and have also been churning out other new vessels at a pace the U.S. can't currently come close to matching.

"Really across the board, China's closing the gap," Hart said.

"They're fielding and building more aircraft carriers, they're fielding more nuclear-powered subs, they are fielding more, larger destroyers and other vessels that carry a larger number of missiles. So they're really catching up."

The Fujian is just one of China's latest military assets

China has happily shown off its new military assets, releasing video of the KJ-600, J-35 and J-15T test flights from the Fujian.

A World War II Victory Day parade at the start of September showcased all three aircraft along with hypersonic glide vehicles — whose high-speed, maneuverability and other attributes make them more difficult to intercept than traditional ballistic missiles — aerial and underwater drones and electronic warfare systems.

Sophisticated new equipment does not necessarily translate to military readiness, however, said Singapore-based analyst Tang Meng Kit, who noted that China hasn't fought a war since 1979 and that the carefully choreographed parade was good at "amplifying perceptions of strength."

"It is possible that China's capabilities are overstated, as real-world operational readiness lags behind its showcased arsenal," he told the AP.

He also cautioned in a recent analysis for the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore that it would be a mistake to see China's military modernization as simply geared toward a possible Taiwan invasion, which he said is only one part of a "larger mosaic."

The parade "signaled China's broader strategic intent, which is to deter major powers, pressure regional actors, expand its global influence, and reinforce its domestic legitimacy," he said.

Today in History: November 8, Florida election recount begins

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Saturday, Nov. 8, the 312th day of 2025. There are 53 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 8, 2000, a statewide recount began in Florida, which emerged as critical in deciding the winner of the 2000 presidential election between Republican George W. Bush and Democratic Vice President Al Gore. The recount would officially end on Dec. 12 upon orders from the U.S. Supreme Court, delivering Florida's electoral votes and the presidency to Bush.

Also on this date:

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In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln won reelection as he defeated Democratic challenger George B. McClellan.

In 1889, Montana was admitted to the Union as the 41st state.

In 1923, Adolf Hitler launched his first attempt at seizing power in Germany with a failed coup in Munich that came to be known as the "Beer-Hall Putsch."

In 1942, the Allies launched Operation Torch in World War II as U.S. and British forces landed in French North Africa.

In 1950, during the Korean War, the first air-to-air combat between jet warplanes took place as U.S. Air Force Lt. Russell J. Brown shot down a North Korean MiG-15.

In 1960, John F. Kennedy won the U.S. presidential election over Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

In 1974, a federal judge in Cleveland, citing insufficient evidence, dismissed charges against eight Ohio National Guardsmen accused of violating the civil rights of students killed or wounded in the 1970 Kent State shootings.

In 2012, Jared Lee Loughner was sentenced to life in prison without parole for the January 2011 shootings in Tucson, Arizona, that killed six people and wounded 13 others, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful storms ever recorded, slammed into the central Philippines, leaving more than 7,300 people dead or missing, flattening villages and displacing more than 5 million.

In 2016, Republican Donald Trump was elected America's 45th president, defeating Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton in an astonishing victory for a celebrity businessman and political novice.

In 2018, tens of thousands of people fled a fast-moving wildfire in Northern California that would become the state's deadliest ever, killing 86 people and nearly destroying the community of Paradise.

Today's Birthdays: Racing Hall of Fame jockey Angel Cordero Jr. is 83. Singer Bonnie Raitt is 76. TV personality Mary Hart is 75. Actor Alfre Woodard is 73. Singer-songwriter Rickie Lee Jones is 71. Nobel Prize-winning author Kazuo Ishiguro is 71. Filmmaker Richard Curtis is 69. Chef and TV personality Gordon Ramsay is 59. Actor Courtney Thorne-Smith is 58. Actor Parker Posey is 57. Actor Gretchen Mol is 53. News anchor David Muir is 52. Actor Matthew Rhys is 51. Actor Tara Reid is 50. TV personality Jack Osbourne is 40. Actor Jessica Lowndes is 37. Baseball player Giancarlo Stanton is 36. R&B singer SZA is 36.