

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 1 of 71

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- We the People Column: Trump's Self-Aggrandizing Pardon of Crypto King Makes the Case for Constitutional Reform](#)
- [3- Three Teams Lead NEC All-Conference Volleyball Selections](#)
- [3- 2025 Frosty Clues](#)
- [4- Groton Legion Ad](#)
- [5- Afternoon contest slips away from Northern State](#)
- [6- Bowling Scores](#)
- [7- Groton Author Brock Abeln Releases Inspiring True-Life Memoir — A Powerful Christmas Gift of Faith and Perseverance](#)
- [8- Sunday Extras](#)
- [26- Gov. Rhoden's Weekly Column](#)
- [27- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [28- Rep. Dusty Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [29- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [31- South Dakota Average Gas Prices](#)
- [32- Drought Monitor](#)
- [33- EarthTalk - Jaguars](#)
- [34- SD SearchLight: South Dakota members of Congress stand by as Trump's deadly strikes continue](#)
- [35- SD SearchLight: After US Supreme Court decision, South Dakota pauses plan to pay full SNAP benefits](#)
- [36- SD SearchLight: High prison death toll continues after 33-year-old man found unresponsive in cell](#)
- [37- Weather Pages](#)
- [41- Daily Devotional](#)
- [42- Upcoming Events](#)
- [42- Subscription Form](#)
- [43- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [44- News from the Associated Press](#)

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.

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

© 2025 Groton Daily Independent

We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

Trump's Self-Aggrandizing Pardon of Crypto King Makes the Case for Constitutional Reform

In a wide-ranging interview with "60 Minutes" on November 2, President Donald Trump pretended that he did not know the Binance founder, Changpeng Zhao, the cryptocurrency billionaire whom he pardoned, even though in 2023 Zhao had pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four months in prison for violating the Bank Secrecy Act for failing to implement anti-money laundering procedures. For those who think this a minor or vanilla offense, consider that the United States government had accused him of inflicting "significant harm to US national security," and said that he had "violated US law on an unprecedented scale." In the pursuit of profit, Binance's money-laundering acts had allowed "money to flow to terrorists, cybercriminals and child abusers through its platform." The terrorists included Hamas and al-Qaida. Why did Trump pardon such a criminal?

Trump said he had been told that the prosecution of the crypto king was an example of a "Biden witch hunt." Trump said that Zhao "was treated really badly by the Biden administration," although he claimed that he had "no idea who he is," but acknowledged, in the same breath, that "he is a successful guy." Skeptics doubt Trump's explanation. How about self-aggrandizement as a motive for Trump's pardon of Zhao? Zhao's company has had business dealings with World Liberty Financial, a cryptocurrency company owned by Trump's son's, Eric and Donald Jr. While seeking a pardon, Zhao hired lawyers and lobbyists with connections to the Trump Administration and struck a deal with Trump's sons that was expected to generate tens of millions of dollars a year for the Trump family for years to come.

When "60 Minutes" host, Nora O'Donnell, asked Trump if he was concerned about "appearance of corruption," Trump replied, "I'd rather not have you ask the question. But I let you ask it." Trump stood alongside his sons in 2024 when they rolled out the family's cryptocurrency business. The specter of self-aggrandizement, or more pointedly stated, a "pay to play" pardon raises anew the need to amend the Constitution to check the constitutional grant of the pardoning authority to the president.

Various presidents have granted pardons that rightly faced backlash. When Gerald Ford pardoned Richard Nixon in 1974 for "all" the offenses that "he has committed or may have committed" since his election, Ford sought, in his words, to free the nation from the paralysis of Watergate and spare Nixon from potential prosecution and his family further humiliation. Ford declared to America: the rule of law has prevailed. On the contrary, the Nixon pardon foiled the application of the rule of law. If, and when, Nixon had been tried and convicted for his illegal acts, perhaps Ford might have found grounds to pardon the humiliated ex-president, but all he accomplished in granting a pre-trial pardon to Nixon was to spare the Watergate president. Americans were deprived of the opportunity of learning whether the rule of law and the criminal justice system could bring an errant president to heel, and whether the rule of law would enjoy widespread support when a president is forced to stand criminal trial.

The Nixon pardon, alone, it seemed to me years ago, was sufficient to justify a constitutional amendment to place checks on the presidential pardoning authority. In a peer reviewed, scholarly article, I argued in favor of Sen. Walter Mondale's proposal in 1974 for a constitutional amendment that would arm Congress with the power to check presidential pardons that seemed, well, unpardonable. Mondale's proposal

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 3 of 71

stated: "No pardon granted to an individual by the President under Section 2, Article II, shall be effective if Congress by resolution, two-thirds of the members of each House concurring therein, disapproves the granting of the pardon within the 180 days of its issuance."

In practice, few presidential pardons would be so worrisome to Congress that members would intervene to block it. Only controversial pardons would draw deep concern from Congress. Trump's pardon of Zhao is such a pardon. His self-aggrandizing exercise of a constitutional power intended to temper justice, is so fraught with conflicts of interest that it demands enactment of the Mondale proposal. A Congress suspicious of the motives behind a pardon to a convicted criminal that coincides with his investments to enrich a president's family invites scrutiny. The specter of corruption at the center of the Trump pardon of Zhao deserves scrutiny, even without the Mondale proposal.

David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota NewsMedia Association and this newspaper.

Three Teams Lead NEC All-Conference Volleyball Selections

The Northeast Conference has announced its all-conference volleyball team, with the league's three tri-champions leading the way in representation. Groton Area, Hamlin, and Clark-Willow Lake each placed three players on the honor squad, underscoring the depth and balance that carried them to the top of the standings this season.

For Groton Area, honorees include Chesney Weber, Jerica Locke, and Rylee Dunker. Hamlin is represented by Addie Neuendorf, Addie Jensen, and Issie Steffensen. Clark-Willow Lake's selections are Shelby Begeman, Ella Sass, and Zoe Nichols.

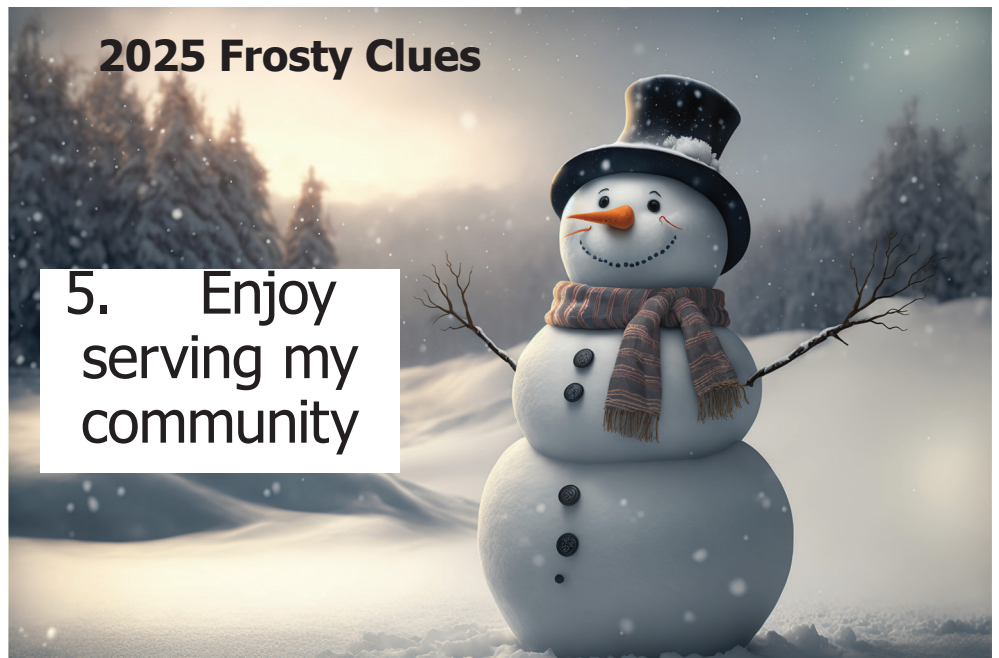
Other players earning NEC All-Conference recognition this fall include Rylee Voeller and Elyana Roach (Aberdeen Roncalli); Jaelee Grupe (Britton-Hecla); Ella Kerkvliet (Deuel); Avery Schuneman (Milbank); Hayden Gall (Redfield); and Mallory Steiner (Webster). Sisseton and Tiospa Zina did not have selections this season.

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

5. Enjoy serving my community



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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 5 of 71

Afternoon contest slips away from Northern State

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University football team closed out their home slate on Saturday, falling to Minot State University. The Beavers held the ball for nearly 48 minutes of the contest, making it difficult for the Wolves offense to get in a rhythm.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 28, MiSU 49

Records: NSU 6-4 (5-4 NSIC), MiSU 3-7 (3-6 NSIC)

Attendance: 3957

HOW IT HAPPENED

Minot State scored on the opening drive of the contest, ticking nearly 12 minutes off the clock in their scoring pursuit

The Wolves responded with a touchdown of their own, tying the game on a Daniel Britt to Zach Jorgensen, 24-yard reception

The Beavers tallied two touchdowns in the second and held the Wolves scoreless, entering the half with a 7-21 lead

Northern chipped away to kick-off the third on a 3-yard rushing touchdown by Wyatt Block, his sixth of the season

Minot State again responded with a pair of rushing touchdowns at 6:50 in the third and 12:09 in the fourth

Britt connected with Cooper Eisenbeisz at 10:19 in the fourth on a 23-yard, trick-play touchdown, cutting the Beaver lead to 14

MiSU pulled away as the quarter ran down, notching a 35-yard rushing score at 3:05 and 83-yard fumble recovery with under a minute

Daniel Porisch scored Northern's final touchdown of the afternoon, a 1-yard rush and the first touchdown of his career with 1:12 on the clock

Each team tallied 24 first downs in the contest, however Minot State led the game with 301 yards rushing

The Wolves tallied 156 yards rushing and led the game with 278 yards receiving and 434 yards of total offense

Northern converted 2-of-the-3 times they entered the red-zone, while Minot State went a perfect 4-for-4

Daniel Britt threw for 224 yards and rushed for 54, while Brock Bagozzi tallied 54 yards passing and 15 yards rushing

The trio of seniors Carter Campbell, Zach Jorgensen, and Trey Birdsong recorded 54 yards receiving apiece in the game

Javonnee Szymanski led four Wolves with double figure tackles, notching 15, including nine solo stops and one tackle for a loss

Elijah Jopp followed with 12 tackles (9 solo stops), while Cooper Logan and Kaydn Turnbow notched ten each

Jeremy Caruso went 4-for-4 in PATs and averaged 58.0 yards per kickoff

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Daniel Britt: 224 yards passing, 2 touchdowns, 54 yards rushing

Wyatt Block: 86 yards rushing, 1 touchdown

Javonnee Szymanski: 15 tackles (career high), 1.0 tackle for a loss

Elijah Jopp: 12 tackles

UP NEXT

Northern will close out the regular season next Saturday at the University of Jamestown. Kick-off is set for 1 p.m. on November 15 against the Jimmies.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 6 of 71

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League

Week #1 Team Standings: Foxes 3, Cheetahs 3, Shihtzus 2, Jackelopes 2, Chipmunks 1, Coyotes 1

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 185, Ron Belden & Randy Stanley 179, John Sippel 177

Women's High Games: Suzie Easthouse 226 & 183, Vicki Jorgensen 174, Sam Bahr 166

Men's High Series: John Sippel 504, Brad Waage 496, Randy Stanley 474

Women's High Series: Suzie Easthouse 557, Sam Bahr 449, Vicki Jorgensen 434

Conde National League

Nov. 3 Team Standings: Stooges 21, Mets 20, Giants 19, Cubs 18, Braves 16, Pirates 14

Men's High Games: Skip Klapperich 184, Chad Furney 167, Butch Farmen 157

Men's High Series: Skip Klapperich 470, Chad Furrney 439, Austin Schuelke 437

Women's High Games: Vickie Kramp 179, Sam Bahr 175, Suzi Easthouse 171

Women's High Series: Suzi Easthouse 493, Vickie Kramp 455, Sam Bahr 413

Oct. 27 Team Standings: Giants 18, Stooges 18, Mets 17, Cubs 15, Braves 15, Pirates 13

Men's High Games: Dion Bahr 181, Chad Furney 177, Dalton Locke 155

Men's High Series: Dion Bahr 460, Chad Furney 434, Skip Kettering 416

Women's High Games: Alice Severson 167, Suzi Easthouse 164, Vickie Kramp 164, Deb Schuelke 162

Women's High Series: Suzi Easthouse 473, Vickie Kramp 434, Deb Schuelke 429

Oct. 20 Team Standings: Stooges 17, Mets 15, Cubs 15, Giants 14, Braves 12, Pirates 11

Men's High Games: Jeff Wacholz 173, Butch Farmen 171, Austin Schuelke 170, Dion Bahr 170

Men's High Series: Jeff Wacholz 488, Butch Farmen 461, Dion Bahr 444

Women's High Games: Alice Severson 198, Suzi Easthouse 175, Sam Bahr 169

Women's High Series: Alice Severson 483, Suzi Easthouse 480, Sam Bahr 429

Oct. 13 Team Standings: Stooges 15, Mets 14, Cubs 14, Giants 11, Braves 9, Pirates 9

Men's High Games: Skip Kettering 180, Dion Bahr 176, Porter Johnson 167

Men's High Series: Dion Bahr 469, Porter Johnson 457, Skip Kettering 446

Women's High Games: Sandy Hoops 207, Deb Schuelke 167, Suzi Easthouse 155

Women's High Series: Sandy Hoops 479, Suzi Easthouse 428, Vickie Kramp 414

Oct. 6 Team Standings: Mets 13, Stooges 11, Cubs 11, Giants 9, Pirates 9, Braves 7

Men's High Games: Skip Kettering 190, Austin Schuelke 181, Chad Furney 170

Men's High Series: Skip Kettering 476, Chad Furney 433, Dalton Locke 430

Women's High Games: Sandy Hoops 176, Suzi Easthouse 169, Nancy Radke 156

Women's High Series: Suzi Easthouse 479, Sandy Hoops 468, Sam Bahr 436

Sept. 22 Team Standings: Cubs 10, Mets 8, Braves 6, Giants 5, Stooges 4, Pirates 3

Men's High Games: Butch Farman 201, Chad Furney 200, Skip Kettering 185

Men's High Series: Butch Farmen 615, Chad Furney 461, Skip Kettering 452

Women's High Games: Suzi Easthouse 185, Sam Bahr 178, Deb Schuelke 175

Women's High Series: Sam Bahr 494, Suzi Easthouse 480, Vickie Kramp 473

Sept. 15 Team Standings: Braves 6, Cubs 6, Mets 4, Stooges 4, Giants 3, Pirates 1

Men's High Games: Chad Furney 200, Skip Kettering 185, Dion Bahr 165

Men's High Series: Chad Furney 461, Skip Kettering 452, Dion Bahr 433

Women's High Games: Suzi Easthouse 185, Sam Bahr 178, Vickie Kramp 171

Women's High Series: Sam Bahr 494, Suzi Easthouse 480, Vickie Kramp 473

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 7 of 71

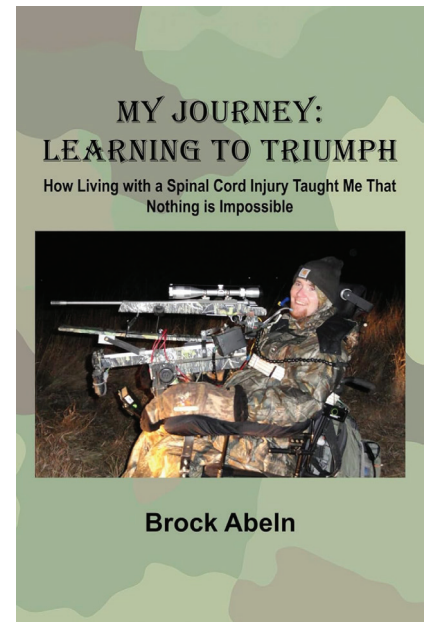
Groton Author Brock Abeln Releases Inspiring True-Life Memoir — A Powerful Christmas Gift of Faith and Perseverance

A powerful story of courage, faith, and determination is now available just in time for Christmas giving. "My Journey: Learning to Triumph" by Brock Abeln shares the remarkable true story of a small-town young man whose life changed in an instant — and how he refused to let adversity define his future.

Growing up in rural South Dakota, Abeln loved the outdoors, hunting, and the simplicity of small-town life. At age seventeen, he was looking forward to his senior year of high school and the future ahead. But just one month before classes began, a traumatic work-related accident left him a quadriplegic, paralyzed from the shoulders down.

Suddenly faced with unimaginable challenges and an uncertain road ahead, Abeln could have given up. Instead, he leaned on faith, family, and the support of his community — and found strength to keep moving forward, rebuilding his life one determined step at a time.

His new book takes readers inside his journey — the medical battles, the emotional highs and lows, the moments of doubt, and the victories that came through perseverance and God's grace.



"With the true power of God, determination, and a positive attitude, nothing is impossible." – Brock Abeln

Early readers have praised the book, earning it a 5-star rating on Amazon. One reviewer, Tina Carman, wrote:

"A very well-written book; it kept me turning pages all the way through in one sitting! Brock went through what the average person would say is hopeless and he found hope! Faced death multiple times and beat it! ... I really respect that he addresses mental health in the book and encourages people to get help when they need it. ... I love that he acknowledges God's grace and gives Him glory; as well as thanking his family and caregivers. One can't travel the road that he is and be successful without a strong support system."

Through every chapter, Abeln's story reflects courage, positivity, and unwavering belief that life's greatest trials can shape us into stronger, more faithful people. His journey shows what can happen when community, faith, and hope come together.

Filled with gratitude, inspiration, and testimony to God's strength, "My Journey: Learning to Triumph" is a heartfelt reminder that even when life changes in an instant, our purpose and spirit can remain unshaken.

This uplifting book makes a meaningful Christmas gift for anyone seeking encouragement, faith-based inspiration, or a powerful reminder of the resilience of the human spirit.

"My Journey: Learning to Triumph" is available on Amazon, and at Lori's Pharmacy in Groton and at Novel Ideas, 410 South Main Street, Aberdeen, SD.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 8 of 71



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



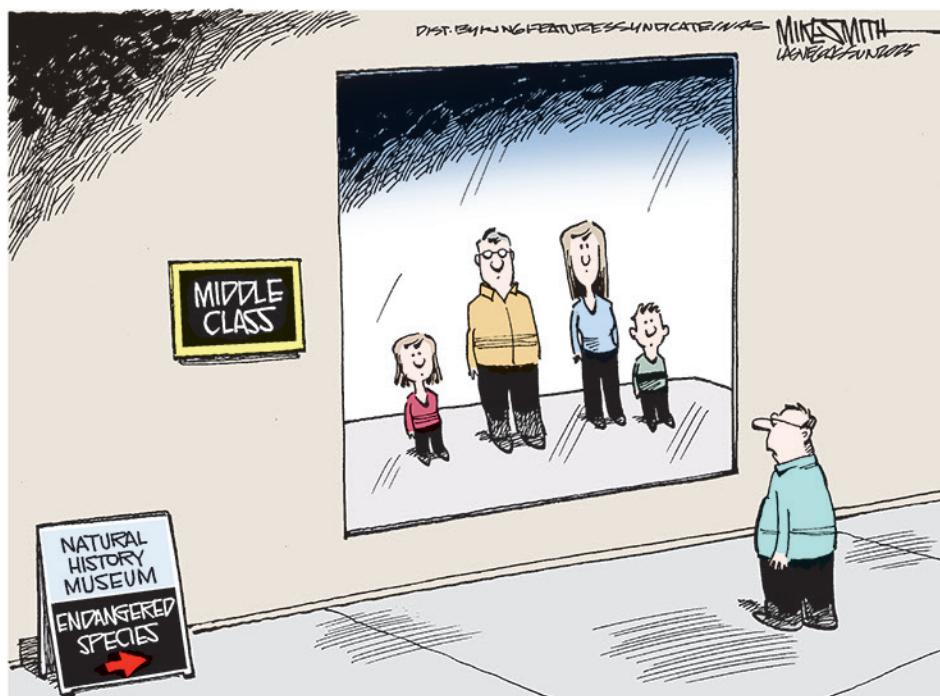
*The Lord is good, a stronghold
in the day of trouble;*

*and He knows
those who trust
in Him.*

NAHUM 1:7



© 2025 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Nathan (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Though Paul was born in Tarus of Cilicia, where was he brought up? *Jerusalem, Shiloh, Jericho, Damascus*

3. What 8-year-old boy served as king of Jerusalem for 100 days? *Shamgar, Jehoiachin, Adino, Sisera*

4. From John 5, who stirred up the water at the pool of Bethesda? *Priest, Angel, Wind, Jesus*

5. Who was Jacob's firstborn as found in Genesis 35? *Reuben, Ehud, Joshua, Elah*

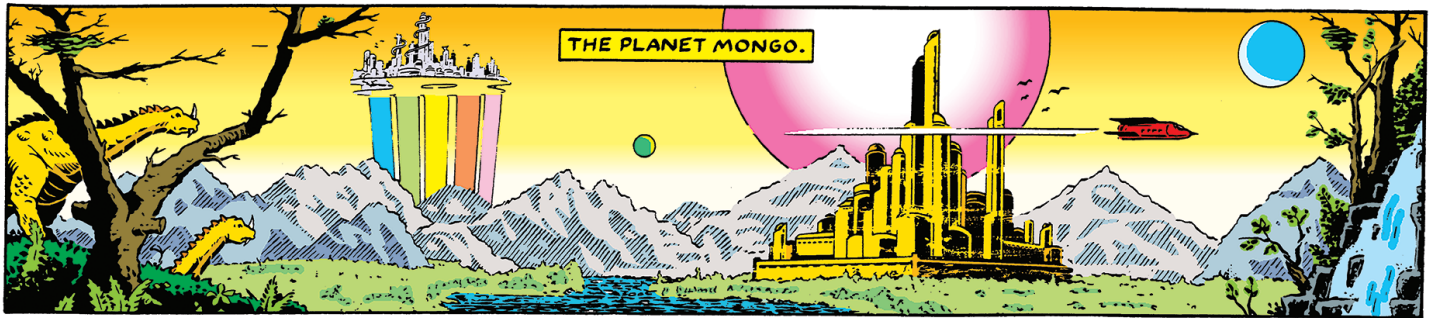
6. From Judges 1, who fed 70 kings at his table? *Benaiah, Nebuchadnezzar, Adoni-bezek, Mephibosheth*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Jerusalem, 3) Jehoiachin, 4) Angel, 5) Reuben, 6) Adoni-bezek

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 10 of 71



FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE
10-26-03

FLASH'S QUEST FOR MING BRINGS HIM TO A COLONY ON THE EDGE OF CIVILIZATION.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ ON THE NEWCOMERS.

THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A GUIDE TO SOME OLD ABANDONED CASTLE.

SEEMS LIKE THIS IS THE NEAREST SETTLEMENT WITH A CLEARING BIG ENOUGH FOR THEIR SHIP.

LOOK AT THE ARTILLERY THEY'RE PACKING! THE POWER CARTRIDGES ALONE WOULD GO FOR A FORTUNE!

TIME FOR THE OLD "BAIT AND SWITCH".

WORD HAS IT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A GUIDE. THE NAME'S RENSRAW. NOT ONLY DO I KNOW THE AREA, BUT I CAN TRANSPORT YOU.

THE REST OF THE LOCALS WON'T EVEN GO NEAR THE PLACE, FLASH.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE HIRED.

WHILE MY ASSISTANT LOADS UP YOUR EQUIPMENT, I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE YOU AND YOUR MEN CAN GET A DECENT MEAL BEFORE WE HEAD OUT.

MUCH OBLIGED.

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE. WHILE I'M KEEPING 'EM OCCUPIED, SWITCH THEIR POWER CARTRIDGES WITH THOSE OLD B-FIVES.

RELIABLE ENOUGH TO SCOUT OUT AN EMPTY CASTLE!

NEXT! THE TRAP IS SPRUNG!

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

Does looking at putts from both sides of the hole provide a clearer impression of the line? When the breaks are slight, it can actually confuse the issue.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE GENERALLY THE BEST. BEYOND THAT, REMEMBER THAT MOST PUTTS BREAK IN THE DIRECTION OF OVERALL SLOPES - WHICH IS WHY YOU SHOULD SIZE UP THE LIE OF THE LAND AS YOU WALK ONTO THE GREENS.

©2005 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 11 of 71



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Netflix

Photo Caption: Alicia Silverstone, left, and Oliver Hudson star in "A Merry Little Ex-Mas."

"The Smashing Machine" (R) -- Filmmaker and actor Benny Safdie ("Uncut Gems") directs this biographical sports drama starring Dwayne Johnson ("Moana 2"). In a much different vein than some of his previous works like "Jungle Cruise" and "Red One," Johnson is gunning for critical acclaim for his performance as wrestler and MMA fighter Mark Kerr. Teaming up again with his "Jungle Cruise" co-star Emily Blunt, Johnson underwent an extensive transformation to become Kerr, whose intense journey with fighting is documented throughout the film. The multifaceted and talented Blunt plays Kerr's girlfriend, Dawn, but even their chemistry and his transformation couldn't pull in more than \$20 million against its original \$50 million cost. Still, it might be worth the watch. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

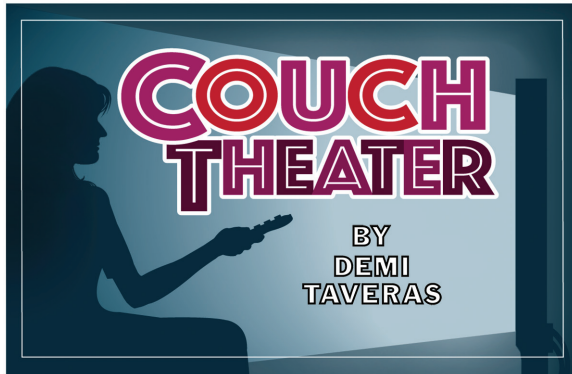
"Playdate" (PG-13) -- For those who miss the hilarious Kevin James ("Grown Ups") on their screens, this comedy-action film features him in his element! Starring alongside the massively buff Alan Ritchson ("Motor City"), James plays Brian Jennings, a stay-at-home stepdad who recently got fired from his job. As he tries to ease into his role as stepfather, he naturally accepts an invitation for his stepson to go on a playdate with another kid, where he meets Jeff (Ritchson). To appease his stepson, Brian attempts to befriend Jeff, only to find out that this is not an ordinary playdate with another father and son. Jeff is on the run to protect his son from some dangerous men, and now Brian and his stepson are along for the chase! Premieres on Nov. 12. (Amazon Prime Video)

"A Very Jonas Christmas Movie" (TV-PG) -- "Let it bro, let it bro, let it bro" is the tagline of this new holiday movie starring none other than Jonas Brothers as themselves! Almost like a parody of their real life, the movie picks up as the band finishes playing a show in London and is ready to head back home to New York in time for Christmas festivities with their family. When their travel plans go awry, the boys are forced to put their talented brains together in order to get home, but absolutely nothing goes as planned. But once they employ a bit of Christmas magic and remember the true meaning of Christmas, the JoBros should be able to get home -- hopefully in one piece. Premieres Nov. 14. (Disney+)

"A Merry Little Ex-Mas" (PG-13) -- Recently separated couple Kate (Alicia Silverstone) and Everett's (Oliver Hudson) divorce is imminent, but with Christmas approaching, Kate is determined to have one last happy Christmas that includes the whole family. Shortly after she sets her plans in stone, Kate receives news that Everett's new girlfriend, Tess (Jameela Jamil), will be joining them for the holidays to make everything way more awkward. Now that the bubbly, beautiful and younger Tess is lingering around, it stirs up emotions for both Everett and Kate, who decides to make her ex jealous with a younger man (Pierson Fode). There's nothing like some romantic drama to get into the cozy holiday mood! Premieres Nov. 11. (Netflix)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 12 of 71



Alicia Silverstone, left, and Oliver Hudson star in "A Merry Little Ex-Mas." (Courtesy of Netflix)

"The Smashing Machine" (R) -- Filmmaker and actor Benny Safdie ("Uncut Gems") directs this biographical sports drama starring Dwayne Johnson ("Moana 2"). In a much different vein than

some of his previous works like "Jungle Cruise" and "Red One," Johnson is gunning for critical acclaim for his performance as wrestler and MMA fighter Mark Kerr. Teaming up again with his "Jungle Cruise" co-star Emily Blunt, Johnson underwent an extensive transformation to become Kerr, whose intense journey with fighting is documented throughout the film. The multifaceted and talented Blunt plays Kerr's girlfriend, Dawn, but even their chemistry and his transformation couldn't pull in more than \$20 million against its original \$50 million cost. Still, it might be worth the watch. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

"Playdate" (PG-13) -- For those who miss the hilarious Kevin James ("Grown Ups") on their screens, this comedy-action film features him in his element! Starring alongside the massively buff Alan Ritchson ("Motor City"), James plays Brian Jennings, a stay-at-home stepdad who recently got fired from his job. As he tries to ease into his role as stepfather, he naturally accepts an invitation for his stepson to go on a playdate with another kid, where he meets Jeff (Ritchson). To appease his stepson, Brian attempts to befriend Jeff, only to find out that this is not an ordinary playdate with another father and son. Jeff is on the run to protect his son from some dangerous men, and now Brian and his stepson are along for the chase! Premieres on Nov. 12. (Amazon Prime Video)

"A Very Jonas Christmas Movie" (TV-PG) -- "Let it bro, let it bro, let it bro" is the tagline of this new holiday movie starring none other than Jonas Brothers as themselves! Almost like a parody of their real life, the movie picks up as the band finishes playing a show in London and is ready to head back home to New York in time for Christmas festivities with their family. When their travel plans go awry, the boys are forced to put their talented brains together in order to get home, but absolutely nothing goes as planned. But once they employ a bit of Christmas magic and remember the true meaning of Christmas, the JoBros should be able to get home -- hopefully in one piece. Premieres Nov. 14. (Disney+)

"A Merry Little Ex-Mas" (PG-13) -- Recently separated couple Kate (Alicia Silverstone) and Everett's (Oliver Hudson) divorce is imminent, but with Christmas approaching, Kate is determined to have one last happy Christmas that includes the whole family. Shortly after she sets her plans in stone, Kate receives news that Everett's new girlfriend, Tess (Jameela Jamil), will be joining them for the holidays to make everything way more awkward. Now that the bubbly, beautiful and younger Tess is lingering around, it stirs up emotions for both Everett and Kate, who decides to make her ex jealous with a younger man (Pierson Fode). There's nothing like some romantic drama to get into the cozy holiday mood! Premieres Nov. 11. (Netflix)

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 13 of 71



1. Who wrote and released "Sunglasses at Night"?
2. Which female is named in the first verse of "Crocodile Rock"?
3. Who wrote and released "Tequila Sunrise"?
4. Name the singer who had a hit with "Time in a Bottle" after his death.
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "It's like having a dream where nobody has a heart, It's like having it all and watching it fall apart."

Answers

1. Corey Hart, in 1984. Legend says the song was created when the album was being recorded in a studio where the air conditioning vents were right above the control room. Personnel wore sunglasses to protect their eyes from the draft.
2. "Susie," in the 1972 song by Elton John. Two years later John was sued by the songwriter who had created "Speedy Gonzales" for having used the same chords as the 1961 song.
3. The Eagles, in 1973. It went to No. 64 on the Hot 100 chart.
4. Jim Croce, in 1973.
5. "Into the Night," by Benny Mardones, in 1980. According to Mardones, the song was inspired by his attempts to help a local poor family by giving their teens odd jobs to make a few dollars after their father abandoned them.

(c) 2025 King Features Syndicate

GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}

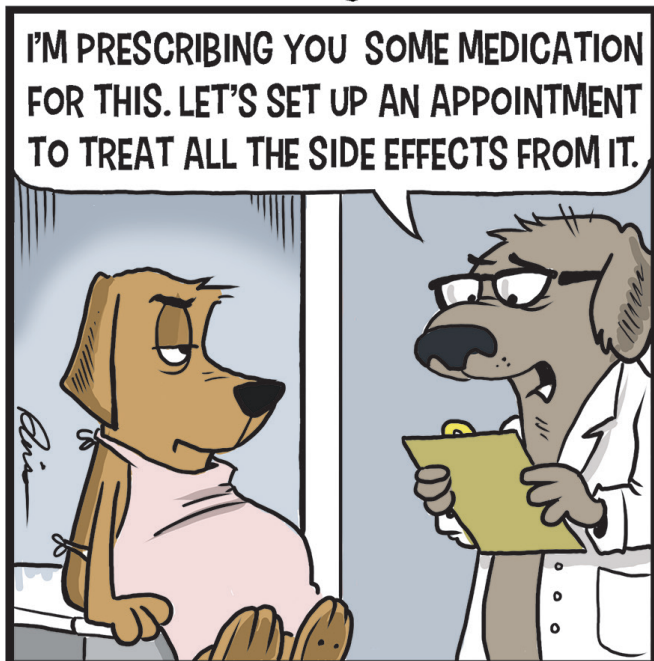


© North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

"He's here, but I'm not getting near him."

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



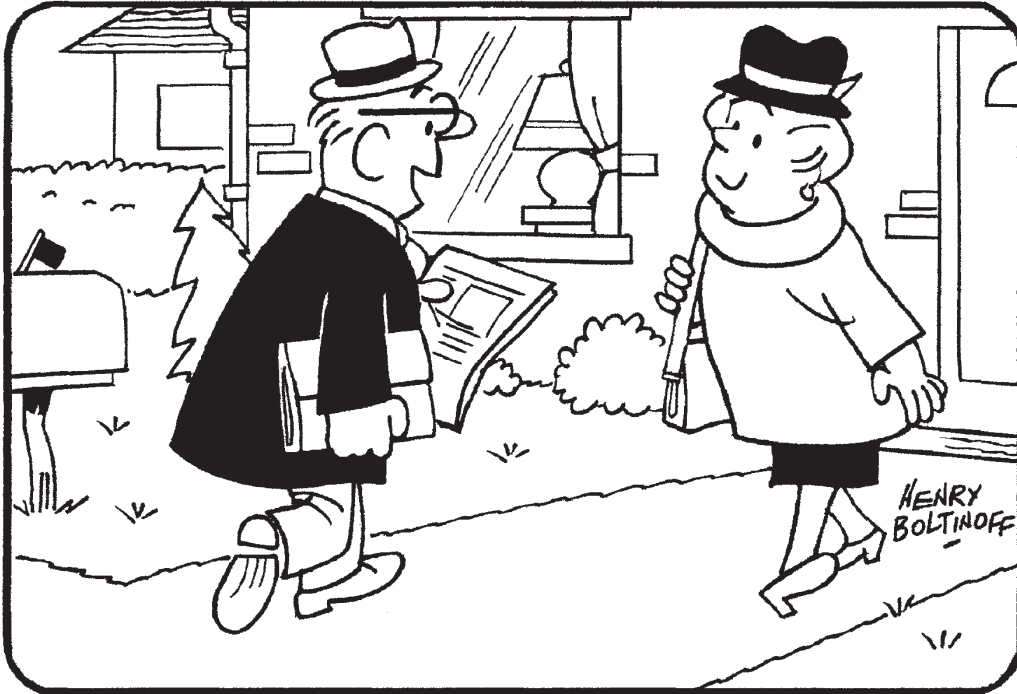
©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Groton Daily Independent

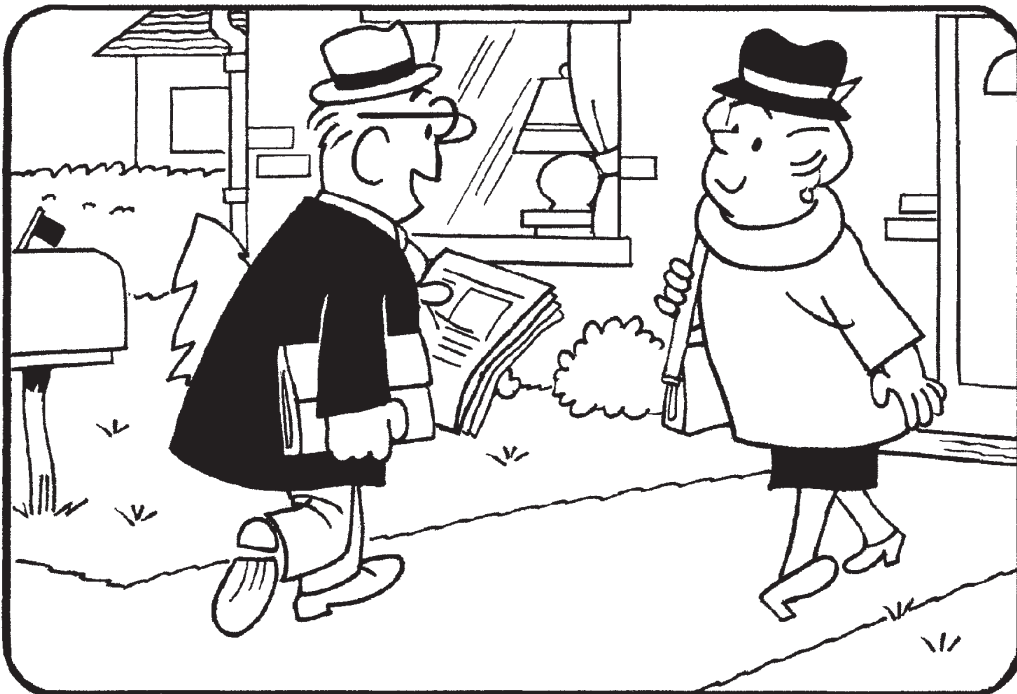
Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 14 of 71

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Door is larger. 3. Tree is smaller. 4. Mailbox is taller. 5. House in distance is not as wide. 6. Pages are added to newspaper.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 15 of 71



* When hammering a nail, try this save-your-finger trick: Use a clothespin to hold the nail steady, and then use your hammer to drive it in. Hammering into the wall? Push the nail through a strip of cardboard, and hold the cardboard over the right spot. No more banged up fingers or thumbs!

* "Exfoliation can be easy if you already have a bag or jar of Epsom salts. Soak in a warm bath and rub the salts over your skin to gently scrub dead skin away. A little essential oil might help, too!" -- D.D. in Florida

* Got plastic packaging that is a pain to get open? Use your can opener, run along the sides, to break into your packages. It works!

* To get keys on a keychain easily, use a staple remover to create an opening to slip the keys on. It is very effective and will keep you from being frustrated.

* A great use for those old knee high stockings (no runs!): Stuff with a mix of crystalized kitty litter and scent boosting beads you find in the laundry aisle. You can stuff these in stinky shoes to freshen and deodorize. The litter wicks away moisture from sweaty feet, and the scent boosters last for a good long while.

* "Need a new look for a favorite sweater? Change out your buttons. It's such a small thing and a big change in look!" -- E.L. in Massachusetts

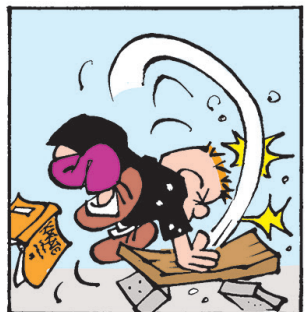
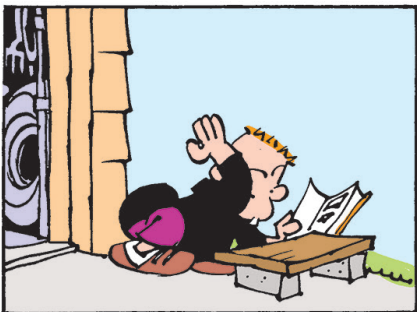
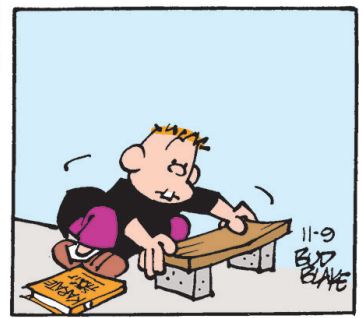
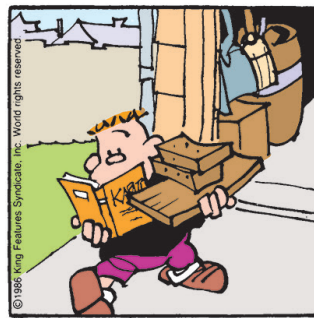
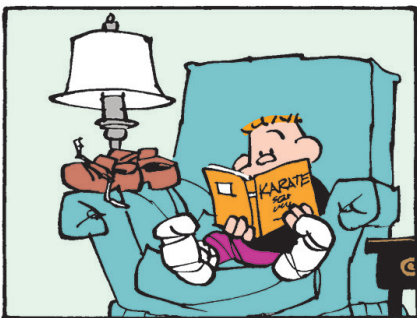
* Skunk run-in? Try this mix before you buy pricey de-stink shampoos at the pet store. Mix a quart of 3% peroxide, a teaspoon or two of dish soap, 1/4 cup of baking soda and quart of room-temp water. Apply to pet, and work deep into the fur. Massage in for five minutes and rinse thoroughly.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

 **TIGER**

by **BUD BLAKE**



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 16 of 71

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Ella's style
- 5 Haydn nick-name
- 9 Oklahoma city
- 12 "Hell — no fury ..."
- 13 Pitcher
- 14 Goose egg
- 15 Long-snouted mammals
- 17 "Mazel —!"
- 18 Actress Ryder
- 19 Puccini work
- 21 ICU worker
- 22 Tablecloth material
- 24 Broadway production
- 27 Silent
- 28 Pesky insect

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15				16						17		
18								19	20			
			21			22	23					
24	25	26			27				28		29	30
31					32					33		
34			35		36				37			
		38		39				40				
41	42						43			44	45	46
47				48	49	50						
51				52					53			
54				55					56			

- 31 Poetic dusk
- 32 Khan title
- 33 "Hail, Caesar!"
- 34 Evening, in an ad
- 36 Rep.'s rival
- 37 Blue shade
- 38 "It's nobody — business"
- 40 Yes, to Juan
- 41 Least desirable
- 43 Iraqi currency
- 47 "Entourage" character
- 48 South Pole region
- 51 Corp. boss
- 52 Leeway
- 53 Bandleader Puente
- 54 Lith., once
- 55 Art Deco master
- 56 Leftovers recipe
- 8 Incendiary crime
- 9 Feelers
- 10 Couturier Christian
- 11 Thomas — Edison
- 16 Raggedy doll
- 20 Identify
- 22 Olympic sleds
- 23 Mosque leader
- 24 Stock holder
- 25 Maui souvenir
- 26 Toward the front
- 27 Constructed
- 29 Director DuVernay
- 30 Aviv preceder
- 35 Golf's Ernie
- 37 Colors lightly
- 39 Intent look
- 40 — Lancelot
- 41 Some WWII vets
- 42 Unrefined metals
- 43 Title for Judi Dench
- 44 Bickering
- 45 Bar mitzvah, e.g.
- 46 Garbage barge
- 49 Neither here — there
- 50 Preschooler

DOWN

- 1 "Candida" playwright
- 2 Kid's plea
- 3 Envelope abbr.
- 4 Supposition
- 5 Anti-fur org.
- 6 Shock partner
- 7 For each

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 17 of 71

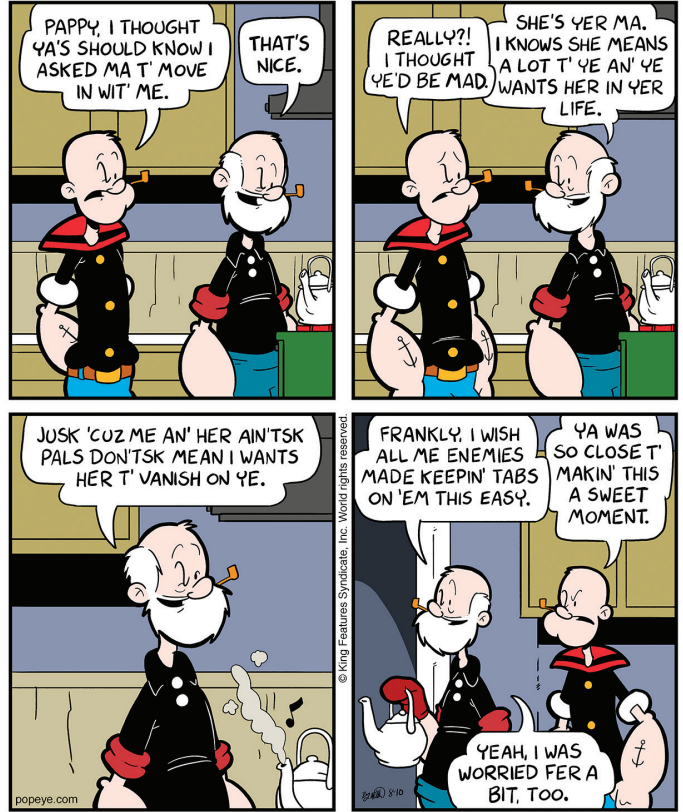
King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	C	A	T		P	A	P	A		A	D	A		
H	A	T	H		E	W	E	R		N	I	L		
A	N	T	E	A	T	E	R	S		T	O	V		
W	I	N	O	N	A					O	P	E	R	A
				R	N			L	I	N	E	N		
P	L	A	Y		M	U	M			G	N	A	T	
E	E	N			A	G	A			A	V	E		
N	I	T	E		D	E	M			T	E	A	L	
				E	L	S	E	S		S	I			
W	O	R	S	T				D	I	N	A	R	S	
A	R	I			A	N	T	A	R	C	T	I	C	
C	E	O			R	O	O	M		T	I	T	O	
S	S	R			E	R	T	E		S	T	E	W	

Olive



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 18 of 71

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
POPEYE
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SEA HAG?

I'M SPYING ON POPEYE AND JUDGING HIS CHOICES.

GET A HOBBY.

HATING IS A HOBBY!

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
"SHADOW OVER FIN'S SOUTH"
PART 12

THE POSSUM MONSTER THAT THE PEOPLE OF FIN'S SOUTH SUMMONED IS RAMPAGING AND SET TO EAT THE WHOLE POPULATION, BUT OLIVE AND POPEYE FOUND A WAY TO BANISH HIM WITH A BANG.

THE SCROLL SAYS IT'LL TAKE THREE STICKS OF DYNAMITE TO SEND THE MONSTER BACK.

I'LL EATS ALL TH' SPINACH I GOTSK ON ME TO HIT 'EM EVEN HARDER!

IS THAT A GOOD IDEA?

BETTER IDEA THEN LETTIN' A BIG POSSUM EAT 'RYONE!

UNHAND- ER, UNCLAW HIM, YA INTER-DIMENSKINAL TRASH RAT!

I'LL GIVES YA A CHOICE, YA KIN LEAVE ON YER OWN OR I WILL MAKE YA!

poppeye.com

HA! I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU--

-TRY?

YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW MANY PEOPLE END UP HERE AFTER SAYING THAT.

11-2

BARNEY GOOGLE AND
SHUFFY SMITH
90

NINETY YEARS AGO TODAY, MASTER CARTOONIST BILLY DEBECK INTRODUCED SNUFFY SMITH INTO HIS ALREADY SUCCESSFUL "BARNEY GOOGLE" COMIC STRIP !! THE LAZY, ORNERY, BODACIOUS LITTLE HILLBILLY SOON BECAME THE COMIC STRIP'S MOST POPULAR CHARACTER !!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, YOUNG FELLER !!

HAPPY BIRFDAY, UNCA SNUFFY !!

WE WUZ GONNA BAKE YA A CAKE, BUY YA A PRESENT, DECORATE...

AN' THROW YA A BIG OL' PARTY !!

JOHN ROSE

BUT THEN WE REALIZED IT WUZ WAY TOO MUCH WORK !!

AHH...I RAISED YOU YOUNG-UNS RIGHT !!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 19 of 71

HAL FOSTER'S
BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

Prince Valiant

ALETA, PURSUED BY A VORACIOUS SCYLLA, IS PULLED WITH FRANTIC SPEED TOWARD SHORE BY GURYAN AND POLYPHEMUS.

EVEN SO, ALETA FINDS THAT SHE NEEDS FANCY FOOTWORK TO KEEP THE SNAGGING JAWS AT BAY.

THEN, AFTER WHAT SEEMS AN ETERNITY, SHE SEES THE WATER'S SURFACE AND THE SANDY BOTTOM COME CLOSE TOGETHER - SHE IS NEARING SHORE, BUT THE SEA BEAST IS ALSO VERY NEAR.

YEATES 9/14/14

©2014 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

4049

THROUGH THE SHALLOW WATER, KAREN AND GURYAN CAN NOW SEE HER PERIL. THEY CHARGE INTO THE SURF, BRANDISHING THEIR WEAPONS...

... AND DRIVE INTO THE SNAPPING SCYLLA, FORCING IT AWAY FROM ALETA, AND ALLOWING THE OTHERS TO DRAG THE WATERLOGGED QUEEN FROM THE FOAMING WATERS.

NEXT: Hal's gambit

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

I'M GOING TO SEE THE DENTIST TODAY.

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

WHAT TIME IS YOUR APPOINTMENT?

TOOTH HURTY.

PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Social Security increase for 2026

The news is in, a week late this year due to the current government shutdown: The expected increase in Social Security benefits will be 2.8% for 2026.

For the average monthly benefit of \$2,015, that equates to an increase of \$56, up to \$2,071 for 2026 for a single person. For a couple, the \$88 increase will net a \$3,028 monthly benefit for 2026.

The actual Social Security increase will be less, however, because, as is typical, the Part B cost has gone up. A \$21.50 increase will bring the monthly cost up to \$206.50, and that comes out of the Social Security benefit.

The COLA (cost of living adjustment) is calculated every year by the price index from third quarter 2024 to third quarter 2025. Once again they've used the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which many think is the wrong index. (How many of us are clerical workers?) To be more accurate, the Social Security increase should be calculated by the Consumer Price Index for Elderly People (CPI-E), as that has the costs and expenses more in line with where seniors spend money.

Meanwhile, Medicare open enrollment will be in effect until Dec. 7. You still have time to look over your options and see if you need to make some changes. For example, are you taking different drugs? Visiting your doctor more now? Then there is your current plan -- has the cost changed or any of the benefits you get?

You can review plans in your area at [Medicare.gov/plan-compare](https://www.Medicare.gov/plan-compare).

Remember, scammers are everywhere and would love to have your Social Security information. They'll approach in person, via mail, on the internet or over the phone. Don't give out your personal information!

If you suspect fraud, you can make a report at oig.ssa.gov/report or call the Inspector General's Fraud Hotline at 800-269-0271.

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

15 N Main St. - Ste. 101
Downtown Groton

Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460
Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



Open 24/7

Living Heart Fitness Center

Senior Citizens 65+
Physical Therapy. **\$20 a month**

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 21 of 71

1. FootJoy is a leading brand of shoes, gloves and apparel made for what sport?

2. What Racing Hall of Fame jockey from Puerto Rico won eight U.S. Triple Crown series races from 1974-85?

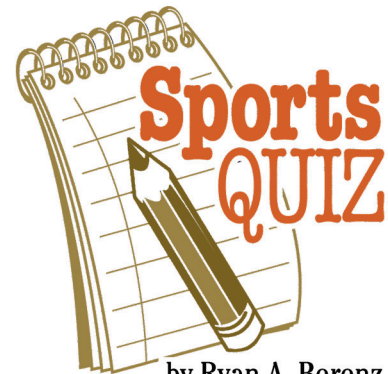
3. What caused umpire Bill Haller to eject Baltimore Orioles manager Earl Weaver from a game versus the Minnesota Twins on Aug. 2, 1969?

4. How many touchdowns did Seattle Seahawks running back Shaun Alexander score in the first half of a 48-23 win over the Minnesota Vikings on Sept. 29, 2002?

5. What NBA expansion team had a 7-44 record before finally winning its first road game at the Atlanta Hawks on Feb. 8, 1975?

6. What two brothers, both rookie pitchers, started against each other in a 1986 game between the Philadelphia Phillies and the Chicago Cubs?

7. Butch van Breda Kolff was the head coach of which NBA team that lost the NBA Finals in consecutive seasons from 1968-69?



by Ryan A. Berenz

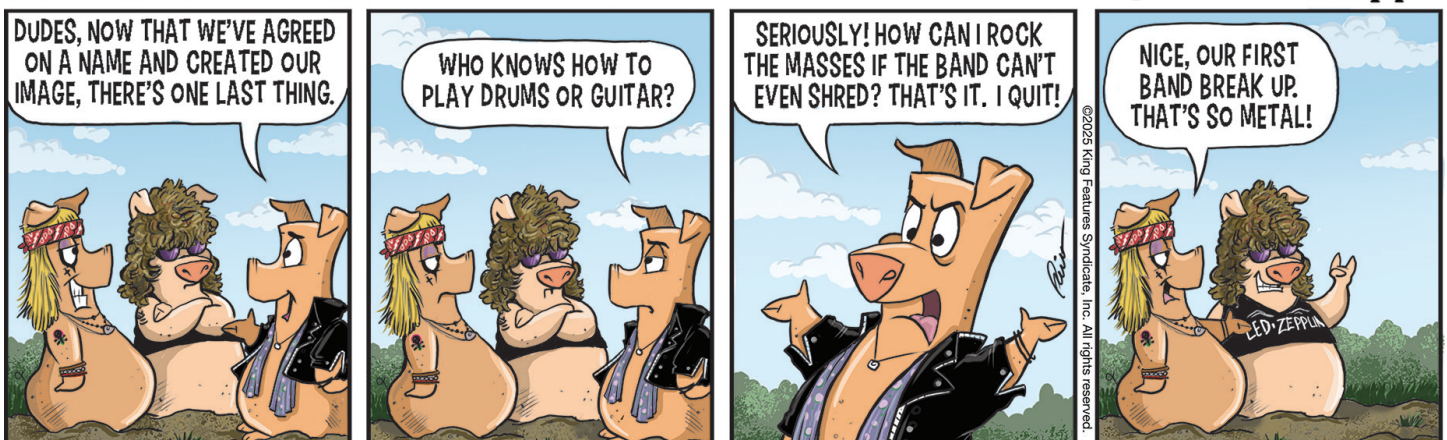
Answers

1. Golf.
2. Angel Cordero Jr.
3. Weaver was smoking a cigarette in the dugout.
4. Five (four rushing, one receiving).
5. The New Orleans Jazz.
6. Mike (Phillies) and Greg (Cubs) Maddux.
7. The Los Angeles Lakers.

(c) 2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Is my cat going blind?



DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My 12-year-old cat, "Gaston," may be losing his vision. He used to jump on high objects easily; now he avoids jumping up or down. He loved chasing his laser light; now he just huddles down and seems to ignore it. At night, he meows loudly until I let him into my bedroom, where he insists on curling up with me. I have an appointment with the veterinarian for next week, but can his vision loss be reversed? -- Jeanne in Evanston, Illinois

DEAR JEANNE: I'm very glad that you're taking Gaston to see the vet. With suspected vision loss, it's very important to get your cat tested to determine how severe it is and the underlying cause.

Blindness in cats can be gradual or sudden, and there are many conditions that can cause it. Age, infection and common eye conditions like glaucoma, cataracts or retinal detachment are all in play here.

Can Gaston's vision loss be reversed? That really depends on what the vet finds. I can say that the sooner a problem is diagnosed, the better the chances of treatment to reverse or at least halt vision loss.

Cats whose blindness is progressive or irreversible can adapt. Those who develop it gradually tend to adapt better, while those whose vision loss is sudden may experience more anxiety and be less prone to adapt.

You can support your vision-impaired cat by keeping them indoors (if they must go out, create a fenced-in area of your yard for them). Avoid moving furniture too often. And don't coddle your cat by carrying them around. Let them explore and adapt -- their resilience will surprise you.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 23 of 71

Strange BUT TRUE

* The home team must provide the referee with 36 footballs for each National Football League game.

* Only three countries in the world are entirely surrounded by one other country.

* Research has shown that individual breathing patterns, including the timing, volume and rhythm of chest movements, can be used to identify people with up to 97% accuracy.

* The world's rarest hair and eye color combo is red and blue, respectively.

* Scientists trained rats to drive cars (custom-made from plastic cereal containers and small wires), and while the rodents' original motivation was Froot Loops, they surprisingly appeared to love going for joy rides as well.

* People spend roughly 10% of their waking hours with their eyes closed.

* Hydrothermal vents created by fissures on the sea floor in areas of significant tectonic plate activity can pump out fluids at temperatures hot enough to melt lead.

* The human brain runs on less power than a 60-watt light bulb.

* Bagels were once given to women as gifts after childbirth. Some pregnant women even wore bagels on necklaces as protection, or ensured that bagels would be present in the room where they would deliver.

* There is cellphone service at the summit of Mount Everest.

* Pixar technical director Galyn Susman, while on maternity leave, was notified that 90% of the movie "Toy Story 2" had accidentally been deleted, and the studio's on-site backup had failed. Fortunately, she had copies of the film on her laptop, which was wrapped in blankets and carefully carried back to the studio.

* In Iceland, there are 13 mischievous "Yule Lads" rather than one Santa, who leave either gifts or rotten potatoes in children's shoes,

Thought for the Day: "When you're happy you enjoy the music, but when you're sad you understand the lyrics." -- Frank Ocean

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

The Garden Bug

Hardy mums



Unlike "florist mums" that are grown only for fall flowering and treated as annuals, "hardy mums" are cold-hardy garden perennials.

These plants grow best in rich soil with a slightly acidic to neutral soil pH (6.2 to 7.0).

Good drainage is needed to avoid root rot.

Hardy mums are photoperiodic, meaning they bloom in response to shorter days and longer nights, so don't plant them near street lights; artificial lighting wreaks havoc with their flowering.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.thespruce.com



by Freddy Groves

Don't believe every rumor

The numbers are small -- only 100 or so veterans come down with it every year -- but this cancer is especially deadly: male breast cancer. Beginning in 2024 it was added as a presumptive on the VA's list of illnesses that were automatically covered, courtesy of the PACT Act, due to toxin exposure.

And now it's been yanked off that list, per a couple of internet websites and street rumors that are flying fast and furious.

Word is that any veteran with a diagnosis of male breast cancer is going to have to scramble and fight to get the VA to accept that it was caused by exposure to toxins and provide treatment.

Except ... is it really true, that it's been deleted from the list?

Apparently not.

People were asleep at the switch when male breast cancer was classified as a "reproductive" cancer when it was first added to the PACT list of presumptives. That kind of error left the door open to deleting it from the list of presumptives -- just when it's needed most. Historically, only 1% of breast cancers have been in male patients, but in recent years that number has doubled.

So no, it's not true. Male breast cancer is still on the list of presumptives. Only the category of the illness has changed, moving it away from considering it a "reproductive organ," which it is not.

And yes, I have a special interest in this topic. Several years ago a close relative died of male breast cancer. He'd been a Marine, a forward radio operator, in Vietnam where he was sprayed too many times with Agent Orange. When he came back he was stationed at Camp Lejeune with its contaminated water. A double whammy if there ever was one.

If you need to apply for VA health coverage, go online to www.va.gov and click on "Health Care." Look for VA Form 10-10EZ. If you need help getting started, call the health benefits hotline at 877-222-8387.

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 25 of 71

Wishing Well®

3	4	3	5	8	6	5	8	6	5	2	7	3
S	S	L	S	A	B	T	G	U	A	F	U	O
2	3	7	3	6	2	7	6	7	2	4	2	5
U	W	N	B	S	N	B	Y	O	A	T	C	R
4	6	7	8	5	8	2	4	7	4	2	3	2
A	D	U	R	T	A	T	Y	N	A	I	U	V
6	8	3	2	5	7	8	7	2	6	8	3	8
A	N	T	I	S	D	D	E	T	Y	A	S	D
4	3	5	7	8	7	3	8	7	4	2	3	5
C	U	M	D	D	E	R	I	N	T	I	E	A
8	4	6	3	4	7	3	8	7	4	2	7	5
T	I	S	C	V	E	L	I	R	E	E	G	L
7	8	2	8	5	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2
Y	O	S	N	L	A	I	H	M	E	B	A	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

©2025 King Features Syndicate



1. SCIENCE: What is the study of clouds called?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which country's highest mountain is called Ben Nevis?
3. ACRONYMS: What phrase does the acronym GPS stand for?
4. TELEVISION: What beer brand appears in "The Simpsons" animated TV show?
5. HISTORY: When was Earth Day first celebrated?
6. ANATOMY: What is a common name for the condition known as piloerection?
7. MOVIES: Which city was the setting for the movie "The Sting"?
8. MATH: How many yards are in a mile?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby ferret called?
10. FOOD & DRINK: Which celebrity chef stars on the cooking show "Hell's Kitchen"?

Answers

1. Nephology.
2. Scotland, 4,413 feet high.
3. Global Positioning System.
4. Duff.
5. 1970.
6. Goosebumps.
7. Chicago.
8. 1,760.
9. A kit.
10. Gordon Ramsay.

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

A Salute to Veterans

I come from a long line of veterans, a proud heritage that reaches back to the Revolutionary War. My great-great-great-grandfather came to America and served as an aide to General Lafayette. My grandfather served in World War I, and my father fought in World War II at the Battle of the Bulge.

My dad's unit – the 11th Armored Division – liberated one of Nazi Germany's most notorious concentration camps: Mauthausen. Growing up, I heard fragments of that story, but Dad rarely spoke about it in detail. Years after his passing, my siblings discovered an old trunk of his. At the bottom was a camera with undeveloped film inside.

When the film was developed, we found photos from the Battle of the Bulge and from Mauthausen. Those photos made me sick to my stomach – they showed bodies stacked like firewood and trailers filled with dead victims. It was no wonder my father locked away the horror he witnessed. And it reminded me that we will never be able to fully comprehend or appreciate what our veterans have done for us – and what they continue to do.

When I visited Israel earlier this year and shared my father's story, I met several individuals who were descended from survivors of Mauthausen – and they were blown away. For the first time, the humanity of the other side of that liberation struck home for me. And it gave me newfound appreciation for my father's service, the service of all my other family members, and the service and sacrifice of every veteran of the United States armed forces.

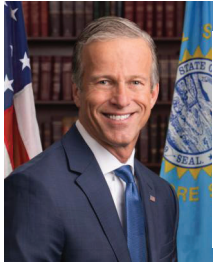
We've come to a point in our world when everything has been turned on its head – there are those who call evil good and good evil. But the United States remains special. We're special because we are the only nation on the planet that was founded on the bedrock principle that our rights, liberties, and freedoms are given to us by God our Creator – not the government.

But we can't take that for granted. As Ronald Reagan wisely put it, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same." That's what our veterans have always done – from my great-great-great-grandfather and all those who fought during the Revolutionary War to those serving today.

My goal as Governor is to keep our state strong, safe, and free – but that wouldn't be possible without all our past, present, and future men and women in uniform. We could imagine a world in which the Revolution failed – and the United States was not born – or in which we failed to secure freedom for the world in World Wars I and II. But we don't have to do that because of the strength and determination of our veterans.

Their dedicated service is the backbone that holds our nation together. It serves as an example for us all – it reminds us that we too must fight for freedom.

To all of our veterans: Happy Veteran's Day! Thank you for your continued service to this nation. Thank you for standing in harm's way to protect our life, liberties, and freedoms. God bless you. God bless South Dakota. And may God continue to bless the United States of America!



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

When Will Democrats Say Enough Is Enough?

Democrats now have the extremely dubious honor of instigating the longest and most severe government shutdown in American history. More than six weeks ago, Democrats chose to shut down the government rather than vote for a clean, nonpartisan funding extension. The American people have suffered the consequences of Democrats' recklessness, day after day. But as the shutdown dragged on, the Senate Democrat leader was boasting that every day was getting better for Democrats.

Over the last six weeks, the American people have faced growing uncertainty and chaos. Federal workers have gone without their regular paychecks for over a month, and many have turned to food banks to feed their families. Air travel has been a nightmare due to air traffic control staffing shortages. Thousands of flights have been delayed, and millions of Americans have been stranded at airports. Beginning on Day 38 of the shutdown, in order to keep the skies safe, the FAA required a reduction in air traffic across the country. That means more flight disruptions, supply chain issues, and hundreds of thousands more Americans dealing with cancellations every day.

Then there are military families and veterans. November is the month that we honor military families and celebrate Veterans Day. It is shameful that Democrats' shutdown has forced service members to go to food banks in order to feed their families, that veterans can't access certain VA programs, and that Veterans Day celebrations are being canceled throughout the country because of Democrats' shutdown. Not to mention that when they were given the opportunity to pay America's troops through the shutdown, Democrats shamelessly voted no.

Democrats have shut down the government, they say, over health care. For six weeks, Republicans have been abundantly clear that we are willing to have discussions about health care – just not while the government is being held hostage. But Democrats refused to take yes for an answer. And that's because at its core, this shutdown isn't really about helping Americans. What this has really been about is Democrats wanting to show the far left that they're "fighting" President Trump.

The longest and most severe government shutdown in history is because Democrats would not take yes for an answer. All of this pain and chaos could have been avoided but for Democrats' need to satisfy far-left activists. The American people deserve better than to be mere leverage and collateral damage in Democrats' political games.

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 28 of 71



Thank you, veterans

This coming Tuesday is an opportunity to thank the brave men and women who have served our country. South Dakota is home to more than 60,000 veterans who served from World War II through today. Veterans Day is an important reminder to take time to thank those who sacrificed to preserve and protect the United States. Our military is the best in the world because of the strength of our service men and women.

During my time in Congress, I've taken great pride in honoring those who served during the Vietnam-era. Since 2019, I've honored more than 1,270 Vietnam-era veterans in 90 commemorative pinning ceremonies across South Dakota. I've enjoyed hearing each veteran's story, shaking their hand, and telling them thank you. From those who served in combat to medical specialists, intelligence workers, technicians, and more, these brave men and women answered their country's call to serve, and we owe them our gratitude. Many who served in the Vietnam-era didn't get the welcome home they deserved.

It was great to be in Sioux Falls today to thank an additional 37 veterans. Thank you to all the veterans and family members who have attended these special events over the years.

The families who stand by our service members as they serve are also worthy of recognition. The sacrifices they endure and strength they carry as their loved ones serve is deserving of respect and our support as well.

Our service members and their families deserve the best support we can provide. If you or a family member need help receiving veterans benefits or navigating the Department of Veterans Affairs, don't hesitate to reach out to my office by visiting dustyjohnson.house.gov/services/help-federal-agency or call 605-275-2868 to see if we're able to assist you.



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

Truth Is As The Truther Says

One thing I have learned in life is that for many people, truth is a relative thing. The truth is what they say it is, and you can't convince them otherwise.

I wrestle with telling the truth all the time. If you tell the truth, you do not have to remember what happened. But when you lie, you have to have a good memory of what the last lie was. Unfortunately, I do not have that kind of memory.

What I do remember is good old Uncle Dan. Now, he was not a biological uncle in that sense. But he was so much a part of our family and our family gatherings that everybody treated him like an uncle.

Everybody in the family really loved Uncle Dan. He had a charm about him that nobody could really refuse. He wasn't married and had no siblings, so, apart from my family, he had no family. We gladly welcomed him into our family circle.

What most of us liked about Uncle Dan was his humorous stories. He never ran out of stories to tell, and they were all hilarious. He was so funny I believed he could have been a comedian, but we accepted him and enjoyed his comedy.

Uncle Dan has been gone now for at least 20 years, but I still remember quite a few things about him.. Of course, my memory is focused on his stories. For every family gathering, he had at least one story to tell.

As soon as Uncle Dan began one of his stories, he had our attention.

We all laughed almost uncontrollably while he told his story. We didn't know at the time, but we laughed because he told different versions of the same story. It was when he went fishing at the lake. I don't know where it all started, because it was always a different lake.

At the time, nobody realized he was telling the same story, just different versions. Every time he told the story, it turned out differently from the story before.

My cousin and I were the first ones to realize what good old Uncle Dan was doing. Whether Uncle Dan knew he was doing it or not, I will never know.

After one of his storytelling episodes, my cousin and I were together, I looked at him and said, "Wasn't that similar to the story he told the last time?"

My cousin looked at me, scratched his chin, and then said, "You know, I think you're right. That was similar to the one he told last time, and the one he told before that, and the one he told before that one. They all were similar."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 30 of 71

Together, we laughed as only cousins could. We couldn't wait until the next family gathering with Uncle Dan. We wanted to see if anybody else caught on to what Uncle Dan was doing.

My cousin and I agreed that Uncle Dan probably did not know he was changing these stories every time. To him, it was like he was telling the story for the very first time.

Several years after he passed away at our family gathering, I brought up the subject.

"I sure miss Uncle Dan stories. They sure were very entertaining." Then the family group laughed together and smiled.

I could not help it, but I had to take it one step further: "Do any of you know what Uncle Dan was doing with his stories?"

Nobody understood what I was saying. One person said, "They were very funny stories and I enjoyed every one of them."

I then presented another question, "Can anybody tell me how many stories Uncle Dan told?"

A silly chuckle ran through the crowd, and finally someone said, "He told us a new story every time we got together. I don't remember how many stories he told us."

I looked at my cousin and said, "Mike could you answer that question?"

With a hearty chuckle, he looked at the family group and said, "Uncle Dan only ever told one story throughout the years."

Nobody in that crowd understood what we were saying. But as we pursued in that direction, one family member said, "You know, that thought occurred to me about 10 years ago when he was telling his story. They all sounded similar and I couldn't put it together."

My cousin and I laughed together, and soon everybody said a profound "awe."

The rest of that family gathering was very interesting as people began to remember similarities in Uncle Dan's stories. Everybody thought he was telling a different story every time we gathered.

I don't believe Uncle Dan was lying to us; he didn't understand the truth as it really was.

Remembering Uncle Dan and his "story" helps me see truth differently. Was he telling the truth? And was that truth from his perspective?

In thinking about Uncle Dan's stories, I was reminded of what Jesus said about the importance of telling the truth.

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Uncle Dan's stories were just entertainment. However, the Word of God is not entertainment but the basis of all truth. When I know God's truth, it will set me free from everything else.

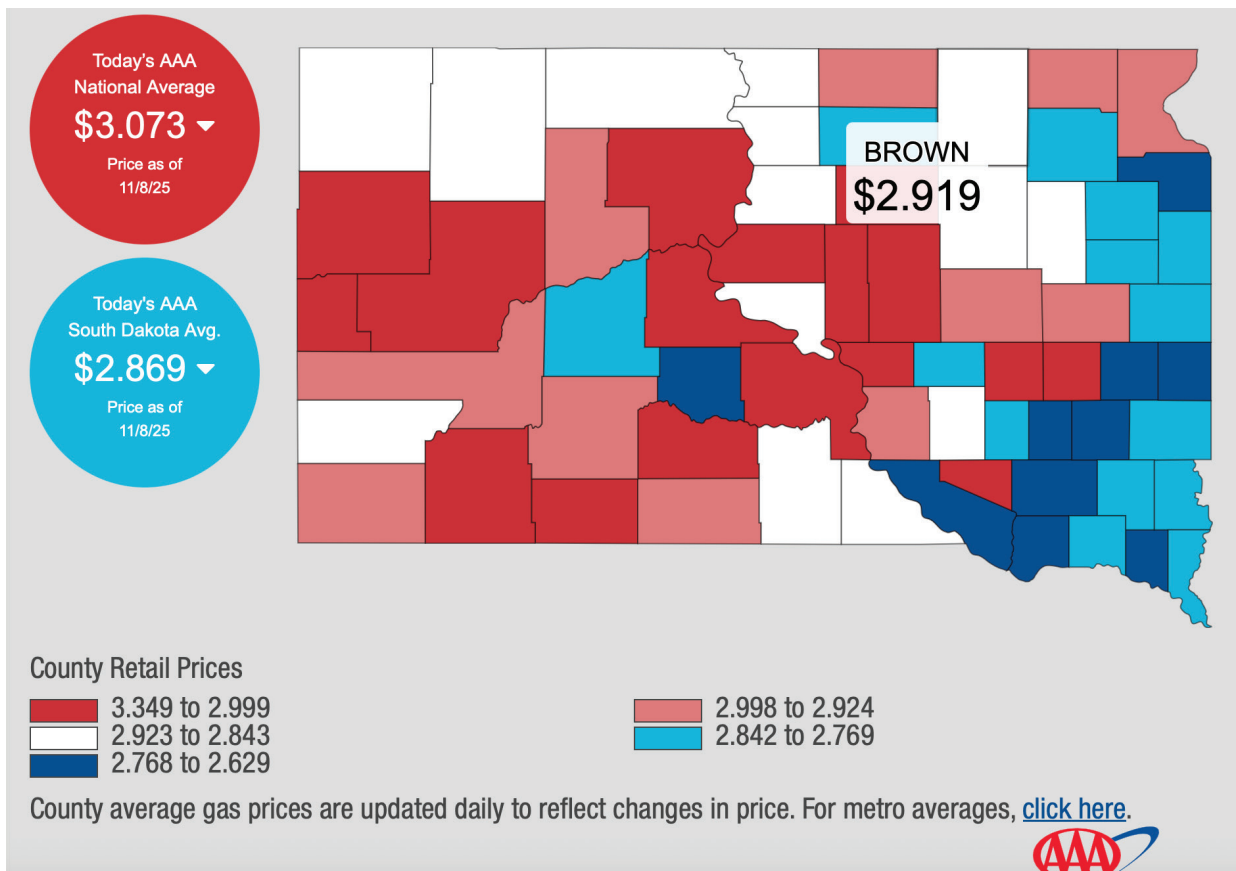
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 31 of 71

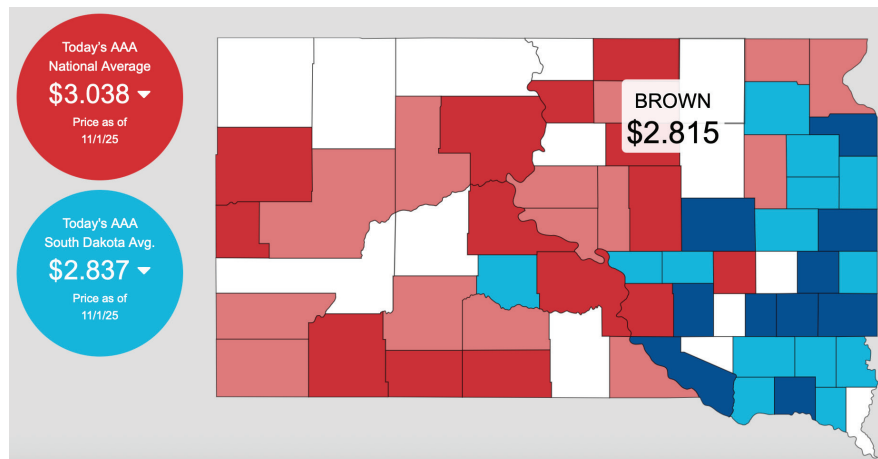
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.869	\$3.063	\$3.536	\$3.453
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.887	\$3.083	\$3.541	\$3.462
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.837	\$3.046	\$3.505	\$3.357
Month Ago Avg.	\$2.895	\$3.053	\$3.542	\$3.335
Year Ago Avg.	\$2.952	\$3.155	\$3.567	\$3.247

This Week



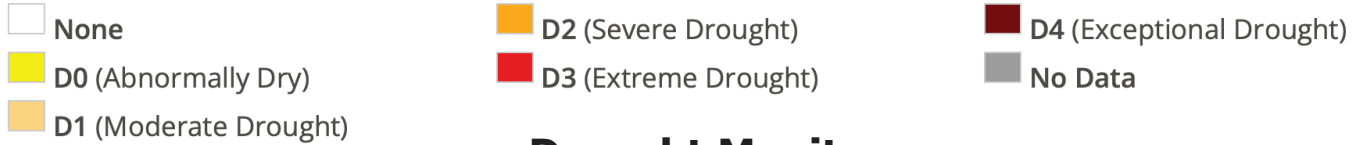
Last Week



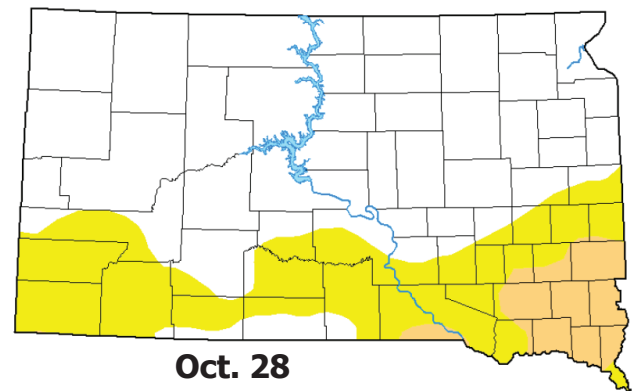
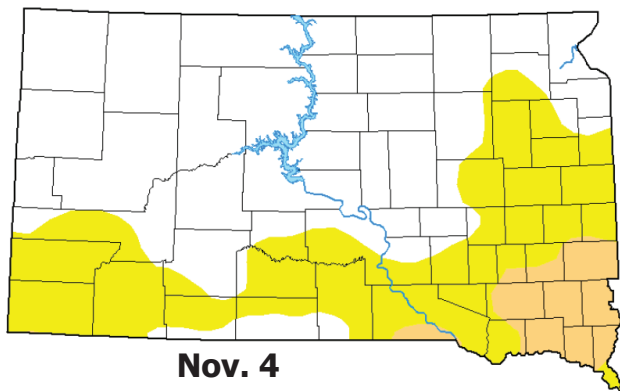
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 32 of 71

Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



The High Plains Region is currently the Region least-affected by dryness and drought even though coverage in sum increased slightly this past week when most of the region reported a few tenths of an inch of precipitation at best. Measurable totals were restricted to eastern Kansas and southeastern Nebraska. The dry week induced a few areas of deterioration, but even so, less than 39 percent of the Region is experiencing some degree of dryness (D0+), and only 17.8 percent is enduring drought (D1+). Precipitation deficits on most time frames crept upward Region-wide, but areas of deterioration were relatively limited given the relatively low natural and human water demand this time of year.



Jaguars Holding On For Dear Life In Amazon

by Saasthra Bojja

Dear EarthTalk: How are jaguars in Central and South America faring today? – L.J., Albany, NY

Even though the Amazon remains a stronghold for jaguars, even their numbers they have declined significantly. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reported in 2018 that numbers had fallen to 64,000 from over 100,000, due to factors such as habitat fragmentation from development and direct hunting by traffickers.

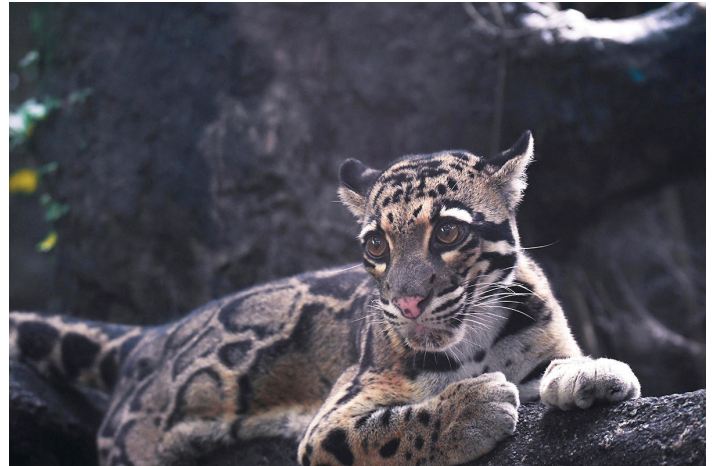
In fact, the jaguar—the biggest wild cat in the Americas—is classified as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List, an international tally of threatened and endangered plant and animal species. However, what's unique about the jaguar's classification is the variation in threat level among different jaguar population locations. For example, the largest stronghold of jaguars, the Amazon, is classified as 'Least Concern'— meaning that jaguars in this location are expected to experience little-to-no population regression.

However, all other habitats with significant jaguar populations—like the forests and tropical savanna of Brazil, northern Argentina, parts of Venezuela and Guyana, the coastal dry forests of Venezuela and some portions of Central America and Mexico—range from Endangered to Critically Endangered categories.

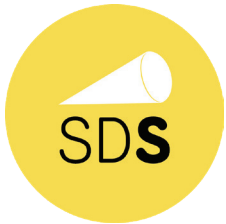
While jaguars are not entirely out of danger, improvements in their natural habitats—driven by advocacy, regulatory efforts and innovative conservation strategies like "rewilding"—are making a difference. Rewilding involves caring for jaguars facing extreme conditions, such as malnutrition or early separation from family, until they recover and can rejoin others in the wild. Also, in some habitats in Brazil, protecting land from development, monitoring and researching existing populations and partnering with local stakeholders to reduce human interference have allowed for the rebound of the jaguar population.

With the widespread use of these jaguar conservation strategies, populations have grown rapidly, even in the previously most critically threatened locations. Gerardo Ceballos, founder of Mexico's National Alliance for Jaguar Conservation, stated "It was incredible to see jaguars in so many places where there weren't any before... Local people have been critical. When they have the funding and incentives to protect the forest, they become the most important ally."

With the resurgence of jaguar populations, up into the 100,000s, or even the 120,000s in some generous estimates, it's clear that local cooperation as well as world-wide awareness and support for the repopulation and growth of jaguars is vital. Togetherness is the key: Advocate for conservation efforts, spread awareness and work with other like-minded individuals to support jaguar conservation efforts.



Jaguars are holding on in the Amazon and elsewhere, but maybe not forever given the rate of population decline. Credit: Pexels.com.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

South Dakota members of Congress stand by as Trump's deadly strikes continue

by Rick Snedeker

Let's posit, just for the sake of argument, that a South Dakota police officer shot and killed a person merely suspected of transporting illegal narcotics from, say, Sioux Falls to Rapid City. No arrest, no indictment, no due process, no Miranda Rights, no nothing. Just suspicion.

Would that be OK, legally?

Of course not.

In the United States, people theoretically have inviolable rights, including the right not to be killed if they're not immediately threatening anyone with lethal harm.

So, I ask, respectfully, how are suspected boat-borne alien drug traffickers on the high seas somehow not covered by that core American constitutional right when identified, targeted and killed by U.S. military aircraft packing deadly missiles? From Sept. 2 to this month, the U.S. military blew up 17 boats and one submarine carrying suspected drug smugglers in international waters of the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea in the vicinity of the Americas, killing 70 people aboard, according to news reports. Overall, two suspects survived, but instead of being charged and prosecuted, they were, very curiously, repatriated to their home countries scot-free.

Simple logic tells us that all of these suspects, living and dead, should have been considered innocent until found guilty in a U.S. court of law. Still, no evidence of their guilt has been presented by the administration, and only Republican members of Congress — pointedly no Democrats — have been selectively briefed on these attacks. Mystery abounds.

Apparently, South Dakota's all-Republican congressional delegation, with the possible exception of Rep. Dusty Johnson, hasn't gotten very exercised about this very questionable Trump grab of congressional power. Declaring and authorizing war is Congress's constitutional authority, not the president's, and it's hard to imagine that attacking boats of sovereign nations and arbitrarily murdering their citizens are not overt acts of war.

I sent online queries to each of our state's federal legislators — Rep. Johnson, Senate Majority Leader John Thune and Sen. Mike Rounds — asking them why they had not strongly and publicly condemned these extrajudicial (that means without legal due process) killings of foreign nationals and the destruction of their boats by the American military. They responded cautiously in the main, despite Congress' authority being blatantly and unconstitutionally usurped.

Sure, the administration has tried to justify its war-like behavior with convoluted, specious arguments that make common sense mainly to those trying to make them. At least Rep. Johnson expressed "concern" about the attacks in an emailed response to my question. No such concern was seconded by Sens. Thune and Rounds, who've both voted against resolutions to stop Trump's deadly strikes.

Rep. Johnson wrote in a brief reply, "Thank you for contacting me about the United States' actions against Venezuelan drug smugglers via boat. I am concerned with the precedent of these actions by the administration. I will continue to monitor the situation as we learn more."

Sen. Thune's office responded with a long recitation of administration talking points justifying the attacks and denigrating any congressional attempts to stop them. He wrote, in part:

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 35 of 71

"While much progress has been made, dangerous cartels continue to traffic narcotics into the United States. In response, President Trump has designated certain international cartels and other organizations as foreign terrorist organizations. The president is authorized by Article II of the U.S. Constitution to defend against threats as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. Consistent with this authority, President Trump has ordered strikes against drug smuggling vessels transiting international waters toward the United States."

For one thing, no evidence has been posited that any of these boats was bound for the U.S. or was carrying fentanyl, the main narcotic bugbear in the U.S., which mainly enters our country from Mexico. Also, President Trump simply labeling a group as "terrorists," who he presumably believes can be killed on sight by the American military, doesn't make it legally so. Drug cartels and their proxies are not "armed combatants" in any formal war sense.

Sen. Rounds didn't respond to my query but told NBC News on Oct. 29 only that it was "unfortunate" congressional Democrats were not briefed along with Republicans about the administration's continuing U.S. military airstrikes on suspected drug-running watercraft. He did not talk about the questionable legality of the attacks.

Autocrats only expand their power when those who share legal authority, like the current U.S. Congress, timidly surrender it to them.

Rick Snedeker, a retired journalist living in Mitchell, is the author of a 2020 memoir about growing up in a Saudi oil camp in the 1950s, "3,001 Arabian Days," and a 2022 historical overview of Christianity's coercive evolution in America, "Holy Smoke."

After US Supreme Court decision, South Dakota pauses plan to pay full SNAP benefits

BY: SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF

One day after saying it would pay full food assistance benefits on time this month, the South Dakota Department of Social Services said Saturday it's pausing that plan because of a U.S. Supreme Court decision.

The department is reacting to federal government shutdown-related chaos that took several twists and turns in the last few days.

The Trump administration had said the ongoing shutdown meant it could not pay November benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which helps 42 million Americans afford groceries. But a federal judge in Rhode Island ordered the Trump administration Thursday to pay roughly \$9 billion for a full month of benefits by Friday.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture told states Friday it was releasing full November funding for SNAP. The South Dakota Department of Social Services responded with an announcement of its own, saying it would pay full benefits on Monday, which is the state's regular date (the 10th day of the month) for loading money onto SNAP payment cards.

Then, on Friday night, the U.S. Supreme Court temporarily blocked the Thursday order from the lower court, which the Trump administration had appealed.

The South Dakota Department of Social Services reacted Saturday with a new announcement saying it "has paused implementation of its plan to provide full benefits to SNAP recipients by November 10." The department said it's awaiting further instruction from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service and will provide updates as they're received.

It takes about \$15 million of federal funding per month to pay the SNAP benefits of roughly 75,000 South Dakotans. The average South Dakota household in the program receives about \$390 per month.

South Dakota Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden has said he does not support using state money to replace federal SNAP funding during the shutdown.

States Newsroom's D.C. Bureau contributed to this report.

High prison death toll continues after 33-year-old man found unresponsive in cell

BY: JOHN HULT

An inmate died in Department of Corrections custody this week, adding another name to a list of in-custody deaths that's higher than the state has seen in recent memory.

Travis Long Fox, 33, died Friday in a Sioux Falls hospital. He'd been there since Tuesday, when he was found unresponsive in his cell at the South Dakota State Penitentiary.

The Division of Criminal Investigation plans to look into the death. Press releases from the Department of Corrections and Division of Criminal Investigation did not disclose further details. This will be the fifth inmate death investigated by the DCI since February. Two people have been criminally charged for allegedly supplying the drugs that caused the overdose deaths of two inmates. In addition to the death of Long Fox, there are two other ongoing investigations into inmate deaths.

Nineteen men have died in state prison custody this calendar year, the highest number in at least a decade. At least four of those men died by suicide. At least three overdosed.

The department tracks inmate deaths by state fiscal year, which ends on June 30. The state is currently in fiscal year 2026.

By the fiscal year measurement, 2025 was the deadliest year in South Dakota's prisons since at least 2018, with 19 total deaths.

The death of Long Fox brings the number for fiscal year 2026 to seven.

Deaths in DOC custody, by fiscal year

2018: 12

2019: 10

2020: 14

2021: 14

2022: 11

2023: 11

2024: 14

2025: 19

2026 (July-November): 7

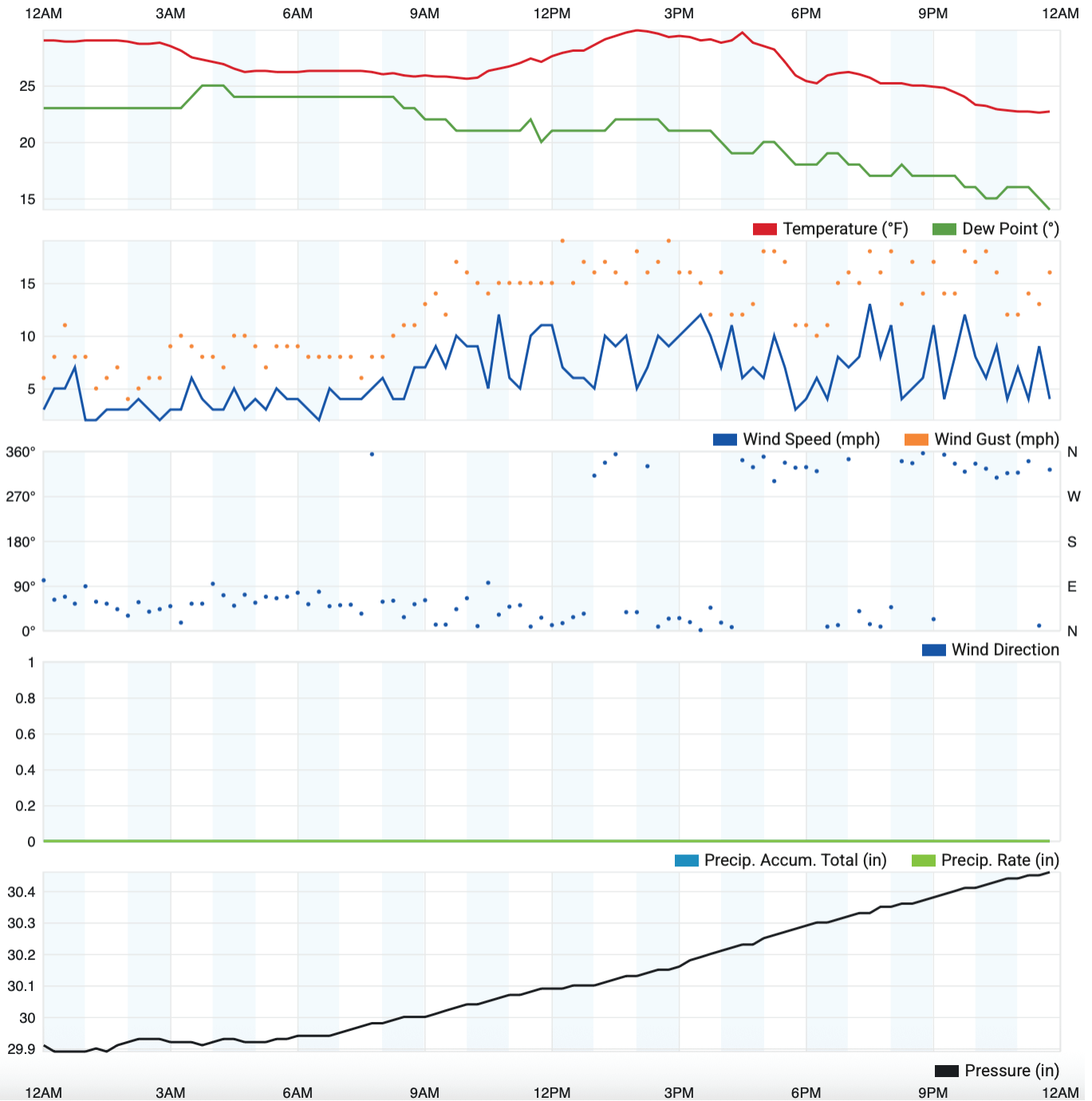
John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 37 of 71

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

November 8, 2025



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 38 of 71

Sunday

Sunday Night

Monday

Monday Night

Veterans Day



High: 31 °F

Low: 8 °F

High: 36 °F

Low: 25 °F

High: 51 °F

Chance
Flurries

Mostly Clear

Partly Sunny

Mostly Cloudy

Mostly Sunny

~ Through Mid Week ~

Sunday



Highs:
Upper 20s to
Low 30s

*Morning Wind
Chills Near Zero*

Monday



Highs:
Mid 30s to
Low 50s

Tuesday



Highs:
Low 50s to
Near 60

Wednesday



Highs:
Upper 40s to
Mid 50s



Temperatures will be coldest this morning, with wind chills around zero. Milder air is slow to work into the region, but by Monday west river should be back above normal, with everyone back into above normal temperatures for Tuesday.

Groton Daily Independent

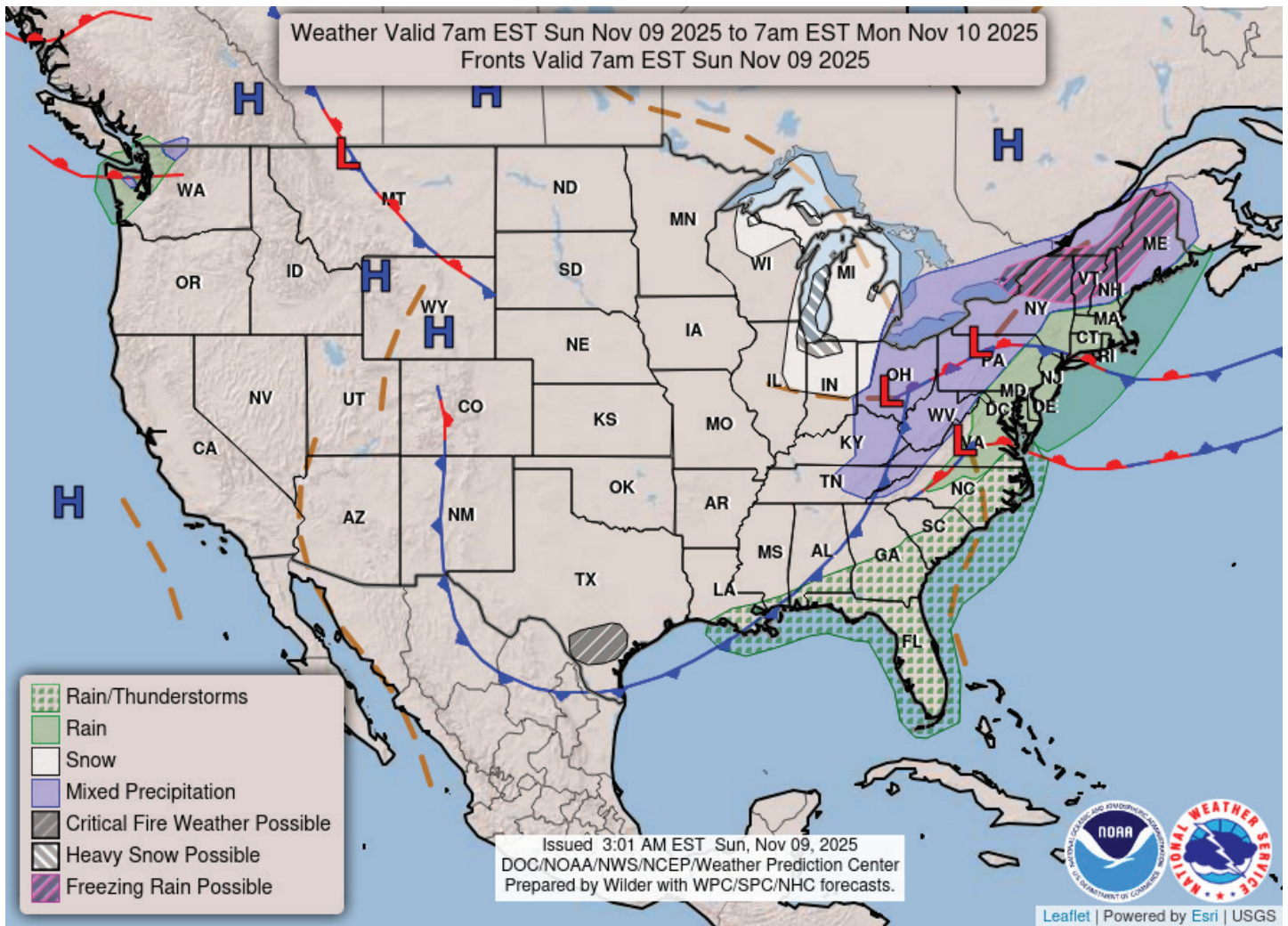
Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 39 of 71

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 30 °F at 2:07 PM
Low Temp: 23 °F at 10:58 PM
Wind: 20 mph at 7:33 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 70 in 1903
Record Low: 0 in 2018
Average High: 46
Average Low: 22
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.29
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 20.76
Precip Year to Date: 23.51
Sunset Tonight: 5:09 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:24 am



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 40 of 71

Today in Weather History

November 9th, 1977: An intense early winter storm moved northeast from Colorado to Iowa on November 9th and then to Lake Superior by November 10th. In most areas, the precipitation began late on the 8th as rain with temperatures in the 50s, changing to snow early on Wednesday the 9th, with the storm continuing through Thursday. In west-central Minnesota, some freezing rain also occurred before it changed to all snow. As the storm intensified, the winds in the eastern half of South Dakota increased with some gusts as high as 60-70 miles per hour, with widespread visibilities reduced to zero in blowing snow. In west-central Minnesota, north to northwest winds of 60 to 80 mph reduced visibility to zero and piled snow into eight-foot drifts. The temperature dropped rapidly into the 20s. Many roads throughout the eastern part of South Dakota and west-central Minnesota were blocked, and the heavy wet snow immobilized snow plows. Many cars and trucks were snowbound on the roads and highways. Approximately 100 cars and trucks were stalled on Interstate 90, east of Murdo. Near Fergus Falls in western Minnesota, two trucks loaded with turkeys became stuck, and half the birds were frozen. Many schools were closed on the 9th and 10th. Snowfall amounts in the eastern half of the state were more significant than four inches. A band of heavy snow, ten inches or more, extended from Bridgewater to Howard to Clear Lake into parts of west-central Minnesota. The high winds also destroyed a 1400-foot TV tower at Garden City. In addition, there was some loss of the corn crop. Sunflowers comprised the greatest loss because they had not been entirely harvested. Reports of livestock losses were minimal. Some storm total snowfall amounts include; 15 inches in Watertown; 14 inches in Sisseton; 12 inches in Clear Lake and Wheaton; 10.5 inches in Castlewood; and 9 inches near Raymond and Bryant.

1864: On Election Night, a violent tornado strikes a ferry on the Mississippi River near Chester, Illinois, blowing away all but the hull. The boiler and engines are found up the bluff. Half of Chester was destroyed, and twenty died during the storm.

1913 - The freshwater fury , a rapidly deepening cyclone, caused unpredicted gales on the Great Lakes. Eight large ore carriers on Lake Erie sank drowning 270 sailors. Cleveland OH reported 17.4 inches of snow in 24 hours, and a total of 22.2 inches, both all-time records for that location. During the storm, winds at Cleveland averaged 50 mph, with gusts to 79 mph. The storm produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Buffalo NY, and buried Pickens WV under three feet of snow. (9th-11th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1926: An estimated F3 to F4 tornado tore through La Plata, Maryland, killing 14 individuals at a small school. This storm caused 17 deaths and injured 65 others.

1982 - Seven tornadoes touched down in southern California, three of which began as waterspouts. The waterspouts moved ashore at Point Mugu, Malibu, and Long Beach. The Long Beach tornado traveled inland ten miles causing much damage. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and gusty winds associated with a cold front helped extinguish forest fires in the Appalachian Region and clear out smoke in the eastern U.S. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains from eastern Texas to the Tennessee Valley. Longview TX received 3.12 inches of rain, including two inches in two hours, Tupelo MS was soaked with 2.80 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a strong cold front produced severe weather from eastern Oklahoma to central Indiana. Hail more than two inches in diameter was reported around Tulsa OK. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - High winds prevailed along the eastern slopes of the Rockies from the afternoon of the 8th into the early morning hours of the 9th. Winds of 50 to 80 mph prevailed across the northwest chinook area of Wyoming, with gusts to 100 mph. Winds in Colorado gusted to 97 mph at Fritz Peak (located near Rollinsville) the evening of the 8th, and early in the morning on the 9th, gusted to 78 mph west of Fort Collins. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1996 - The Veteran's Day storm of November 9-14, 1996 may be the most severe early season lake effect snow (LES) storm the Great Lakes has witnessed in the past fifty years. At the height of the storm, over 160,000 customers were without power in Greater Cleveland alone, as the storm produced isolated snowfall tallies approaching 70 . As usual with these LES events, the Veteran's Day storm battered snow-belt communities downwind of each of the Great Lakes while nearby towns went unscathed. (University of Illinois WW2010)



Daily Devotion

Putting Worry in Perspective

We don't need to worry—

God's provision and strength are available for every challenge we face.

Philippians 4:8-9: 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Worry is a common experience, and in many cases, anxiety is constant and overwhelming. But rather than address the issue, a lot of people have just learned to live with it.

We treat extreme anxiety like a benign emotion when in fact it can do harm, clouding our mind, dividing our focus, and robbing us of peace. Drifting through life exhausted by stress and worry isn't God's plan for us. Instead, we should take anxious thoughts captive (2 Corinthians 10:5) and replace them with healthier ones.

The best way to address anxious thoughts is to combat them with something positive. We do this by weaving Scripture into our life. God has something to say about everything that concerns us. Philippians 4:13 assures us we "can do all things through Him who strengthens [us]." If we fear the paycheck won't cover this month's expenses, Matthew 6:31-32 reminds us not to be anxious, "for [our] heavenly Father knows that [we] need all these things."

Jesus said worry adds nothing to our life (Matthew 6:27). In fact, we actually waste time and energy dwelling on concerns instead of affirming our trust in God. When worry creeps up on us, let's choose to set our mind on Him instead.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 42 of 71

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

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

- Black & White \$48.99/year
- Colored \$79.88/year
- Colored \$42.60/6 months
- E-Weekly* \$31.95/year

* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City _____
 State, Zip Code _____
 E-mail _____
 Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent
 P.O. Box 34
 Groton, SD 57445-0034
 or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

paypal.me/paperpaul

Pay with Venmo: @paperpaul Phone Number to Confirm: 7460

Groton Daily Independent www.397news.com Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

- 1 Month\$15.98
- 3 Months..... \$26.63
- 6 Months.....\$31.95
- 9 Months..... \$42.60
- 12 Months \$53.25

Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City _____
 State, Zip Code _____
 Phone Number _____
 The following will be used for your log-in information.
 E-mail _____
 Password _____



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:

11.08.25

15 21 23 37 52 5

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$6,630,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.08.25

27 31 41 46 47 15

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 51 Mins 29 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.08.25

19 20 26 33 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$79,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.08.25

16 18 20 54 59 6

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.08.25

3 53 60 62 68 11

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$490,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

L.J. Phillips Jr. powers South Dakota to 24-17 upset victory over South Dakota State

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — L.J. Phillips Jr. had a long touchdown run to cap the scoring early in the third quarter and South Dakota held South Dakota State scoreless in the second half to finish off a 24-17 upset victory between ranked FCS teams on Saturday.

Phillips piled up 168 yards on 27 carries for South Dakota (7-4, 5-2 Missouri Valley Football Conference), ranked No. 25 in the latest FCS coaches poll while the Jackrabbits entered at No. 9. Phillips had the only score in the second half on a 32-yard run 3:36 into the third quarter.

South Dakota State (7-3, 3-3) jumped on top on the first play from scrimmage — a 75-yard touchdown run by Jack Smith for a 7-0 lead.

Phillips tied it on a 10-yard touchdown run before Eli Stader kicked a 40-yard field goal to put South Dakota State up 10-7 after one quarter.

Will Leyland tied it on a 34-yard field goal with 4:14 left in the second quarter and Aidan Bouman passed 19 yards to Lorenzo Fenner for a touchdown and the Coyotes led 17-10 lead with 63 seconds left. That was enough time for Jack Henry to throw a 27-yard touchdown pass to Alex Bullock seven plays later to knot the score at halftime.

Bouman completed 14 of 21 passes for 158 yards for South Dakota.

Henry totaled 139 yards on 13-for-24 passing with an interception for South Dakota State. Smith led the Jackrabbits with 82 yards on three carries.

Get poll alerts and updates on the AP Top 25 throughout the season. Sign up here. AP college football: <https://apnews.com/hub/ap-top-25-college-football-poll> and <https://apnews.com/hub/college-football>

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Rapid City Stevens, 30-28, 20-25, 26-24

Sioux Falls Washington def. Rapid City Central, 25-11, 25-18, 25-8

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

Infant botulism in 10 US states linked to formula being recalled

By The Associated Press undefined

Federal and state health officials are investigating 13 cases in 10 states of infant botulism linked to baby formula that was being recalled, authorities said Saturday.

ByHeart Inc. agreed to begin recalling two lots of the company's Whole Nutrition Infant Formula, the Food and Drug Administration said in a statement.

All 13 infants were hospitalized after consuming formula from two lots: 206VABP/251261P2 and 206VABP/251131P2.

The cases occurred in Arizona, California, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas and Washington.

No deaths were reported. The FDA said it was investigating how the contamination happened and whether it affected any other products.

Available online and through major retailers, the product accounted for an estimated 1% of national formula sales, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

People who bought the recalled formula should record the lot number if possible before throwing it out or returning it to where it was purchased, the CDC said in a statement.

They should use a dishwasher or hot, soapy water to clean items and surfaces that touched the formula. And they should seek medical care right away if an infant has consumed recalled formula and then had poor feeding, loss of head control, difficulty swallowing or decreased facial expression.

Infant botulism is caused by a bacterium that produces toxins in the large intestine.

Symptoms can take weeks to develop, so parents should keep vigilant, the CDC said.

A ByHeart spokesperson did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment Saturday.

US airlines cancel more than 2,500 weekend flights largely due to government shutdown

By JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

U.S. airlines canceled more than 2,500 weekend flights by Saturday evening as the Federal Aviation Administration's mandate to reduce air traffic because of the government shutdown showed no signs of easing.

The slowdown at many of the nation's busiest airports did not cause immediate widespread disruptions. But it deepened the impact felt by the nation's longest federal shutdown.

"We all travel. We all have somewhere to be," said Emmy Holguin, 36, who was flying from Miami to see family in the Dominican Republic. "I'm hoping that the government can take care of this."

Analysts warn that the upheaval will intensify and spread far beyond air travel if cancellations keep growing and reach into Thanksgiving week.

Already there are concerns about the squeeze on tourism destinations and holiday shipping.

Here's what to know about the flight reductions:

How many flights have been canceled?

Cancellations jumped Saturday — typically a slow travel day — to more than 1,500, following just over 1,000 the previous day, according to the tracking website FlightAware. By the evening U.S. airlines already had canceled another 1,000-plus for Sunday.

Airports in Atlanta and Chicago, as well as Charlotte, North Carolina, and Newark, New Jersey, saw numerous disruptions throughout the day. Ongoing staffing shortages in radar centers and control towers added to the cancellations and delays at several East Coast airports, including those around New York City.

Not all the cancellations were due to the FAA order, and those numbers represented just a small portion of the overall flights nationwide. But they are certain to rise in the coming days if the slowdown continues.

The FAA said the reductions impacting all commercial airlines started at 4% of flights at 40 targeted airports and will be bumped up again Tuesday before hitting 10% on Friday.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy warned this week that even more cuts might be needed if the shutdown continues and more air traffic controllers are off the job.

Why are the flights being canceled?

Controllers have gone without paychecks for nearly a month during the shutdown, leading many to call in sick and compound previously existing staffing shortages.

Most are working mandatory overtime six days a week during without pay, and some are taking second jobs to pay their bills, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association has said.

On Saturday the union said it had delivered 1,600 handwritten letters from members to Congress calling for the shutdown to end.

How are passengers being affected?

Most were relieved to find that airlines largely stayed on schedule Friday, and those whose flights were called off were able to quickly rebook. So far, longer international flights have not been interrupted.

There is still a lot of uncertainty about which flights will be canceled next.

And not everyone has the means to pay for a hotel or deal with a last-minute disruption, said Heather Xu, 46, who was in Miami on Saturday after a cruise and flying home to Puerto Rico.

"Travel is stressful enough. Then you put these disruptions in place, and it really makes everything more challenging," she said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 46 of 71

Rental car companies reported a sharp increase in one-way reservations Friday, and some people simply canceled flights altogether.

Diana Alvear of Bridgewater, New Jersey, scratched her family's trip next weekend to see in-laws in California because of concerns about flying when controllers are working long hours and understaffed.

She also was nervous about being stranded, which would be "a huge debacle" for work. United Airlines gave her credit for the airfare, but the family is still out nearly \$700 for the deposit on an Airbnb.

"This has been costly to us, and it's a huge disappointment for us and our family," Alvear said. "It's really weighing on our hearts that we had to do this."

What could be the impacts beyond air travel?

First there is the potential for higher prices in stores, as nearly half of U.S. air freight is shipped in the bellies of passenger aircraft.

Major flight disruptions could bring higher shipping costs that get passed on to consumers, said Patrick Penfield, professor of supply chain practice at Syracuse University.

Further losses will ripple through the economy if the slowdown continues, from tourism to manufacturing, said Greg Raiff, CEO of Elevate Aviation Group.

"This shutdown is going to impact everything from cargo aircraft to people getting to business meetings to tourists being able to travel," Raiff said. "It's going to hit the hotel taxes and city taxes. There's a cascading effect that results from this thing."

Gaza death toll tops 69,000 as Israel and militants again exchange remains

By WAFAA SHURAF, SALLY ABOU ALJOUND and JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — More than 69,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war so far, Gaza health officials said Saturday, as both sides completed the latest exchange of bodies under the terms of the tenuous ceasefire.

The latest jump in deaths occurred as more bodies are recovered in the devastated Gaza Strip since the ceasefire began on Oct. 10, and as other bodies are identified. The toll also includes Palestinians killed by strikes that Israel says target remaining militants.

Israel on Saturday returned the remains of another 15 Palestinians to Gaza, according to hospital officials there, a day after militants returned the remains of a hostage to Israel. He was identified as Lior Rudaeff, according to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office. The Hostages and Missing Families Forum said that Rudaeff was born in Argentina.

The exchanges are the central part of the ceasefire's initial phase, which requires that Hamas return all hostage remains as quickly as possible. Families and supporters rallied again Saturday night in Tel Aviv for the return of all.

The truce is aimed at winding down the deadliest and most destructive war ever between Israel and the Palestinian militant group. It began with the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack on southern Israel that killed about 1,200 people and saw 251 taken hostage.

Also Saturday, Israeli settlers staged two attacks on Palestinian farmers and others in the occupied West Bank as settler violence reaches new highs during this year's olive harvest.

'I have not lost hope'

For each Israeli hostage returned, Israel has been releasing the remains of 15 Palestinians. Ahmed Dheir, director of forensic medicine at Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis, said that the remains of 300 have now been returned, with 89 identified.

"We do not have sufficient resources or the DNA to match them with the martyrs' families," Dheir said. Unidentified ones will be buried in batches.

Hopeful families looked into body bags of decomposed remains. "Close it, it's not him," one family said.

"I always come here. I have not lost hope. I am still waiting for him," said the mother of a missing boy, who did not give her name.

Gaza's Health Ministry said the number of people killed there since the war began has risen to 69,169.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 47 of 71

The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by independent experts.

The ministry said 284 people were added to the total after their identities were verified between Oct. 31 and Nov. 7.

Over the past three days, 10 bodies were brought to Gaza hospitals — nine retrieved from the rubble and one newly killed, the ministry said. Since the ceasefire began, 241 people have been killed in Gaza, it said.

It added that a large number of Palestinians remain missing.

Israel's military on Saturday said that soldiers killed two militants who had approached troops, one in northern Gaza and the other in the south.

Israeli settler attack

Palestinian health officials said 11 people were injured in an attack by Israeli settlers in the West Bank town of Beita, including journalists, medics, international activists and farmers. Activists and medics have flocked to this year's olive harvest to help Palestinian farmers safely reach their fields.

The U.N. humanitarian office reported more Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians and their property in the West Bank in October than in any other month since the office began keeping track in 2006. There were over 260 attacks, the office said.

Jonathan Pollak, a longtime activist, told The Associated Press that he was picking olives when dozens of masked Israeli settlers, armed with clubs, descended, chasing people and throwing rocks. Pollak was hit in the head and taken to the hospital.

Pollak said that he saw five settlers converge on a journalist and her security guard. He watched the settlers beat and bludgeon her, denting her helmet.

A Reuters spokesperson said that two colleagues were "attacked by a group of men with sticks and rocks," despite identifying themselves as journalists, and both were injured. The spokesperson called on Israeli authorities to investigate and hold those responsible accountable.

Israel's military said it dispersed a confrontation "between Israeli civilians and Palestinians during an uncoordinated olive harvest in an area that requires prior coordination" and that several Palestinians had been injured.

Rights groups say that arrests for settler violence are rare, and prosecutions even rarer. Israel's left-leaning Haaretz newspaper reported in 2022 that based on statistics from the Israeli police, charges were pressed in only 3.8% of cases of settler violence, with most cases closed without action taken.

Also Saturday, Palestinian paramedics reported another settler attack in a nearby village, Burin. The Palestinian Red Crescent said settlers injured four international activists and one 57-year-old man.

Israel's military said soldiers responded to a report of rock-throwing at an Israeli vehicle and that Israeli civilians then hurled rocks at harvesters. It said Israeli and Palestinian civilians were injured.

SNAP food aid gets to people in some states while others remain in limbo amid court battles

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

People in some U.S. states are able to buy groceries with federally funded SNAP benefits this weekend while those elsewhere are still waiting for November food benefits delayed by a protracted legal battle over the federal government shutdown.

The Trump administration initially said last month that it would not fund Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits for November because of the U.S. government shutdown. The twists and turns since have exacerbated uncertainty for the nearly 1 in 8 Americans who receive monthly SNAP benefits to spend at grocery stores and farmer's markets.

On Friday, some states began issuing full monthly SNAP benefits to people, a day after a federal judge ordered the Trump administration to provide the funds.

But Friday night, Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson temporarily paused that judicial order to give an appeals court in Boston time to decide whether to issue a more lasting halt. Jackson acted

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 48 of 71

because she handles emergency matters from Massachusetts.

The high court's order didn't stop payment distribution in at least some states, but millions of other Americans who depend on SNAP remain in limbo.

How are SNAP recipients faring?

Nearly 42 million Americans receive SNAP benefits, formerly known as food stamps, for help buying groceries. Most have incomes below the poverty line, which is about \$32,000 for a family of four.

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.

The delay in payments has led to a surge in demand at food banks and pantries across the country, as well as long lines for free meals or drive-thru giveaways.

Some states have provided emergency funding to food banks to help them respond to the increased need. Some states also used their own dollars to fund direct payments to people while the federal benefits were in limbo.

North Carolina's Health and Human Services Secretary Dev Sangvai acknowledged that more than 190,000 households there received just \$16 or less, after the state paused the full payment of benefits following the Supreme Court's order.

Where have people already received benefits?

Whether SNAP beneficiaries are seeing money on their electronic benefits transfer cards depends on where they live.

In Hawaii, Oregon and Wisconsin, officials worked quickly after a judge ordered full benefit payments Thursday to instruct their EBT providers to process the full payments.

"We moved with haste once we verified everything," Joseph Campos II, deputy director of Hawaii's Department of Human Services, told The Associated Press.

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek, a Democrat, said state employees "worked through the night" to issue full November benefits.

Officials in California, Kansas, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington also confirmed that some SNAP recipients were issued their full November payments on Friday.

Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson, a Democrat, said more than 250,000 households that missed their regular monthly SNAP payment during the first week of November received their full amount on Friday. The remaining beneficiaries would receive their November funds on their regularly scheduled dates later this month — if distribution does not remain blocked by legal challenges.

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, a Democrat, said that state's SNAP recipients had received full November benefits as of Saturday afternoon, while Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey, also a Democrat, said half a million recipients in her state got their benefits after a previously scheduled payment went out Saturday morning. A half a million more residents there are supposed to get their benefits next week.

Officials in Colorado said Saturday that about 32,000 recipients had received their full monthly benefits before the Supreme Court's order came down. More than 560,000 additional recipients were still waiting.

In Rhode Island, about 79,000 households received their full benefits, Gov. Dan McKee, a Democrat said, adding that his team is "working through the weekend" to help address what he called "a crisis for families."

The Trump administration said in a legal filing with the Supreme Court that "there is no ready mechanism for the government to recover those funds" that already have been distributed.

How long might residents elsewhere wait?

Before Jackson ordered a pause, New York had said access to full SNAP benefits should begin by Sunday. New Hampshire had said full benefits should be available over the weekend.

Arizona and Minnesota also said that full SNAP benefits would be accessible in the coming days.

Whether all the people expecting to receive those benefits on their EBT cards will find them there remains unclear.

For people in some other states, the wait appears likely to extend into next week. Numerous state officials said they had been waiting for further guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which

administers SNAP.

What has been holding up November benefits?

Because of the federal government shutdown, the Trump administration originally had said SNAP benefits would not be available in November. After two judges ruled the administration could not skip November's benefits entirely, the administration said it would use an emergency reserve fund containing more than \$4.6 billion to provide partial benefits in November.

A judge on Thursday said that wasn't good enough, and ordered other funds to be used to make the full monthly payment. The Trump administration appealed, asking a higher court to suspend any orders that require it to spend more money than is available in the contingency fund. That is what led to Jackson's temporary hold issued late Friday.

Russian strikes hit an apartment building and energy sites in Ukraine, killing 4

By SAMYA KULLAB and JOANNA KOZLOWSKA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A Russian drone slammed into an apartment building in eastern Ukraine early Saturday while many were sleeping, killing four people — three in Dnipro and one in Kharkiv — and wounding 12 others, Ukrainian authorities reported.

The attack in Dnipro, Ukraine's fourth-largest city, was part of a large Russian missile and drone barrage across the country that targeted power infrastructure. It also killed a worker at an energy company in Kharkiv, farther north, a local official said.

A fire broke out and several apartments were destroyed in the nine-story building in Dnipro, the emergency services said. Rescuers recovered the bodies of three people, while two children were among the wounded.

Russia fired a total of 458 drones and 45 missiles, including 32 ballistic missiles. Ukrainian forces shot down and neutralized 406 drones and nine missiles, the air force said, adding that 25 locations were struck.

Authorities switched off power in several regions because of the attacks, Ukrainian Energy Minister Svitlana Grynchuk said in a post on Facebook.

In eastern Ukraine, fighting for the strategic city of Pokrovsk has reached a key stage, with both Kyiv and Moscow vying to persuade U.S. President Donald Trump that they can win on the battlefield.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Saturday that work has begun on President Vladimir Putin's order to prepare plans for a possible Russian nuclear test, according to state news agency Tass.

Putin's order on Wednesday followed statements by Trump, which appeared to suggest that Washington would restart its own atomic tests for the first time in three decades.

Energy sites attacked

Russia has been pummeling Ukraine with near-daily drone and missile strikes, killing and wounding civilians. The Kremlin says its only targets are linked to Kyiv's war effort. Russia's Defense Ministry asserted Saturday that the nighttime strikes hit military and energy sites supplying Ukrainian forces.

Moscow and Kyiv have traded almost daily assaults on each other's energy targets as U.S.-led diplomatic efforts to stop the nearly four-year war had no impact on the battlefield.

Ukraine's long-range drone strikes on Russian refineries aim to deprive Moscow of the oil export revenue it needs to pursue the war. Russia wants to cripple the Ukrainian power grid and deny civilians access to heat, light and running water in what Kyiv officials say is an attempt to "weaponize winter."

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said in an X post that the strikes damaged "several major energy facilities" around Kharkiv and Kyiv, as well as in the central Poltava region.

Thermal power plants operated by Ukraine's state energy company Centrengo were again knocked offline by the nighttime strikes, the company said in a statement Saturday. Centrengo's three plants in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Donetsk regions were damaged by Russian attacks last year and subsequently restored.

Russian forces, meanwhile, repelled a "massive" nighttime strike on energy facilities in the southern Volgograd region, Gov. Andrei Bocharov said Saturday, two days after Ukraine said that it hit a key oil

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 50 of 71

refinery there with long-range drones. Bocharov added that the strike knocked out power in parts of the region's northwest, but caused no casualties. There was no immediate comment from Kyiv.

Russia's Defense Ministry said on Saturday that its forces shot down 82 Ukrainian drones during the night, including eight over the Volgograd region. Two people were wounded in the neighboring Saratov region after a Ukrainian drone strike blew out windows in an apartment building, according to regional Gov. Roman Busarin.

Russian oil

Following weeks of long-range strikes on Russia's energy infrastructure that Ukraine says both funds and directly fuels the Kremlin's war, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy vowed on Friday to "find a way to ensure there is no Russian oil in Europe."

Zelenskyy spoke to reporters shortly after Hungary secured a yearlong exemption from recent U.S. sanctions targeting major Russian oil producers.

"We will not allow it. We will not let the Russians sell oil there. It's a matter of time," he said at a news briefing after meeting with senior Ukrainian military leaders, without elaborating how Kyiv might seek to stanch the oil flows.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, a Trump ally who has long urged the European Union to repair ties with Moscow, argues that landlocked Hungary has no viable alternatives to Russian crude, and that replacing those supplies would trigger an economic collapse. Critics dispute that claim.

The Trump administration unveiled sanctions against Russia's major state-affiliated oil firms Rosneft and Lukoil last month, a move that could expose their foreign buyers — including customers in Central Europe, India and China — to secondary sanctions.

While most of the EU's 27 member states sharply reduced or halted imports of Russian fossil fuels after Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, Hungary and Slovakia have maintained their pipeline deliveries. Hungary has even increased the share of Russian oil in its energy mix.

Fighting for Pokrovsk

The city of Pokrovsk sits along the eastern front line, part of what has been dubbed the "fortress belt" of Donetsk, a line of heavily fortified cities crucial to Ukraine's defense of the region. It could also be a key point in influencing Washington's stance and sway the course of peace negotiations, analysts say.

Russia troops advanced near Pokrovsk and the nearby town of Myrnohrad, according to the Russian Defense Ministry on Saturday, saying both were encircled. It also said Russian forces surrounded Ukrainian defenders in Kupiansk, a key railway hub in the northeastern Kharkiv region. Kyiv didn't immediately respond to Moscow's statements, which couldn't be independently verified.

Nuclear plant reconnected to grid

Elsewhere, the International Atomic Energy Agency said that Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which is in an area under Russian control, has been connected to the power grid with a second transmission line.

The plant was operating on diesel backup generators for a month after Sept. 23 when its last remaining external power line was severed in attacks that Russia and Ukraine each blamed on the other. On Oct. 23, the connection to the grid was restored using a single transmission line.

The plant is not in service, but it needs reliable power to cool its six shutdown reactors and spent fuel to avoid any catastrophic nuclear incidents. Since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion, the facility has lost external power and had to rely on emergency diesel generators on 10 occasions as a result of the fighting.

FAA grounds MD-11 planes following deadly Kentucky crash

By HALLIE GOLDEN and BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Federal aviation officials issued an order Saturday for McDonnell Douglas MD-11 planes not to be flown pending further inspection, reinforcing cargo carriers' decision to ground their fleets following a deadly crash at the UPS global aviation hub in Kentucky.

UPS and FedEx said Friday that they were grounding their fleets of McDonnell Douglas MD-11s "out of

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 51 of 71

an abundance of caution," and the Federal Aviation Administration's directive the following day sidelined the planes until inspection and correction of any problems. In the Louisville crash, the jet's left engine detached during takeoff.

"This condition could result in loss of continued safe flight and landing," the FAA said, adding that the issue "is likely to exist or develop in other products of the same design."

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

MD-11 aircraft make up about 9% 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," UPS said in a statement. "Nothing is more important to us than the safety of our employees and the communities we serve."

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

Boeing, which merged with McDonnell Douglas in 1997, said in a statement on its website that it "recommended to the three operators of the MD-11 Freighter that they suspend flight operations while additional engineering analysis is performed."

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.

Weekend session gets off to slow start in Senate as lawmakers look for a way out of shutdown

By KEVIN FREKING, STEPHEN GROVES and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate's first weekend session since the beginning of the shutdown yielded few signs of progress Saturday as Senate Majority Leader John Thune's wish for a quick vote never materialized.

The impasse that has lasted 39 days is taking an increasing toll on the country as federal workers go unpaid, airlines cancel flights and SNAP benefits have been delayed for millions of Americans.

Saturday's session got off to a rough start when President Donald Trump made clear he is unlikely to compromise any time soon with Democrats who are seeking a one-year extension of Affordable Care Act tax credits. He said on social media that it is "the worst Healthcare anywhere in the world" and suggested Congress send money directly to people to buy insurance.

Thune said Trump's proposal would not be part of a solution to ending the shutdown, but added "it is a discussion that the president and all of us want to have." Republican senators who spoke on the Senate floor Saturday generally echoed Trump's assessment.

"I guarantee you every day we keep this system in place is a great day for the health care insurance companies who have been making out literally like bandits every day under Obamacare," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said he welcomed Republicans to the fight when it came to insurance companies, "but that shouldn't come at the cost of kicking millions off of their health care in January."

Senate Republican leaders have signaled an openness to an emerging proposal from a small group of moderate Democrats to end the shutdown in exchange for a later vote on the "Obamacare" subsidies, which make coverage more affordable. For those enrolled in Affordable Care Act exchanges, premiums on average are expected to more than double next year if Congress allows the enhanced subsidies to lapse.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., who is leading the talks among moderates, said Friday evening that Democrats "need another path forward" after Republicans rejected an offer from Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York to reopen the government and extend the subsidies for a year. "We're working on it," she said.

Moderates continue to negotiate

Shaheen and others, negotiating among themselves and with some rank-and-file Republicans, have been discussing 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 agreement would only come with the promise of a future health care vote, rather than a guarantee of extended subsidies.

It was unclear whether enough Democrats would support such a plan. Even with a deal, Trump appears unlikely to support an extension of the health benefits. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., also said this week that he would not commit to a health vote.

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.

Some Republicans have said they are open to extending the COVID-19-era tax credits as premiums could skyrocket for millions of people, but they want new limits on who can receive the subsidies. They lined up Saturday to take to the Senate floor and argue that subsidies for the plans should be routed through individuals.

"We're going to replace this broken system with something that is actually better for the consumer," Graham said.

Republicans eye new package of bills

Trump wants Republicans to end the shutdown quickly and scrap the filibuster, which requires 60 Senate votes for most legislation, so they can bypass Democrats altogether. Vice President JD Vance, a former

Ohio senator, endorsed the idea in an online post Saturday, saying Republicans who want to keep the filibuster are "wrong."

Republicans have rejected Trump's call, and Thune is eyeing a bipartisan package that mirrors the proposal the moderate Democrats have been sketching out. What Thune, who has refused to negotiate, might promise on health care is unknown.

The package would replace the House-passed legislation that the Democrats have rejected 14 times since the shutdown began Oct. 1. The current bill would only extend government funding until Nov. 21.

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: Keep fighting for a meaningful deal on extending the subsidies that expire in January, while prolonging the pain of the shutdown? Or vote to reopen the government and hope for the best as Republicans promise an eventual health care vote, but not a guaranteed outcome.

Schumer on Saturday persisted in arguing that Republicans should accept a one-year extension of the subsidies before negotiating the future of the tax credits.

"Doing nothing is derelict because people will go bankrupt, people will lose insurance, people will get sicker," Schumer said in a floor speech. "That's what will happen if this Congress fails to act."

US government shutdown forces some overseas bases to stop paying workers

By SUMAN NAISHADHAM and GIADA ZAMPANO Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — The longest U.S. government shutdown on record is doing more than grind activities to a halt at home; an ocean away in Europe, local workers at U.S. military bases have started to feel the pain.

Thousands of people working at overseas bases in Europe have had their salaries interrupted since the shutdown began almost six weeks ago. In some cases, governments hosting the U.S. bases have stepped in to foot the bill, expecting the United States to eventually make good. In others, including in Italy and Portugal, people have simply kept working unpaid as the gridlock in Washington drags on.

"It's an absurd situation because nobody has responses, nobody feels responsible," said Angelo Zaccaria, a union coordinator at the Aviano Air Base in northeastern Italy.

"This is having dramatic effects on us Italian workers," he told The Associated Press.

An array of needed jobs

The jobs foreign nationals do at U.S. bases around the world range from food service, construction, logistics, maintenance and other, more specialized roles. In some cases, foreign workers are employed by private companies contracted by the U.S. government while others are direct hires.

How local employees are paid varies by country and is based on specific agreements the U.S. government has with each host nation, said Amber Kelly-Herard, a public affairs spokesperson for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Africa.

During the shutdown, Kelly-Herard said local employees were expected to continue to perform their jobs in accordance with their work contracts.

The AP reached out to the Pentagon with multiple questions on the pay disruption, but was only provided a brief statement that did not acknowledge it.

"We value the important contributions of our local national employees around the world," it said. The official declined to answer any follow-up questions.

American bases feeling the pinch overseas

In Germany, the government has stepped in to pay the salaries of nearly 11,000 local employees that work on U.S. military bases, the nation's finance ministry said in a statement. American facilities in Germany include the Ramstein Air Base, a critical hub for operations in the Mideast and Africa and headquarters to the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Africa.

Workers in other countries have not been so fortunate.

More than 4,600 Italian nationals work at the five U.S. bases in Italy, said union coordinator Zaccaria. Of

those, about 2,000 workers — mostly at bases in Aviano and Vicenza — were not paid in October, Italy's foreign ministry said Saturday.

The ministry said in a statement it had discussed the issue with U.S. officials, and that the U.S. Army and Air Force were in talks with the Pentagon about using their own funds to pay the salaries of Italian workers.

"There are workers struggling to pay their mortgages, to support their children or even to pay the fuel to come to work," Zaccaria said.

In Portugal, a similar situation was playing out at the Lajes Field base in the Azores archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean, where more than 360 Portuguese workers have not been paid, according to Paula Terra, head of the Lajes base workers' committee.

Terra said unpaid staff are still turning up because furloughs aren't legally recognized in a U.S.-Portugal agreement on the base. Staying away could leave them open to disciplinary proceedings, she added.

But this week, the Azores Islands regional government approved a bank loan to pay the Portuguese workers at the base in the interim. Terra said she was waiting to hear when workers could claim the money.

Germany is counting on being repaid once the shutdown ends, the finance ministry's spokesperson told the AP, adding that during previous shutdowns, civilians were paid by the U.S. government.

The governments of Poland, Lithuania and Greenland did not respond to a request for comment from the AP about whether they, too, have also stepped in to pay local workers.

Most vulnerable, at-risk workers

Linda Bilmes, a professor of public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and an expert on public finance, said local workers at U.S. military bases who work as contractors are generally most at-risk of losing pay during U.S. government shutdowns.

She added that the U.S. government in the past always paid back full-time employees, including those working at overseas facilities who may be foreign nationals — but that contractors are not always covered, which is why some add extra fees in their contracts to cover potential government funding stoppages.

"But I doubt anyone anticipated this length of delay," Bilmes said.

In Spain, where the U.S. operates the Moron and Rota military bases in the south, a union representing more than 1,000 Spanish workers said a delay in payments had been resolved last month with the help of the Spanish government.

Spain's defense ministry did not respond to multiple requests seeking to confirm its involvement in resolving the pay issue.

Democrats seize on Trump administration's efforts to fight food stamp payments

BY JILL COLVIN, MICHELLE L. PRICE and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The Trump administration's legal efforts to fight having to fully fund food stamps for millions of vulnerable Americans is creating an opening for Democrats eager to use the longest government shutdown in U.S. history to paint the president as callous and out of touch.

"Donald Trump and his administration have made the decision to weaponize hunger, to withhold SNAP benefits from millions of people, notwithstanding the fact that two lower courts, both the district court and the court of appeals, made clear that those SNAP benefits needed to be paid immediately," House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said on CNN Saturday, calling the actions "shameful."

"Donald Trump is literally fighting in court to ensure Americans starve. HE DOES NOT CARE ABOUT YOU," echoed California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a potential 2028 presidential contender, on X.

The comments come after the Supreme Court late Friday granted the administration's emergency appeal to temporarily block a court order requiring it to fully fund SNAP food aid payments amid the shutdown. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program serves about 1 in 8 Americans, mostly those with lower incomes.

A judge had given the administration until Friday to make the payments. But the administration asked an

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 55 of 71

appeals court to suspend any orders requiring it to spend more money than is available in a contingency fund, and to move forward with planned partial SNAP payments for the month instead.

The legal wrangling comes after the administration and Republicans endured a bruising Election Day last week. Democrats scored commanding wins up and down the ballot and on ballot measures across the country amid signs that voters' economic woes are top of mind — a warning sign for the president and his party heading into next year's higher-stakes midterm elections.

In response, the White House is planning to adjust its messaging strategy to focus on affordability to try to win over voters who are worried about the high cost of living with plans to emphasize new tax breaks and show progress on fighting inflation.

But its efforts around food stamps could complicate that.

Blame game and workarounds

Both parties have tried to blame the other for the shutdown as its impact has spread beyond Washington, D.C., including a growing crisis at the nation's airports.

An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll conducted in October, as the shutdown stretched into its third week, found that roughly 6 in 10 Americans said Trump and Republicans in Congress bore "a great deal" or "quite a bit" of responsibility for the shutdown, while 54% said the same about Democrats in Congress. At least three-quarters said both sides deserved at least a "moderate" share of blame.

The White House did not respond to questions Saturday about its rationale for appealing the SNAP orders to the Supreme Court or whether it was concerned about the optics of fighting against making the full payments.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, appearing on Fox News, again blamed Democrats for refusing to vote to reopen the government and made the case that funding had to come from Congress.

"We can't just create money out of the sky," she said. "You can't just create money to fund a program that Congress refuses to fund."

While hundreds of thousands of federal workers have been furloughed and gone over a month without paychecks, the president has gone out of his way to ensure those he favors have been paid.

That includes members of the military after Trump directed the Pentagon to use "all available funds" to pay U.S. troops.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem has said her department had found a way to pay the U.S. Coast Guard and law enforcement officers within the department, including border patrol agents and immigration officers with funds from the sweeping "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" Trump signed this summer.

And FBI director Kash Patel has said that FBI special agents are still being paid — though other bureau workers are not. The administration has not said where that money is coming from.

SNAP under attack

Trump has repeatedly voiced skepticism about SNAP, and he and the White House have offered conflicting messages on what would happen to the program during the shutdown.

In a social media post Tuesday, Trump announced that the administration would not pay out any SNAP benefits until the shutdown was over, and suggested that some who receive benefits are not really in need.

Hours later, however, press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the administration would pay out partial SNAP benefits using contingency funding "that is supposed to be for emergencies, catastrophes, for war."

But when asked Thursday about a judge ordering the administration to make the full payment, the president directed Vice President JD Vance, who was sitting next to him, to answer.

Vance called the ruling "absurd," because, he said, "you have a federal judge effectively telling us what we have to do in the midst of a Democrat government shutdown."

"In the midst of a shutdown, we can't have a federal court telling the president how he has to triage the situation," he said.

Trump added that he believes the country "has to remain very liquid because problems, catastrophes, wars, could be anything. We have to remain liquid. We can't give everything away."

Legal wrangling

The administration has faced lawsuits from Democratic-leaning states, nonprofits and cities since shortly after announcing that SNAP benefits would not be available in November because of the shutdown.

But two judges separately ordered the government to keep the money following, ruling last week that the administration could not skip November's benefits entirely. In both cases, the judges ordered the government to use an emergency reserve fund containing more than \$4.6 billion to make the payments, which cost between \$8.5 billion and \$9 billion each month.

After the administration announced it would cover only 65% of the maximum monthly benefit, one judge ruled that they could not and would need to find the money to fully fund the program for November.

The Justice Department filed an emergency appeal. In its court filings Friday, the administration contended that the judge had usurped both legislative and executive authority. When a higher court refused to nullify the Friday payment deadline, the Trump administration turned quickly to the Supreme Court.

Through an order signed by liberal Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the high court agreed to keep the full-payment order on hold until 48 hours after the appeals court rules on whether to issue a more lasting pause. Jackson, a frequent dissenter from a series of recent decisions in favor of the administration, is the justice assigned to oversee appeals from Rhode Island, where the case originated.

The legal wrangling has left millions of Americans who depend on food aid in confusing limbo. People in some states have reported receiving their full benefits for November, while others could be waiting until at least next week.

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 halved 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 57 of 71

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 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 58 of 71

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. “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.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 59 of 71

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 waterlogged 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 Kalmaegi swamped low-lying neighborhoods.

In Lam Dong province, officials evacuated around 100 households near an irrigation lake after discover-

ing 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.

Thousands flee to overcrowded camps after Sudan's paramilitary captures el-Fasher

By FATMA KHALED Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Tens of thousands of Sudanese have fled to overcrowded camps to escape reported atrocities by a paramilitary force since it captured el-Fasher in the western Darfur region, an aid group said Saturday, and the U.N. human rights chief warned that many others are still trapped.

Those who reach shelter in Tawila, about 70 kilometers (43 miles) from el-Fasher, find themselves stranded in a barren area with barely enough tents, many of them improvised from patched tarps and sheets, according to a video posted by the group Sudan's IDPs and Refugee Camps. It shows children running across the area as a few adults carry a large pot of food, hoping it will be enough to feed the growing crowds of displaced.

Since the Rapid Support Forces seized el-Fasher from the rival military Oct. 26, more than 16,200 people have fled to the camps in Tawila, said Adam Rojal, spokesperson for the aid group. The International Organization for Migration estimates that around 82,000 people had fled the city and surrounding areas as of Nov. 4, heading to safe spots including Tawila, an area already overcrowded with the displaced from previous attacks, with some making the journey on foot.

Abu Bakr Hammad, director of medical activities with aid group Doctors Without Borders in Tawila Hospital, told The Associated Press on Saturday that the hospital has received at least 1,500 people who fled el-Fasher since Oct. 26, suffering from a range of injuries including broken fractures.

The RSF and the Sudanese army have been at war since April 2023, following simmering tensions over control of Africa's third-largest nation. At least 40,000 people have been killed, according to the World Health Organization, though the actual toll might be many times higher. Some 12 million people have been displaced, and nearly half the population are facing acute food insecurity.

Last week, the RSF seized el-Fasher after an 18-month siege. The paramilitary rampaged through the Saudi Hospital in the city, killing over 450 people, according to the WHO, and went house to house, killing civilians and committing sexual assaults. The RSF has denied killing anyone at the Saudi hospital, but

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 61 of 71

testimonies from those fleeing, online videos and satellite images offer an apocalyptic vision of the attack.

Fleeing el-Fasher for Tawila

MSF, the abbreviation for Doctors Without Borders' French name Medecins Sans Frontieres, said Friday that 300 people arrived in Tawila on Thursday alone after fleeing el-Fasher. MSF teams reported "extremely high levels of malnutrition among children and adults."

The displaced in Tawila are in urgent need of food, medicine, shelter materials and psychosocial support, Rojal told The Associated Press. He said that families often survive on just two meals a day — and sometimes only one.

U.N. Human Rights Chief Volker Türk warned that those left behind in el-Fasher are at risk.

"Today, traumatized civilians are still trapped inside el-Fasher and are being prevented from leaving," he said Friday in Geneva.

"I fear that the abominable atrocities such as summary executions, rape and ethnically motivated violence are continuing within the city," he added. "And for those who manage to flee, the violence does not end, as the exit routes themselves have been the scenes of unimaginable cruelty."

Fighting escalates despite ceasefire proposal

On Thursday, the RSF said it has agreed to a humanitarian truce proposed by a U.S.-led mediator group known as the Quad. Meanwhile, the army said it welcomes the Quad's proposal, but will only agree to it if RSF withdraw from civilian areas and give up their weapons.

The fighting has spread across Darfur and to the neighboring Kordofan region, with both emerging as the epicenter of Sudan's war over the past months. Early this week, a drone attack in el-Obeid, the capital of North Kordofan province, killed at least 40 people and wounded dozens more.

A military official told AP on Saturday that the army intercepted two Chinese-made drones that targeted el-Obeid on Saturday morning. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to disclose the information.

Jalale Getachew Birru, an analyst for East Africa with Armed Conflict Location and Event Data, said in a statement Friday that the fall of el-Fasher and rising violence in North Kordofan mark a strategic victory for the RSF, but exacerbate human suffering. He estimated that at least 2,000 people were killed across Sudan in a single week between Oct. 26 and Nov. 1.

"These events not only deepen Sudan's humanitarian crisis but also signal the RSF's growing capacity to expand toward central Sudan, threatening to reverse the success of the Sudanese armed forces and returning the violence to the relatively calm central Sudan," said Birru.

Pfizer clinches deal for obesity drug developer Metsera after a bidding war with Novo Nordisk

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. pharmaceutical giant Pfizer signed a deal to purchase development-stage obesity drugmaker Metsera Inc., winning a bidding war against Novo Nordisk, the Danish drugmaker behind weight-loss treatments Ozempic and Wegovy.

Metsera, based in New York, has no products on the market, but it is developing oral and injectable treatments. That includes some potential treatments that could target lucrative fields for obesity and diabetes.

The deal comes as Pfizer is attempting to develop its own stake in that market, several months after ending development of a potential pill treatment for obesity.

In a statement issued Friday, Metsera said Pfizer will acquire the company for up to \$86.25 per share, consisting of \$65.60 per share in cash and a contingent value right entitling holders to additional payments of up to \$20.65 per share in cash.

Metsera cited U.S. antitrust risks in Novo's bid, saying in its statement that the board has determined Pfizer's revised terms represent "the best transaction for shareholders, both from the perspective of value and certainty of closing."

The deal comes three days after Novo Nordisk raised the stakes in its push to outbid Pfizer, saying Tues-

day it would offer to pay as much as \$10 billion for Metsera. That was higher than its previous bid of up to \$9 billion which sparked a lawsuit from Pfizer.

Pfizer had also altered the offer it made in September of nearly \$4.9 billion to provide more cash up front, Metsera had said.

New York-based Pfizer said in an email that it was happy with the terms of the deal, and expects to close the transaction shortly following the Metsera shareholder meeting on Nov. 13.

Novo Nordisk said Saturday it would not increase its offer and would leave the race to acquire Metsera.

Novo's proposed deal had involved paying \$62.20 in cash for each Metsera share, up from its previous bid of \$56.50. The Danish drugmaker planned to tack on a contingent value right payment of \$24, another improvement from its previous bid, if certain development and regulatory milestones were met.

Washington's struggling economy takes another hit from the government shutdown

By GARY FIELDS and FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the combination of the longest government shutdown, the mass firings of government workers and a fresh cut in federal food aid, the Capital Area Food Bank in Washington is bracing for the swell of people who will need its help before the holiday season.

The food bank, which serves 400 pantries and aid organizations in the District of Columbia, northern Virginia and two Maryland counties, is providing 8 million more meals than it had prepared to this budget year — a nearly 20% increase.

The city is being hit "especially hard," said Radha Muthiah, the group's CEO and president, "because of the sequence of events that has occurred over the course of this year."

The nation's capital has been battered by a series of decisions by the Trump administration, from the layoffs of federal workers to the ongoing law enforcement intervention into the district. The added blow of the shutdown, which has furloughed workers and paused money for food assistance, is only deepening the economic toll.

The latest figures from the D.C. Office of Revenue Analysis do not account for workforce changes since the shutdown that began Oct. 1. But even the September jobs report shows that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate hovers at 6%, compared with the most recent national rate of 4.3%, and has been the highest in the nation for months.

The economic woes appear to be reverberating politically. Democrat Abigail Spanberger won election Tuesday as Virginia's governor after focusing her campaign message on the effects of President Donald Trump's actions on the state's economy.

The shutdown's long-term impact on the regional economy will be felt long after the government reopens, experts say.

Local businesses feeling the crunch

Washington has the country's largest share of federal workers — about 20%, according to official figures — and roughly 150,000 federal employees call the area home. By Monday, hundreds of thousands of federal workers across the country will have missed at least two full paychecks because of the shutdown. Nationally, at least 670,000 federal employees are furloughed, while about 730,000 are working without pay, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center.

During the shutdown, the number of federal employees on Washington's transit system each weekday has dropped by about one-quarter compared with ridership in September. Eateries that the Restaurant Association of Greater Washington says were already dealing with thin margins from seasonal declines and the fallout from Trump's deployment of armed National Guard members on city streets are facing more challenges at a time when owners had hoped for a rebound.

Tracy Hadden Loh, a fellow at Brookings Metro, a think tank, said that going without paychecks is causing significant cash flow issues for federal workers, potentially leading to defaults on mortgages and student loans. For local businesses, especially those reliant on federal workers' discretionary spending, it could

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 63 of 71

exacerbate the impact during the high-sales October-December quarter.

"A lot of businesses rely on higher spending in Q4 in order to have a revenue positive year," Loh said.

Small businesses are feeling the loss of that spending.

The crowd watching Liverpool's Premier League game last weekend would have been standing room only at The Queen Vic, a bar in Northeast Washington. But that was not the case, said Ryan Gordon, co-owner of the British pub.

"We still had seats for people, which means the bars around us who get our overflow got nothing," Gordon said.

Business is down about 50% compared with what it was before the shutdown, he said. He considers himself lucky in the local restaurant scene because he owns the building and does not have to pay rent.

"To the extent to which discretionary spending by D.C. area households is limited, that could push a lot of local businesses into the red," Loh said. The culmination of the shutdown, cut in SNAP benefits and layoffs are weighing heavy on households that have never sought help before, she added.

A family gets squeezed out of the region

Thea Price was fired from her job at the U.S. Institute of Peace in March of this year, part of the wave of layoffs meant to shrink the size of the federal government. Her husband, a government contractor, also lost his job at a museum. Since then, they have lived on savings, Medicaid and SNAP.

Price, 37, recently went to a food pantry in Arlington, Virginia, for the first time recently. The shutdown halted funding for SNAP, after it took her months to get it, and the \$500 payments she receives each month were set to stop. Virginia sent a partial payment but it was not enough, Price said. With her options to sustain herself and her family running out, Price is moving back to her hometown in the Seattle area.

"We can't afford to stay in the area any longer and hope that something might pan out," she said. "We're just in a much different place than when these things started in March."

At the Capital Area Food Bank in Northeast Washington, forklifts sped around in a controlled chaos, unloading trucks, moving food and preparing for a distribution set up for federal employees and contractors, and preparations are intensifying with the holiday season in mind. The organization is expecting to provide 1 million more meals this month than it had anticipated before the shutdown.

"We're very focused obviously on the immediacy of all of these impacts today and getting food to those who need it," said Muthiah, the group's director. But she cautioned there were long-term implications to the unfolding crisis, with people tapping their savings and retirement funds to get by.

"People are borrowing against their futures to be able to pay for basic necessities today," she said.

What to know if your travel plans are impacted by the FAA's flight cancellations

By RIO YAMAT AP Airlines and Travel Writer

If you have upcoming travel plans anytime soon, you might notice fewer options on the airport's departure board.

Airlines are scaling back flights at dozens of major U.S. airports to ease the pressure on air traffic controllers, who have been working unpaid and under intense strain during the ongoing government shutdown.

The Federal Aviation Administration says the decision is necessary to keep travelers safe. Many controllers have been putting in long hours and mandatory overtime while lawmakers are at a standstill over how to reopen the government.

Major hubs like New York, Los Angeles and Chicago are among those affected, and the ripple effects could mean more cancellations, longer delays and fuller flights for travelers across the country. The cut-backs will impact hundreds if not thousands of flights daily.

Here's what to know about the FAA's order — and what you can do if your plans are disrupted:

Is my airport on the list?

There's a good chance it is. The list spans more than two dozen states.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 64 of 71

It includes the country's busiest airport — Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Georgia — and the main airports in Boston, Denver, Honolulu, Las Vegas, Miami, San Francisco and Salt Lake City.

Multiple airports will be impacted in some metropolitan hubs, including New York, Houston, Chicago and Washington.

How long will this go on?

It's hard to say. Even if the shutdown ends soon, the FAA has said it would not lift the flight restrictions until staffing at airport towers and regional air traffic centers makes it safe to do so.

"It's going to take time to work through this," said Michael Johnson, president of Ensemble Travel, an association of travel agencies in the U.S. and Canada.

That's why, he said, it's important to plan ahead — whether you've already booked flights or you're just starting to make holiday travel plans.

Know before you go

Airlines say they will let their customers know if their flight is called off.

Still, it doesn't hurt to check your airline's app or a flight-tracking site for updates before you leave for the airport. It's better to be stuck at home or in a hotel than stranded in a terminal.

My flight was canceled. Now what?

"Take a deep breath. Don't panic," Johnson said. "There are options available. They may not be ideal, and they may be inconvenient, but you have options."

If you're already at the airport, it's time to get in line to speak to a customer service representative. While you're waiting, you can call or go online to connect to the airline's reservations staff. It can also help to reach out on the social platform X because airlines might respond quickly there.

Now might also be the time to consider if it makes sense to travel by train, car or bus instead.

Kyle Potter, executive editor of Thrifty Traveler, said the shutdown is different from when a single airline is having problems and travelers can just pick another carrier.

"The longer the shutdown drags on, it's unlikely that there will be one airline running on time if the rest of the them are failing," Potter said.

Can I get a refund or compensation?

The airlines will be required to issue full refunds, according to the FAA. However, they aren't required to cover extra costs like meals or hotel stays — unless the delay or cancellation was within their control, according to the Department of Transportation.

You can also check the DOT website to see what your airline promises for refunds or other costs if your flight is disrupted.

Should I just stay home for the holidays?

Not necessarily. You might just need a little more planning and flexibility than usual.

A travel adviser can help take some stress off your plate, and travel insurance may give you an extra safety net.

Johnson also warned that flights could sell out fast once the shutdown ends.

"There will be a flurry of booking activity," he said. "So try to get ahead of it and make sure that you're protected."

Booking an early flight can also help, says Tyler Hosford, security director at risk mitigation company International SOS. If it gets canceled, you still "have the whole day" to sort things out.

Other tips

Travel light. Limiting baggage to a carry-on means one less airport line to deal with, and if your plans change unexpectedly, you'll already have everything with you.

Give yourself extra time at the airport, especially if you're an anxious flyer or traveling with young children or anyone who needs extra help getting around.

And be nice. Airline agents are likely helping other frustrated travelers, too, and yelling won't make them more willing to help. Remember, the cancellations aren't their fault.

"An extra ounce of kindness to yourself and to others at this time of year, with all of the disruptions, will go a long way," Johnson said.

Yes, you do need to clean your water bottle. Here's why and how

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — You keep your trusty reusable bottle filled with only clear, delicious water. Do you still need to wash it?

Experts say reusable bottles get grubby no matter what liquid they're filled with, and it's important to clean them regularly.

Water bottles pick up germs from our mouths when we take a sip, and from our hands when we touch the straw or lid. They're covered in tiny, tough-to-reach nooks and crannies which can become breeding grounds for mold, bacteria and other microbes if left un-scrubbed.

"It seems like something mundane, but it is extremely important," said nurse practitioner Michele Knepper, who works at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Unclean water bottles can cause stomach aches and itchy throats and even exacerbate allergies and asthma.

Experts disagree on when and how you should wash them, but they're all in agreement on one thing: Give your water bottle a tender loving clean, because something is better than nothing at all.

"Is it that big of a deal? No. But it's also not difficult to just wash your water bottle," said Dr. Mike Ren, a family medicine physician at Baylor College of Medicine.

Some tips for a squeaky clean water bottle

Experts say the gunk doesn't care what your water bottle is made of. Reusable metal, plastic and glass bottles all grow germ, but plastic bottles are more likely to get scratches or dings on the inside where microbial life can cozy up.

The best cleaning routine is a simple one: Use a sponge or bottle brush to scrub inside and out with warm, soapy water, rinse it out and let it dry so it's ready for the next refill. A narrow or pipe cleaner-shaped tool can be useful to get into straws and tight crevices.

For a deeper wash, scientists recommend popping the bottle in the dishwasher if it's safe to do so, or dissolving a denture or retainer-cleaning tablet in the bottle overnight. Scrubbing with a warm water solution of vinegar or baking soda works too.

Many experts recommend doing a simple, soapy water clean every day and a deeper clean once a week. If daily cleaning feels a little extra, Ren said to try to get to it at least every other week or so while maintaining other good habits like rinsing the mouthpiece over the sink during each refill.

But if you fill your reusable bottle with other beverages like protein shakes or exercise drinks, it really is important to clean every day. Sugary drinks leave a residue that bacteria love to snack on.

Do you need to dump the water in your bottle every day?

Is it okay to leave water in a reusable bottle overnight? Experts disagree.

Some say to dump the dregs out every refill, while others recommend emptying every few hours. Ren says it's likely okay to leave some inside overnight, but to empty old water at least every few days.

"Guidelines are guidelines," Ren said. "Everyone's going to do it a little bit differently."

If there's visible mold on the bottle or the liquid inside has a weird smell, don't drink it. Avoid refilling disposable plastic water bottles since chemicals can leach into the water, and they're even more full of cracks and crevices that can harbor germs.

Water bottle cleaning routines may not all look the same — but it's important to keep up the habit, said Ivy Sun, a hospitality expert at Georgia Southern University who has studied water bottle contamination. She washes her and her kids' bottles with soapy water every day.

"This is just a very small step that we do, but it can largely help with our health," Sun said.

Some states now require public schools to teach kids about gun safety

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, director 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 67 of 71

"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."

Voters' anger at high electricity bills and data centers looms over 2026 midterms

By MARC LEVY and JESSE BEDAYN Associated Press

Voter anger over the cost of living is hurtling forward into next year's midterm elections, when pivotal contests will be decided by communities that are home to fast-rising electric bills or fights over who's footing the bill to power Big Tech's energy-hungry data centers.

Electricity costs were a key issue in this week's elections for governor in New Jersey and Virginia, a data center hotspot, and in Georgia, where Democrats ousted two Republican incumbents for seats on the state's utility regulatory commission.

Voters in New Jersey, Virginia, California and New York City all cited economic concerns as the top issue, as Democrats and Republicans gird for a debate over affordability in the intensifying midterm battle to control Congress.

Already, President Donald Trump is signaling that he'll focus on affordability next year as he and Republicans try to maintain their slim congressional majorities, while Democrats are blaming Trump for rising household costs.

Front and center may be electricity bills, which in many places are increasing at a rate faster than U.S. inflation on average — although not everywhere.

"There's a lot of pressure on politicians to talk about affordability, and electricity prices are right now the most clear example of problems of affordability," said Dan Cassino, a professor of politics and government and pollster at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

Rising electric costs aren't expected to ease and many Americans could see an increase on their monthly bills in the middle of next year's campaigns.

Higher electric bills on the horizon

Gas and electric utilities are seeking or already secured rate increases of more than \$34 billion in the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 68 of 71

first three quarters of 2025, consumer advocacy organization PowerLines reported. That was more than double the same period last year.

With some 80 million Americans struggling to pay their utility bills, "it's a life or death and 'eat or heat' type decision that people have to make," said Charles Hua, PowerLines' founder.

In Georgia, proposals to build data centers have roiled communities, while a victorious Democrat, Peter Hubbard, accused Republicans on the commission of "rubber-stamping" rate increases by Georgia Power, a subsidiary of power giant Southern Co.

Monthly Georgia Power bills have risen six times over the past two years, now averaging \$175 a month for a typical residential customer.

Hubbard's message seemed to resonate with voters. Rebecca Mekonnen, who lives in the Atlanta suburb of Stone Mountain, said she voted for the Democratic challengers, and wants to see "more affordable pricing. That's the main thing. It's running my pocket right now."

Now, Georgia Power is proposing to spend \$15 billion to expand its power generating capacity, primarily to meet demand from data centers, and Hubbard is questioning whether data centers will pay their fair share — or share it with regular ratepayers.

Midterm battlegrounds in hotspots

Midterm elections will see congressional battlegrounds in states where fast-rising electric bills or data center hotspots — or both — are fomenting community uprisings.

That includes California, Georgia, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Analysts attribute rising electric bills to a combination of forces.

That includes expensive projects to modernize the grid and harden poles, wires and substations against extreme weather and wildfires.

Also playing a role is explosive demand from data centers, bitcoin miners and a drive to revive domestic manufacturing, as well as rising natural gas prices, analysts say.

"The cost of utility service is the new 'cost of eggs' concern for a lot of consumers," said Jennifer Bosco of the National Consumer Law Center.

In some places, data centers are driving a big increase in demand, since a typical AI data center uses as much electricity as 100,000 homes, according to the International Energy Agency. Some could require more electricity than cities the size of Pittsburgh, Cleveland or New Orleans.

While many states have sought to attract data centers as an economic boon, legislatures and utility commissions were also flooded with proposals to try to protect regular ratepayers from paying to connect data centers to the grid.

Meanwhile, communities that don't want to live next to one are pushing back.

It's on voters' minds

An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll from October found that electricity bills are a "major" source of stress for 36% of U.S. adults.

Now, as falls turns to winter, some states are warning that funding for low-income heating aid is being delayed because of the federal government shutdown.

Still, the impact is still more uneven than other financial stressors like grocery costs, which just over half of U.S. adults said are a "major" source of stress.

And electric rates vary widely by state or utility.

For instance, federal data shows that for-profit utilities have been raising rates far faster than municipally owned utilities or cooperatives.

In the 13-state mid-Atlantic grid from Illinois to New Jersey, analysts say ratepayers are paying billions of dollars for the cost to power data centers — including data centers not even built yet.

Next June, electric bills across that region will absorb billions more dollars in higher wholesale electricity costs designed to lure new power plants to power data centers.

That's spurred governors from the region — including Pennsylvania's Josh Shapiro, Illinois' JB Pritzker and Maryland's Wes Moore, all Democrats who are running for reelection — to pressure the grid operator

PJM Interconnection to contain increases.

High-rate states vs. lower-rate rates

Drew Maloney, the CEO of the Edison Electric Institute, a trade association of for-profit electric utilities, suggested that only some states are the drivers of higher average electric bills.

"If you set aside a few states with higher rates, the rest of the country largely follows inflation on electricity rates," Maloney said.

Examples of states with faster-rising rates are California, where wildfires are driving grid upgrades, and those in New England, where natural gas is expensive because of strained pipeline capacity.

Still, other states are feeling a pinch.

In Indiana, a growing data center hotspot, the consumer advocacy group, Citizens Action Coalition, reported this year that residential customers of the state's for-profit electric utilities were absorbing the most severe rate increases in at least two decades.

Republican Gov. Mike Braun decried the hikes, saying "we can't take it anymore."

JD Vance hopes his Hindu wife converts to Christianity, sparking debate on interfaith marriage

By DEEPA BHARATH Associated Press

Vice President JD Vance recently told a packed college arena that he hopes his Hindu wife would someday convert to Christianity, thrusting into the spotlight the deeply sensitive challenges facing interfaith couples.

Experts who have counseled hundreds of couples who don't share religious beliefs say the key is respect for each other's faith traditions and having honest discussions about how to raise their children. Most agree that pressuring or even hoping the other would convert could prove damaging to a relationship, and all the more so for a couple in the public arena.

"To respect your partner and everything they bring to the marriage — every part of their identity — is integral to the kind of honesty that you need to have in a marriage," said Susan Katz Miller, author of the book "Being Both: Embracing Two Religions in One Interfaith Family."

"Having secret agendas is not usually going to lead to success," she said.

Vance, who converted to Catholicism five years into his marriage with Usha Chilukuri Vance, shared his hopes for her conversion while taking questions at a Turning Point USA event at the University of Mississippi. A woman asked how he and his wife raise their children without giving them the sense that his religion supersedes her beliefs.

"Do I hope that eventually she is somehow moved by what I was moved by in church? Yeah, honestly, I do wish that, because I believe in the Christian Gospel, and I hope eventually my wife comes to see it the same way," the vice president said. "But if she doesn't, then God says everybody has free will, and so that doesn't cause a problem for me."

Vance's comments received extensive criticism. The Hindu American Foundation, in a statement addressing the vice president, cited a history of Christians attempting to convert Hindus, and what it says is a rise in anti-Hindu online rhetoric often coming from Christian sources.

"Both of these underpin the sentiment that your statements re: your wife's religious heritage are reflective of a belief that there is only one true path to salvation — a concept that Hinduism simply doesn't have — and that path is through Christ," the statement said.

Vance's press office did not offer comment for this article. But Vance did engage on social media with a critic who accused him of throwing his wife's religion under the bus, calling the comment "disgusting." He said his wife is "the most amazing blessing" in his life and that she encouraged him to reengage with his faith.

"She is not a Christian and has no plans to convert, but like many people in an interfaith marriage — or any interfaith relationship — I hope she may one day see things as I do," Vance said in his X post. "Regardless, I'll continue to love and support her and talk to her about faith and life and everything else, because she's my wife."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 70 of 71

Interfaith marriage is more common today

A Pew Research Center survey in 2015, the most recent asking Americans about interfaith marriage, found that 39% of Americans who had married since 2010 have a spouse from a different religious group. By contrast, only 19% of those who wed before 1960 reported being in an interfaith marriage.

The number of interfaith couples in the U.S. has increased over the past decade, said Miller, whose mother was Christian and her father Jewish. Her mother chose to raise the children Jewish.

"Interfaith couples have different options," Miller said. "They can choose one or both religions. They could choose a new religion or choose no religion, which is a choice a lot of couples are now making."

But, she said, "pressuring one's spouse to convert or even hoping they would convert is not a good basis for a successful marriage."

At the Turning Point event, Vance told the audience that he and his wife decided to raise their children as Christian. He said they attend a Christian school and participate in milestone Catholic sacraments, such as his oldest son receiving his First Communion a year ago.

Vance has said that when he met his wife at Yale Law School, they were both atheist or agnostic. She grew up in a Hindu immigrant family that was not particularly religious, and they incorporated Hindu rites into their wedding ceremony in 2014. Vance became Catholic in 2019.

The Catholic Church requires interfaith couples to raise their children Catholic, and it's a commitment Catholics must make in order to receive permission to marry outside the faith, said John Grabowski, theology professor at The Catholic University of America. Along with his wife, Grabowski helps prepare interfaith couples for marriage.

"If your faith is the most important thing in your life, you want to share that with your spouse," he said, adding that it is a natural expression of love for Christians to want their partners to join them in eternal life.

"However, the Catholic Church does insist that spouses should not be coerced or pressured into the faith," he said. "It's a delicate line."

Religious conversion in interfaith relationships is a key theme of Netflix's hit show "Nobody Wants This." The romantic comedy follows the relationship between a Reform rabbi and an agnostic woman, including the pressures they face as she considers converting to Judaism.

Vance's comments offered a glimpse into a real-life example of this intimate decision-making. Grabowski believes the vice president handled the touchy question "fairly well" by generally addressing the challenges in his interfaith marriage, but not detailing how the couple handle their differences.

"It was fascinating listening to that exchange," Grabowski said, "because we normally don't get a prominent political figure thinking out loud about grappling with these issues as a Catholic while trying to respect his faith and his wife's conviction."

Interfaith spouses handle religious conversion in many ways

Dilip Amin, founder of InterfaithShaadi.org, an online forum serving mostly South Asians, believes that religious conversion for the sake of a marriage could derail the relationship.

"If you convert because you've had an authentic change of heart, that's fine," he said. "But if it occurs because of constant pressure and proselytizing, that's wrong. My advice is: Don't let a religious institution drive your actions. Talk with each other. You don't need a third party to interpret the situation for you."

There is also strife when one spouse's religious beliefs shift after marriage, said Ani Zonneveld, founder and president of Muslims for Progressive Values. She has officiated many interfaith weddings.

"I've seen that strain ... where a Muslim husband who didn't care much about practicing Islam became orthodox after having children," Zonneveld said. "That's unfair to the other person."

The Rev. J. Dana Trent was ordained a Southern Baptist minister, but married a man who was initiated into Hinduism and lived as a monk. They've been married 15 years and together wrote a memoir titled "Saffron Cross: The Unlikely Story of How a Christian Minister Married a Hindu Monk."

Raised an evangelical, Trent knows the Bible verse from Corinthians 6:14, that some believe discourages interfaith marriage. In it, the Apostle Paul says: "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers."

Trent disagrees with that interpretation, saying its millennia-old context doesn't apply in 2025 when being

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 71 of 71

in an interfaith marriage often is not isolating.

"The goal of an interfaith marriage is not to convert each other," she said, "but to support and deepen each other's faith traditions and paths."

Today in History: November 9, Berlin Wall falls after 28 years

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Nov. 9, the 313th day of 2025. There are 52 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 9, 1989, communist East Germany threw open its borders, allowing citizens to travel freely to the West for the first time in decades — a landmark event often referred to as the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Also on this date:

In 1906, Theodore Roosevelt made the first trip abroad of any sitting U.S. president in order to observe construction of the Panama Canal.

In 1935, United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis and other labor leaders formed the Committee for Industrial Organization.

In 1938, Nazis looted and burned synagogues as well as thousands of Jewish-owned stores and houses in Germany and Austria in a pogrom or deliberate persecution that became known as "Kristallnacht."

In 1965, the great Northeast blackout began with a series of power failures lasting up to 13 1/2 hours, leaving 30 million people in seven states and part of Canada without electricity.

In 1976, the U.N. General Assembly approved resolutions condemning apartheid in South Africa, including one characterizing the white-ruled government as "illegitimate."

In 2007, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan placed opposition leader Benazir Bhutto under house arrest for a day and rounded up thousands of her supporters to block a mass rally against his emergency rule. Bhutto would be assassinated weeks later on Dec. 27 in a shooting and bombing attack that killed at least 20 people.

In 2011, after 46 seasons as Penn State's head football coach and a record 409 victories, Joe Paterno was fired along with the university president, Graham Spanier, over their handling of child sex abuse allegations against former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

In 2023, surgeons at Langone Health in New York announced that they performed the world's first transplant of an entire human eye in May of that year, operating on a man whose face was badly damaged in an accident with high-voltage power lines.

Today's Birthdays: Film director Bille August is 77. Actor-bodybuilder Lou Ferrigno is 74. Gospel singer Donnie McClurkin is 66. TV writer-director-producer Ryan Murphy is 60. Rapper Scarface (Geto Boys) is 55. Blues singer Susan Tedeschi (teh-DEHS'-kee) is 55. Golfer David Duval is 54. Actor Eric Dane is 53. Singer-TV personality Nick Lachey is 52. Actor-TV personality Vanessa Lachey is 45. Country singer Chris Lane is 41.