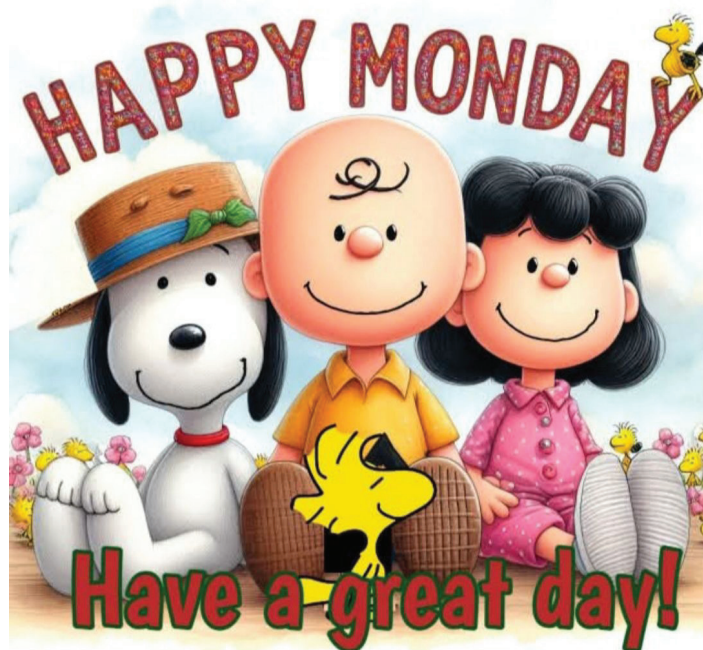


Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 1 of 68

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [3- 2025 Frosty Clues](#)
- [4- Groton Legion Ad](#)
- [5- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [6- Prairie Doc](#)
- [8- EarthTalk - Water Purification](#)
- [9- SD SearchLight: US Senate advances bill to end record-breaking government shutdown](#)
- [11- SD SearchLight: South Dakota tribes seek restoration of federal support for work of Eagle Butte genetics lab](#)
- [14- SD SearchLight: States told by Trump administration to 'undo' full SNAP benefits paid for November](#)
- [16- Weather Pages](#)
- [20- Daily Devotional](#)
- [21- Upcoming Events](#)
- [21- Subscription Form](#)
- [22- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [23- News from the Associated Press](#)



Monday, Nov. 10

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

School Breakfast: Eggs.

School Lunch: Oriental chicken, egg roll.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, Nov. 11

VETERAN'S DAY

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, Catalina blend, mixed fruit, garlic toast.

School Breakfast: Veteran's Breakfast at Elementary, Scones at high school.

School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, cooked carrots.

Note Time Change: Veteran's Day Program, 12:30 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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

Volleyball SoDak 16: Groton Area vs. Rapid City Christian at Stanley County (Ft. Pierre), 5:30 p.m. CT
School Board Meeting, 7 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

Senior Menu: Thanksgiving meal: Roast turkey with dressing, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes with gravy, cranberries, pumpkin bar, dinner roll.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.

School Lunch: Pasta Primavera, cooked broccoli.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.

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

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

4th grade GBB practice, 3:30 p.m.

6th grade GBB practice, 6 p.m.

FCCLA Food Drive, 6-8 p.m.

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Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 2 of 68

1440

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

Breaking news: Senators reportedly reached an agreement yesterday to reopen the government. The deal involved at least eight Democrats and is projected to take days to move through the House. It would require funding much of the government through January and some departments—including the Department of Agriculture—for a full year.

COP30 Begins

The world's largest global climate meeting—the 30th Conference of the Parties—begins today in Belem, Brazil. Nearly 200 countries will send representatives; the US will not send an official delegation.

COP30 comes 10 years after 195 countries adopted the US-led Paris Agreement, in which each committed to taking steps to reduce global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels. Since then, countries have largely failed to meet commitments, and emissions have continued to rise, albeit less quickly. If warming continues at its current pace, researchers project global temperatures will rise 2.5 to 2.9 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, down from the up to 3.8 degrees Celsius predicted a decade ago. The UN expects global warming to cross the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold by 2035.

President Donald Trump pulled out of the Paris deal in both terms, citing the economic burden, including billions of dollars in donations to developing countries.

Rockefeller Christmas Tree

The Rockefeller Christmas tree arrived in New York City Saturday, kicking off a tourist season that will see an estimated 750,000 people visit daily—more than 125 million people each year.

The tradition dates back to 1931, when construction workers at what would become Rockefeller Plaza pooled resources to buy a 20-foot balsam fir tree. Since then, the tradition has involved larger trees, typically a Norway spruce lit with more than 50,000 LED lights and topped with a 900-pound Swarovski-crystal star. This year's tree is a 75-foot-tall, 11-ton Norway spruce from East Greenbush, New York, donated by a woman in honor of her late husband. The tree will be lit from Dec. 3 to mid-January, after which the wood will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

CRISPR Cholesterol Breakthrough

A new gene-editing drug could effectively cure high cholesterol in certain patients via a one-time shot, according to results from a small clinical trial revealed Saturday. The treatment lowered "bad" cholesterol and triglycerides by about half with no apparent side effects after two months.

Cholesterol is a waxy substance that comes in two forms, low- and high-density lipoprotein (LDL and HDL), while triglycerides are energy stored as fat in the bloodstream. About 25% of cholesterol comes from diet, while the rest is produced by the liver and intestines. LDL cholesterol tends to adhere to blood vessel walls, causing plaque buildup and increasing the risk of heart disease. The new drug "turns off" a specific gene—ANGPTL3—responsible for producing LDL and triglycerides.

Around 1 in 300 people has a mutation that disables the gene, offering natural protection against heart disease, the leading cause of death in the US

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 3 of 68

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

McLaren's Lando Norris wins Formula 1 Grand Prix in São Paulo, Brazil, extending world championship title. Former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue dies at age 84; Tagliabue led the league from 1989 to 2006. Indiana Hoosiers wide receiver Omar Cooper Jr. scores game-winning, toe-tap touchdown in final seconds, defeating Penn State.

Creator behind AI actor Tilly Norwood says 40 other AI actors are in development.

Science & Technology

NASA's ESCAPEDE mission launches aboard a Blue Origin New Glenn rocket; twin satellites will orbit Mars, studying the effect of the solar wind on the planet.

Rare footage captures behavior of suckerfish hitching a ride on a humpback whale in the open ocean; video reveals the fish can detach from—and return to—the same spot each time the whale breaches.

Scientists develop method to create gene-edited plant varieties from a single plant cell, cutting the process time from months to weeks.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed Friday (S&P 500 +0.1%, Dow +0.2%, Nasdaq -0.2%); tech-heavy Nasdaq closes its worst week since April.

Bureau of Labor Statistics misses second straight jobs report due to government shutdown, unemployment estimated at 4.5%.

Pfizer outbids Novo Nordisk to buy obesity drugmaker Metsera for \$10B; deal is up from a \$7.3B offer in September.

Cryptocurrency bear market continues, with the total market cap of all currencies down 20% since Oct. 6 record high; fall erases almost all gains in 2025.

Politics & World Affairs

Super Typhoon Fung-wong kills two people, forces more than 1 million to evacuate as it makes landfall on the Philippines' northeastern coast.

President Donald Trump meets today with Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa—the first leader from Syria to visit the White House since 1946.

Hamas returns remains of Israeli soldier Hadar Goldin, killed in Gaza in 2014.

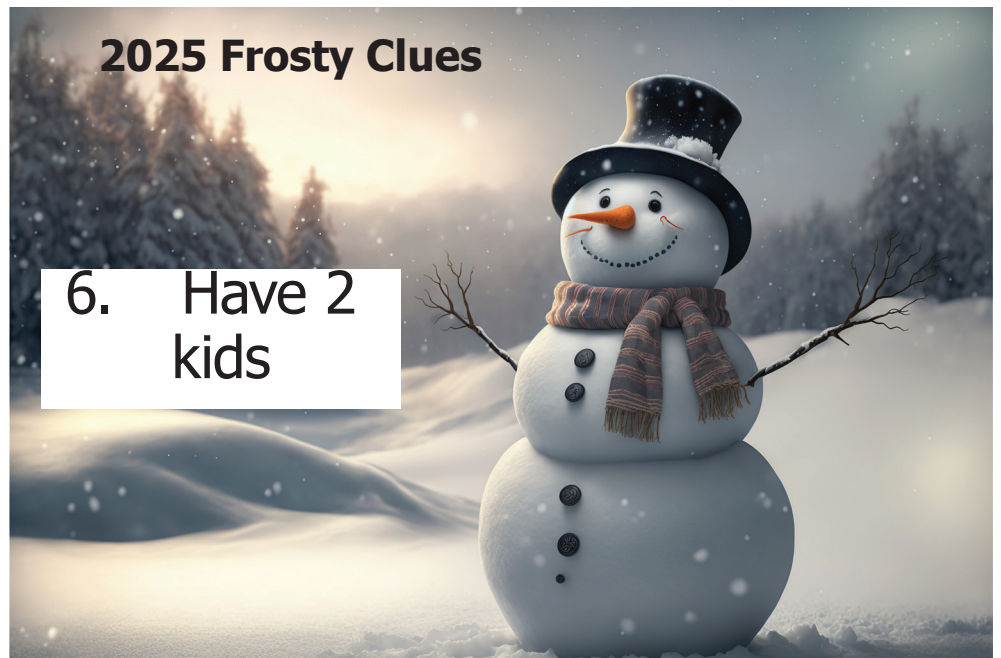
The UK, France, and Germany are supplying Belgium with anti-drone equipment and staff after the country's main airport was forced to temporarily close last week amid drone spotting.

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

6. Have 2 kids



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 4 of 68

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

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 5 of 68



The Minnesota Vikings welcomed the Baltimore Ravens to U.S. Bank Stadium on Sunday for a mid-season interconference matchup. The Ravens, who are a perennial Super Bowl contender, were 3-5 coming into this contest, while the Vikings were 4-4 and one game back in the division.

The Ravens got the ball to begin the game, and the Vikings' defense held them to a three-and-out. The Vikings' offense, led by quarterback J.J. McCarthy, marched down the field with a seven-play, 86-yard drive that found the endzone to give Minnesota a 7-0 lead. Baltimore responded with a field goal drive, then both teams traded punts.

The Vikings added another field goal early in the second quarter to take a 10-3 lead, then the defense forced another Baltimore punt. The Vikings had all the momentum, and it looked like they might start pulling away. Unfortunately, McCarthy threw a deep pass to Justin Jefferson that was overthrown and intercepted by the Ravens, who turned the turnover into three points. The Vikings got the ball back with about a minute left in the half, but a quick three-and-out gave the ball back to Baltimore, who went 63 yards in four plays to add another field goal before time expired to cut the deficit to one heading into halftime.

The Vikings got the ball to begin the second half and were moving the ball well until another deep shot to Justin Jefferson was intercepted. Three plays later, the Ravens were at the Vikings' four-yard line, but the defense held strong and kept them out of the endzone. The Ravens settled for a field goal to take a 12-10 lead. Myles Price fumbled the ensuing kickoff to give the ball right back to Baltimore, who finally found the end zone to take a 19-10 lead. Price fumbled again on his next kick return, and although the Vikings were able to recover this one, they turned the ball over five plays later after a failed fourth-down attempt. A missed field goal by Baltimore gave the ball back to Minnesota, but this game was starting to unravel. The Vikings managed a field goal late in the third quarter, making the score 13-19.

The Ravens found the end zone again in the fourth quarter, and a two-point conversion made it a 14-point game. The Vikings failed a fourth-down conversion on their next possession, but the defense was able to force a Ravens punt. With time winding down and needing two scores, the Vikings put together an ugly drive that somehow found the end zone, but they failed the two-point conversion, so they were still down by eight with about three minutes left. The Vikings' defense once again held the Ravens and forced a punt, but the Vikings couldn't scrounge another TD, ultimately losing 27-19.

Losses like this are the worst kind. I've said it hundreds of times, I don't mind losses if the team plays well. But the team was horrible today, especially with procedural stuff. The team had eight false starts in this game (which was at home!). That sort of thing is absolutely unacceptable, and unfortunately, it clearly points to an issue at the coaching level. I am a big fan of Kevin O'Connell, and in no way do I think he should be replaced, but he NEEDS to get this simple stuff corrected quickly.

J.J. McCarthy completed 20 of 42 passes for 248 yards, one touchdown, and two interceptions. He also led the team in rushing, with 48 yards on five carries. Aaron Jones had 12 total touches for 69 yards and a touchdown. Jalen Nailor had five catches for 124 yards, while Justin Jefferson and Jordan Addison were both held in check.

The Vikings' defense played well, all things considered. Blake Cashman once again led the team in tackles, Jonathan Allen had the team's only sack of the day, while Andrew Van Ginkel had two pass breakups and a QB hit.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will play the Bears at U.S. Bank Stadium. The game is on Sunday and will be a noon kickoff. Chicago is 6-1 after losing the first two games of the season (one of which was against the Vikings in week one).

Understanding Macular Degeneration: The Importance of Early Detection and Specialized Care

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is one of the leading causes of vision loss among adults over 65. This condition affects the back of the eye where light is processed by macula. The macula is the part of the retina providing sharp, detailed vision needed for reading, driving, and recognizing faces. Two categories of macular degeneration are “dry” and “wet”. This article will focus on dry macular degeneration and therapy options to help slow vision loss from it.



**By: Jed Assam, MD, Founder and
Vitreoretinal Surgeon, VRA Vision**

Early Signs and Symptoms

Macular degeneration begins silently. Early symptoms may include mild blurring, difficulty seeing in low light, or the appearance of wavy or distorted lines. Later on, a dark or empty spot near the center of the vision can develop. In advanced stages, central vision may be lost entirely. Regular eye exams are crucial because early AMD can be detected during a dilated retinal examination or with specialized imaging.

Impact and Risk Factors

A few major risk factors include age, family history, current smoking, and genetics. Individuals with a family history of AMD should be especially vigilant about screening.

The Importance of Eye Exams and Specialist Care

Routine eye exams with an optometrist or general ophthalmologist are the first line of defense in identifying AMD. However, once AMD is suspected or diagnosed, referral to a retina specialist is essential. Retina specialists undergo additional years of fellowship training specifically in identifying and treating diseases of the retina and macula. This specialized expertise allows for detailed diagnostic imaging, tailored treatment plans, and access to the latest clinical advances in emerging therapies for AMD.

Current Treatments and New Technologies for Dry AMD

For patients with intermediate dry AMD, one of the most promising new therapies involves photobiomodulation (PBM) using the Valeda Light Delivery System, an FDA-authorized device. PBM works by exposing the retina to specific wavelengths of light that stimulate the mitochondria—the “powerhouses” of our cells. By energizing these tiny structures, PBM helps improve cellular metabolism and reduce oxidative stress thought to have a role in slowing AMD.

Clinical trials, including the LIGHTSITE III and LIGHTSITE IIIB, have shown that PBM can lead to improved visual function and contrast sensitivity in patients with intermediate AMD. These studies support PBM as a safe, non-invasive treatment option for eligible patients.

In addition, there are FDA-approved injections for geographic atrophy, a more advanced stage of dry AMD. These treatments aim to slow progression and preserve remaining vision, marking a major milestone for patients who previously had limited options.

For AMD that has advanced beyond the ability to benefit from the therapies mentioned there are still options. Many vision aids and tools are available today that can help optimize remaining vision. Getting a referral to a Low Vision specialist is another step available to help individuals affected by advanced AMD.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 7 of 68

Treating Early to Protect Vision

Early identification and intervention is key. Just like controlling blood pressure or diabetes early to prevent complications later on, addressing macular degeneration before it becomes advanced can make a significant difference in the long run. Current therapy slows down AMD to keep vision better for longer, but does not completely stop or reverse dry AMD. Regular follow-ups and referral to a retina specialist can ensure timely diagnosis, access to cutting-edge treatments, and personalized care to preserve sight for as long as possible.

Dr. Jed Assam is a board-certified, fellowship-trained retina specialist dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of AMD along with other macular and retinal disorders. He is the founder of VRA Vision in Sioux Falls, a Center for Excellence in Macular Degeneration, and is passionate about patient education and early intervention to prevent vision loss. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



Could New Water Purification Tech Solve Global Water Woes?

by Angelina Austin

Dear EarthTalk: As droughts lead to water shortages around the world, are there any promising new technologies to for purifying water for human consumption? -- M. Norman, Raleigh, NC

Daily life for many is changing as droughts intensify across the globe. In recent years they have become more frequent and severe due to climate change. The United Nations claims that over two billion people worldwide don't have proper access to safe drinking water. At the recent UNCCD COP16 climate conference, innovative water purification technologies were deemed essential to address this issue.

Photocatalytic purification is one promising solution. Titanium dioxide fibers using a combination of soft-chemistry gels and electrospinning allows sunlight to break down pollutants. This solution requires no external power source and provides a cost-effective option. Dr. Youjun Zhang, lead researcher at the Shanghai Institute of Ceramics believes this could rid water of industrial pollutants in developing countries, turning otherwise contaminated rivers and lakes into clean drinking water sources."



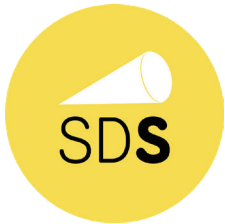
Newer techniques like photocatalytic purification and solar-powered purification sheets promise to revolutionize water purification to solve the world's water shortage woes.

Credit: Pexels.com.

Electrospinning creates nanofiber membranes using high voltage jets of liquid polymer. Nanofibers are increasingly viewed as a sustainable option with enormous potential in wastewater treatment. Researchers have reported that this technique can remove up to 99 percent of certain heavy metals. Because this technique is portable and efficient, electrospun nanofiber filters represent a significant breakthrough for both large scale wastewater treatment facilities and smaller community systems.

Another promising advancement is solar-powered purification sheets. A team at the University of Cambridge led by Dr. Erwin Reisner engineered lightweight panels to purify water with only sunlight. They absorb UV and then generate clean water by hydrogen splitting. They work without electricity, ideal for rural communities. Also, a team at Princeton University made a major leap with their solar absorber gel. It soaks up dirty water at room temperature and, when exposed to sunlight, rapidly releases clean water. A Princeton spinoff company, AquaPao, is now working to scale the innovation for the real world.

Rodney Prisetley of Princeton University emphasizes that innovations like solar gels are "another step closer towards the goal of having a technology driven by solar energy that can actually produce enough clean water to meet daily demand." Readers can help by supporting sustainable water startups and advocating for adoption of these filters. The challenge isn't whether new water purification technologies exist. The main question is whether society will invest in and adopt quick enough to meet global needs.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

US Senate advances bill to end record-breaking government shutdown

Thune commits to holding a separate vote later on health insurance subsidies

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY

WASHINGTON — Seven U.S. Senate Democrats and one independent joined Republicans on Sunday night in advancing legislation to reopen the government and temporarily keep it afloat until the end of January, after a record-breaking shutdown that began Oct. 1.

Democratic Sens. Dick Durbin of Illinois, John Fetterman of Pennsylvania, Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Tim Kaine of Virginia, and Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen of Nevada voted with most of the GOP to advance the stopgap measure through a 60-40 procedural vote.

Sen. Angus King of Maine, an independent who caucuses with Democrats, also voted in support.

Fetterman, King and Cortez Masto had already voted with Republicans on the previous 14 votes to reopen the government. Until Sunday, Republicans who control the chamber did not have the 60 votes needed to clear the filibuster threshold.

GOP Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who has consistently voted against the temporary funding measure, again cast a "no" vote.

The deal would also unlock full-year funding for a vital food aid program that serves 42 million Americans and bring back federal workers fired by President Donald Trump when the government was closed.

It does not include language addressing skyrocketing premiums for those enrolled in individual health insurance plans in the Affordable Care Act marketplace, a major sticking point for Democrats. Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said late Sunday on the Senate floor that he commits to holding a separate vote on health insurance subsidies no later than the second week of December.

In a press conference following the vote, Rosen said Democrats have "an opportunity also to put Republicans on the record on the ACA."

"Are they committed to doing this? Are they committed leaders who said, 'You can come to the table on health care once the government was open'? And now he must follow through. If Republicans want to join us in lowering costs for working families, they have the perfect opportunity to show the American public," Rosen said.

New text of a temporary stopgap funding deal released Sunday night proposes to keep the government open until Jan. 30. The bill would also reinstate all federal employees who were fired after the shutdown began, restoring their jobs with back pay, and prohibit any further layoffs until the temporary funding expires.

As part of the agreement, three fiscal year 2026 funding bills will ride along with the package, including the appropriations bills for agriculture programs, veterans benefits, military construction and Congress.

Divided Democrats

Several Senate Democrats left a lengthy closed-door meeting earlier Sunday night upset that the deal does not include anything to address rising health care premiums, on which the party has staked the 40-day shutdown.

Subsidies for those who buy insurance on the Affordable Care Act insurance marketplace expire at the end of this year.

"So far as I'm concerned, health care isn't included, so I'll be a no," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.

Sens. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland and Wisconsin's Tammy Baldwin also issued statements following the caucus meeting declaring they would vote no. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer also told reporters on

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 10 of 68

his way out of the meeting that he's opposed to the deal.

Sen. Andy Kim of New Jersey said on social media he would oppose it. "I've been clear that we need real action to stop the devastating health care cost increases that are hurting millions of families," he said.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., issued a statement expressing support for the agreement, highlighting that Senate Republicans have promised a vote on extending the health care subsidies.

"This deal guarantees a vote to extend Affordable Care Act premium tax credits, which Republicans weren't willing to do. Lawmakers know their constituents expect them to vote for it, and if they don't, they could very well be replaced at the ballot box by someone who will," Kaine said.

Government reopening will take time

The Sunday night vote does not mean the government will reopen right away.

The legislation must make its way through Senate procedural steps and then gain approval from the U.S. House, which hasn't been in session since Sept. 19. House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, attended the Washington Commanders football game with Trump Sunday night in Landover, Maryland.

Trump briefly spoke to reporters upon news of the deal after leaving the NFL game, telling them, "It looks like we're getting very close to the shutdown ending."

Nearly a million federal workers have missed paychecks during the shutdown, and food benefits for the poorest Americans stopped flowing at the beginning of November.

Air travel has also become snarled as the shutdown has dragged on, and air traffic controllers are under pressure without pay. The Federal Aviation Administration began cutting flights Friday at 40 major airports across the U.S. The cuts are set to ramp up to a 10% decrease in air traffic.

SNAP funding

The deal includes provisions that Democrats say the Trump administration sought to shrink or cut altogether, including fresh fruit and vegetable subsidies for mothers with children and monthly food boxes for low-income seniors.

The legislation would direct \$8.2 billion to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, otherwise known as WIC, a roughly \$600 million increase over last year's program amount.

During the shutdown, the administration used \$150 million from a U.S. Department of Agriculture rainy day fund to keep the program going. The bill would replenish the contingency money.

The bill also fully funds the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, and children's nutrition programs, including subsidized school breakfast and lunch, and the availability of food during summer school breaks.

Democrats on the Senate Committee on Appropriations say it included "key funding for SNAP and other critical nutrition programs as President Trump fights in court during the government shutdown to cut off benefits for 42 million Americans who rely on SNAP to feed their families," according to a bill summary.

The USDA directed states to begin releasing the November SNAP benefits onto recipients' benefits debit cards after a Rhode Island federal district judge and circuit court ordered the Trump administration to do so last week.

Trump appealed the order to the Supreme Court, which stayed the decision. A department memo Saturday told states that released the full benefits to take back a portion of them.

The bill would also direct money to the SNAP emergency contingency fund.

Hemp ban

Hemp farmers are sounding the alarm about a provision in the bill that they say would "effectively eliminate the legal hemp industry built under the 2018 farm bill," according to a Sunday statement from the Hemp Industry and Farmers of America.

Lawmakers are "slamming the door on 325,000 American jobs and forcing consumers back to dangerous black markets," the industry group's executive director Brian Swensen said.

Swensen also added: "The hemp industry has been ready and willing to work on responsible regulations – age restrictions, testing requirements, proper labeling — but instead of collaboration, the industry is getting a misguided prohibition through backdoor appropriations deals."

House trepidation

Several House Democrats, including a top appropriator, criticized the deal.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries blamed Republicans for the proposal Sunday night in a statement, saying House and Senate Democrats have “waged a valiant fight” for the last seven weeks.

“It now appears that Senate Republicans will send the House of Representatives a spending bill that fails to extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits. As a result of the Republicans refusal to address the healthcare crisis that they have created, tens of millions of everyday Americans are going to see their costs skyrocket,” Jeffries said.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro, the top House Democratic appropriator, said she did not agree to the release of the veterans and military construction bill as an attachment to the deal.

“Congress must invest in veterans, address the health care crisis that is raising costs on more than 20 million Americans, and prevent President Trump from not spending appropriated dollars in our communities,” DeLauro, D-Conn., said in a statement.

Rep. Angie Craig joined other House Democrats in slamming the Senate negotiations on social media.

“If people believe this is a ‘deal,’ I have a bridge to sell you. I’m not going to put 24 million Americans at risk of losing their health care. I’m a no,” said Craig, of Minnesota.

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

South Dakota tribes seek restoration of federal support for work of Eagle Butte genetics lab

Tribal data repository project funding shot down in spring cessation of COVID-19 research

BY: JOHN HULT

Five tribes in South Dakota want their congressional delegation to help restore funding for a research project led in part by a South Dakota genetics lab.

The back-and-forth that’s played out over the past few weeks for the Data for Indigenous Implementations, Interventions, and Innovations Tribal Data Repository project is the latest twist in a funding tale that’s stretched across two presidential administrations and speaks to deep-seeded distrust — and attempts to address it — of the scientific community by Native American leaders.

At the center of those conversations is the Native BioData Consortium, a nonprofit science organization and laboratory based in Eagle Butte, on the Cheyenne River Reservation. It’s the data host and one of the lead agencies in the repository project, whose National Institutes of Health funding was cut short in March, alongside a host of other research projects related to COVID-19.

Leaders from the Oglala, Cheyenne River, Rosebud, Lower Brule and Standing Rock Sioux tribes in South Dakota each sent letters to U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson’s office urging him to help reinstate funding for the repository.

The project was “collateral damage in a blanket cut to all COVID-19 research,” the letters say, but its goals and value were further-reaching.

The Eagle Butte lab got the largest share of the project’s \$7 million in research funding, which was split among multiple teams scattered around the U.S. The lab’s team only used about a third of its approximately \$3 million share before the funding was revoked this spring.

The repository project, the letters say, “is an innovative and very needed attempt to protect Tribal communities now and in all future pandemics, and also to create a bridge of diplomatic relationships with Tribes over biomedical, public health, environmental research data and beyond.”

The tribes’ letters were sent in tandem with a similar letter from the project’s leaders.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 12 of 68

Tribal data repository concept

One of those leaders, Joseph Yracheta, is a co-founder and executive director of the Native BioData Consortium. His lab performs genetic testing and catalogs genetic data for tribal nations, leads genetics bootcamps for Native American students each year, and hopes to one day open a large-scale genetics facility and data center on Cheyenne River tribal land.

It's also the data archive for the multi-state, multi-partner tribal data repository project. That project's goals include the creation of a secure, Indigenous-led and centrally located database of tribal health and genetic information that would afford tribes the ability to control the flow and terms of use for their citizens' data in scientific research.

Yracheta, who lives in Eagle Butte, is of P'urhépecha and Rarámuri descent, tribes located in areas now part of Mexico. His wife and children are members of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

In addition to Yracheta, the project's leadership team comes from the University of California-Santa Cruz, Arizona State University, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Washington and Ohio State University.

The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected tribal communities, but genetic data collection from tribal areas was spotty.

Yracheta told South Dakota Searchlight that reticence to share information was in part grounded in a wariness by tribal governments to share genetic data without assurances that it wouldn't be replicated and reused for non-COVID research without their consent.

A dispute between the Havasupai Tribe in Arizona and the Arizona Board of Regents, Yracheta said, is one of the most often-cited reasons for that reticence. In the mid-1990s, the tribe gave DNA samples to Arizona State University researchers for a study on diabetes. In 2003, a member of the tribe attending the school learned the DNA samples had been used to study things like schizophrenia, inbreeding and migration theories, which the tribe hadn't consented to. The tribe sued, and was eventually awarded \$700,000.

The data repository work, Yracheta said, would create a trusted place for tribes to share their data without fear of it being used in ways tribal members wouldn't want.

"All we want to do is be a safe harbor," Yracheta said.

Paper outlines strategies for improved relations

According to a recently published research letter in the journal Nature, penned by the tribal data repository project's leaders, the scientific community has largely embraced a framework for DNA data that expects it to be free, open, harmonized and easily replicable for research purposes.

Tribes, however, see problems with wholesale, unrestricted availability of DNA data. There are privacy concerns about mandated open data policies and concerns over the unrestricted use of data, the paper says. It cites the practice of private companies giving estimates of a person's Native American ancestry that "undermine Tribal determinations of citizenship and override legally assured self-governance."

"Decades of extractive and unethical practices have left Indigenous Peoples (distinct societies of Indigenous people) hesitant to engage with biomedical researchers despite remaining interested in biomedical advances," the paper says.

There are also concerns that tribal genetic data would be used in the development of treatments that benefit primarily non-Native populations or generate profit the tribes wouldn't see.

The solution, the paper posits, is a framework for data sharing that creates a common access point for data, but treats tribal nations as sovereign entities and requires consultation and consent for data use.

The database framework would be useful for COVID-19 research, the paper says, but could serve as a basis for a wide range of genetic data research projects.

Battle for funds

The repository's federal funding didn't come easy, Yracheta said, and was threatened before President Donald Trump's administration deprioritized COVID-related research.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 13 of 68

The money came through a competitive bidding process in a National Institutes of Health initiative meant to build a database of basic genetic information from Native Americans for use in COVID-19 research.

The long application process included sparring with the NIH over the data ownership and access policies that would be attached to the finished product. The researchers were ultimately awarded \$9 million in December of 2023 to create the repository and its associated protocols, including \$2 million that went to Stanford University to serve as an administrator.

The repository work itself began in January of 2024, but Yracheta said disputes with NIH leadership continued, some of which involved questions about who would own the data and dictate its use. Within a few months of the funding announcement, the NIH shortened the project's research timeline by a year and asked the team to wrap up by December 2025.

Since then, the tribal data repository team has set up the storage and access system into which information would flow. Among the work products are 82 contract templates and related documents tribes can use when approached for genetic data, and educational materials on their data sharing options through the secure repository system.

The team built model servers in Eagle Butte and Wisconsin and connected them to make sure there's enough physical storage space to keep data safely out of the cloud, and developed a user interface to connect researchers with the contracts they'd need to sign with tribes to secure access to that data.

The next steps, Yracheta said, are to present the repository concept to tribes, convince leaders it's a trustworthy place to share their information for the good of their own people and science as a whole, and to begin to fill it with data.

"We took the money and built the box, but we didn't get to the important part, which was building those relationships," Yracheta said.

In June, the group presented its materials to the NIH, but was told no further funding would be available, Yracheta said, as COVID-19 related research had largely ceased.

Plea for help to Rep. Johnson, response from Sen. Rounds

The letters to Rep. Johnson, sent a little over a week ago, asked his office to work for the funding's reinstatement. They suggested that funding a database project would serve South Dakotans as the federal government works to encourage the expansion of data centers and its residents' expertise in database design and management.

A spokeswoman for Johnson's office, Kristen Blakely, told South Dakota Searchlight via email that the office is "looking into it and in contact with NIH to see why the grant was canceled."

This week, Yracheta said, the team got some encouraging communication from the office of Sen. Mike Rounds, whose staff sent emails seeking more information about the history of the project's funding.

Yracheta said the team hadn't garnered any encouragement in its communications with South Dakota Republican Sen. John Thune. Neither senator got the letter sent to Johnson's office. When asked about the letter by South Dakota Searchlight, Rounds spokeswoman Arden Koenecke said the senator had spoken about the repository in general terms with leaders of the Great Plains Tribal Leaders' Health Board, but "didn't get into specifics on cuts or locations."

Rounds would be open to discussions on the issue, Koenecke said. Yracheta said the Rounds team contacted him this week.

Thune's office did not respond to questions about the letter.

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.

States told by Trump administration to 'undo' full SNAP benefits paid for November

BY: JACOB FISCHLER

Following a late Friday emergency ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court, the Trump administration has instructed states that authorized full November nutrition assistance benefits to return a portion, another unprecedented reversal for a program that helps 42 million people afford groceries.

A Saturday memo from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service said states should fund 65% of benefits for users of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, often called food stamps.

Those that had authorized full payments in line with earlier administration guidance should "immediately undo" that action, according to the memo.

"To the extent States sent full SNAP payment files for November 2025, this was unauthorized," the memo said. "Accordingly, States must immediately undo any steps taken to issue full SNAP benefits for November 2025. Please advise the appropriate FNS Regional Office representative of steps taken to correct any actions taken that do not comply with this memorandum."

President Donald Trump and top administration officials have said they cannot pay full SNAP benefits during the government shutdown that began Oct. 1 and instead, under court orders, are using a contingency fund to make partial payments.

Shutdown chaos surrounds SNAP

Saturday's guidance from Patrick A. Penn, the department's deputy under secretary for food, nutrition and consumer services, marked the latest turnaround in a chaotic few days for the agency, states that administer SNAP and the millions of Americans who depend on it to afford food.

Penn wrote that, in light of the Supreme Court's order pausing lower court rulings that USDA must pay full November benefits, the administration was returning to its position that SNAP benefits should be funded at 65%.

States — including Wisconsin and Kansas — that issued full benefits did so under a Friday memo, also signed by Penn, that said states should authorize full payments for SNAP, consistent with a Thursday ruling in federal court.

Kansas, Wisconsin, Oregon govs express dismay

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat, in a late Friday statement expressed disappointment with the administration's appeal to the Supreme Court and noted the state had authorized full payments earlier in the day for all eligible Kansans.

"These Kansans, most of them children, seniors or people with disabilities, were struggling to put food on their plates," she said. "Why the President would petition the highest court to deny food to hungry children is beyond me. It does nothing to advance his political agenda. It does not hurt his perceived enemies. It only hurts our most vulnerable and our reputation around the globe."

In a Sunday statement, Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, flatly refused to try to claw back any authorized benefits. The state acted in compliance with a court order, he said.

"After we did so, the Trump Administration assured Wisconsin and other states that they were actively working to implement full SNAP benefits for November and would 'complete the processes necessary to make funds available,'" he said. "They have failed to do so to date."

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek said her state will not comply.

"Oregon acted lawfully, given the federal court's directive and the communications with the USDA, and my decision to ensure SNAP benefits went out quickly was in direct alignment with my food emergency declaration," said Kotek, a Democrat. "I am disgusted that President Trump has the audacity to take taxpayers' money away from them when they are in crisis. I have a question for the President: What would he

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 15 of 68

prefer to spend the money on over groceries for people in need? This is ridiculous, immoral, and Oregon will fight this every step of the way.”

U.S. Rep. Angie Craig of Minnesota, the top Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee, said in a statement: “Let’s be clear about what this is — the Trump administration is demanding that food assistance be taken away from the households that have already received it. They would rather go door to door, taking away people’s food, than do the right thing and fully fund SNAP for November so that struggling veterans, seniors, and children can keep food on the table. It is incomprehensible, incompetent and inconsistent with our values as Americans.”

Court action

The earlier order, from U.S. District Chief Judge John J. McConnell Jr. in Rhode Island, told the department to use sources outside the contingency fund to make full November payments by Friday. The order was appealed to the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

But Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, acting on behalf of the high court, granted the administration’s request for an emergency stay on Friday night, speeding up the process for what Jackson said would then be an “expeditious” decision by the appeals court but also changing things yet again.

No longer, for the moment, required by a court order to pay full November benefits, the administration instructed states in the Saturday memo to have the vendors that process payments to the electronic benefit transfer cards withhold part of the month’s allotment.

“States must not transmit full benefit issuance files to EBT processors,” Penn wrote. “Instead, States must continue to process and load the partial issuance files that reflect the 35 percent reduction of maximum allotments detailed in the November 5 guidance.”

Shutdown negotiations

SNAP funding has been a key issue during the shutdown.

In a plan published Sept. 30, the USDA said it would continue to pay for the roughly \$9 billion per month program through its contingency fund. The administration reversed itself 10 days later, telling states there would be no SNAP available for November.

A bipartisan U.S. Senate bill filed Sunday would end the shutdown. It includes provisions to fully fund SNAP, the contingency fund and the \$23 billion children nutrition programs fund that may be a source of emergency funding for SNAP if the shutdown persists.

Kansas Reflector Editor in Chief Sherman Smith, Wisconsin Examiner Editor in Chief Ruth Conniff and Oregon Capital Chronicle Editor in Chief Julia Shumway contributed to this report.

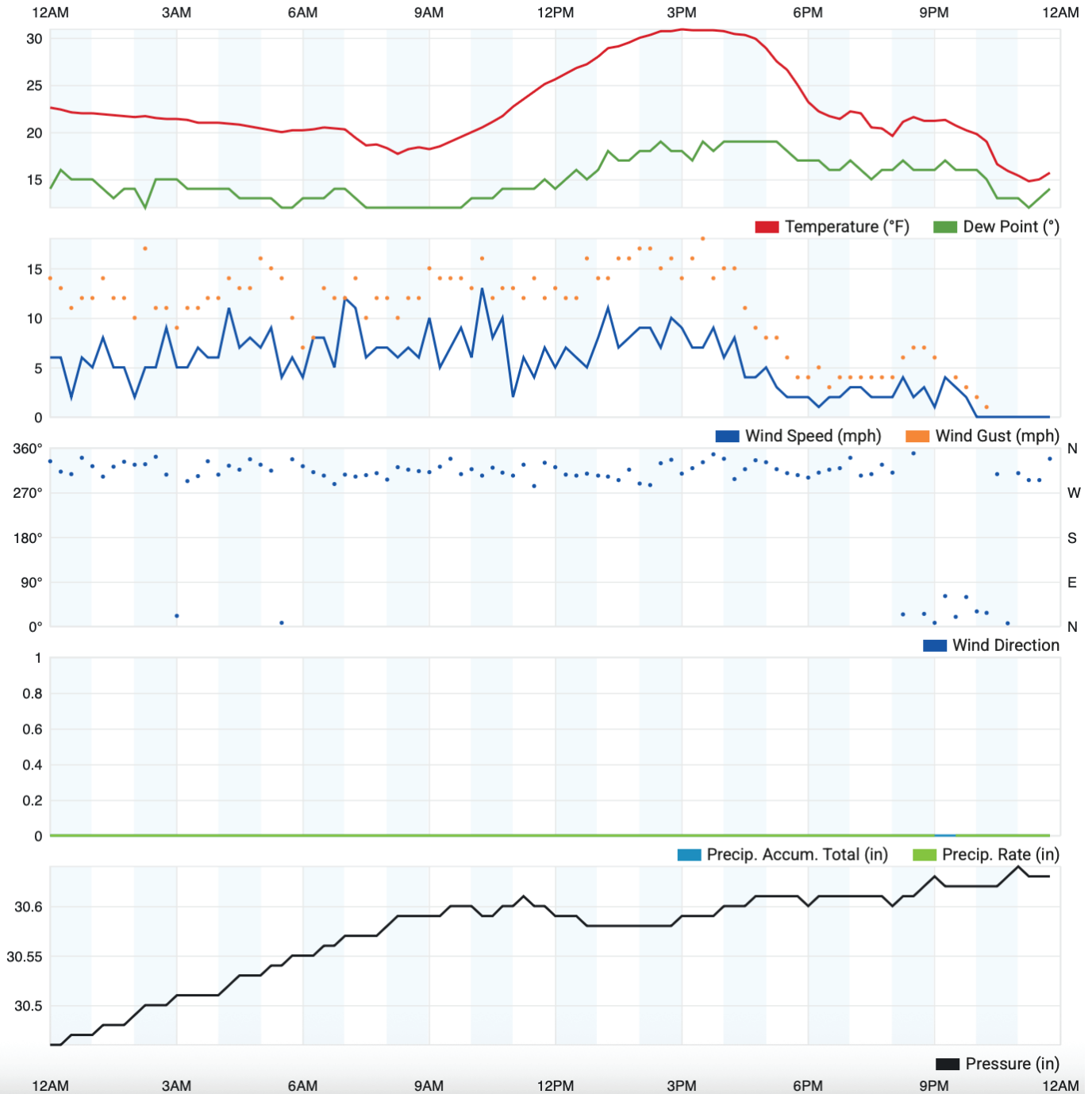
Jacob covers federal policy and helps direct national coverage as deputy Washington bureau chief for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 16 of 68

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

November 9, 2025



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 17 of 68

Today

Tonight

Veterans Day

Tuesday Night

Wednesday



High: 37 °F

Low: 28 °F

High: 54 °F

Low: 29 °F

High: 52 °F

Mostly Sunny

Increasing
Clouds

Mostly Sunny

Mostly Clear

Mostly Sunny

Through The Work-Week



Monday



Highs:
37 - 52

Warmer west
Cooler east

Tuesday



Highs:
50 - 60

Windy

Wednesday



Highs:
47 - 56

Thursday



Highs:
51 - 61

Friday



Highs:
57 - 65

Windy

The cold air situated overhead this morning will be slow to erode, from west to east today, with mild air persisting through the rest of the forecast for the upcoming work week. Temperatures in the 50s to mid 60s are some 10 to 20 degrees above normal for mid-November

Groton Daily Independent

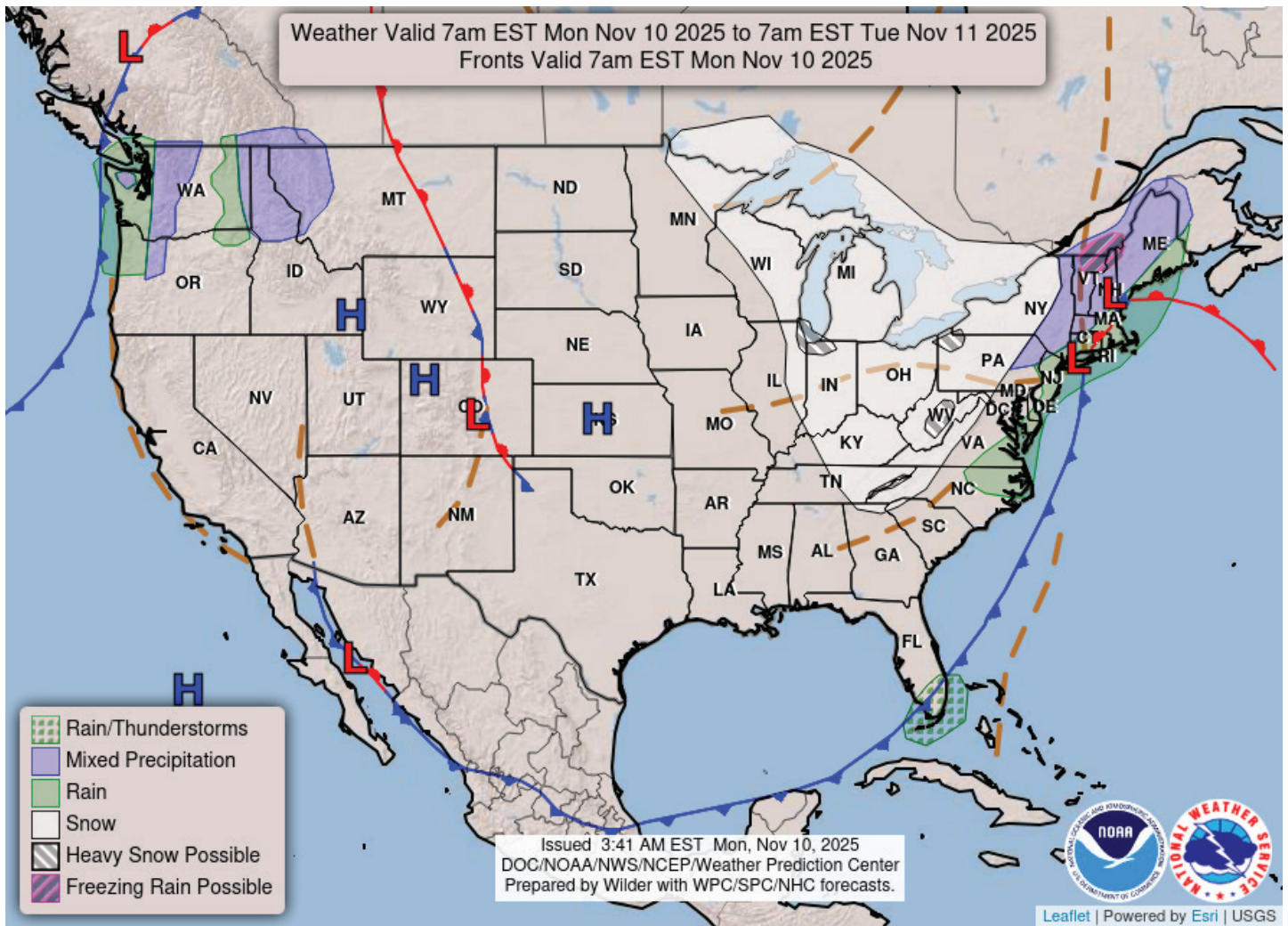
Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 18 of 68

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 31 °F at 3:50 PM
Low Temp: 16 °F at 10:34 PM
Wind: 19 mph at 3:28 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 69 in 1954
Record Low: -7 in 1896
Average High: 45
Average Low: 22
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.31
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 20.78
Precip Year to Date: 23.51
Sunset Tonight: 5:08 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:26 am



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 19 of 68

Today in Weather History

November 10th, 1998: Heavy snow fell across central, north-central, and northeast South Dakota from the early morning hours of the 9th into the late afternoon hours of the 10th. Heavy snow also fell across west-central Minnesota from late in the evening on the 9th to the early morning hours of the 10th. Snowfall amounts ranged from 6 to 14 inches. Early in the storm, much of the precipitation fell as rain, freezing rain, and heavy wet snow. During the early morning hours of the 10th, northwest winds increased to 20 to 50 mph and gusted at times to 60 mph. These high winds brought widespread blizzard conditions into the late evening hours of the 10th. On both the 10th and 11th, most area schools were closed, along with many highways, including Highways 12 and 83.

Interstates 29 and 90 were also closed due to slick roads and near-zero visibilities. Hundreds of vehicles were stranded in this storm, with many people needing rescue, and many motorists slid off the streets. There were also numerous accidents, with a few resulting in injuries. Due to the ice buildup from the rain, freezing rain, and wet snow early in the storm, along with the high winds, many tree limbs, some trees, and power lines and poles were brought down, which resulted in multiple power outages across the region. The area most affected by power outages was north of a line from Mobridge to Ipswich, along Highway 212, to the North Dakota border. Some 25 cities were affected by power outages. Hosmer was without power for over 40 hours. At South Shore, a family lost power for 120 hours. A lineman tried to get to the home twice but could not because of the low visibility. A teenager was also lost overnight near South Shore while he was hunting with friends. He was found at 8 am the next morning. In Watertown, two people were injured in an accident. Several of the downed trees across parts of the area blocked traffic for a time. Numerous businesses were closed, and activities were canceled on the 9th and 10th. In Pierre, the strong winds ripped the canopy off the Amoco gas station. The blizzard brought the fifth-lowest barometric pressure on record to Watertown. Some snowfall amounts from this horrible blizzard included; 15.4 inches near Bryant; 12.5 inches in Webster; 12.3 in Pierre; 10.8 in Sisseton; 10.5 inches near Summit; 10.0 inches in Pollock and near Onida; and 9.0 in Blunt and Conde.

1915 - An unusually late season tornado struck the central Kansas town of Great Bend killing eleven persons along its 35 mile track. The tornado destroyed 160 homes in Great Bend killing 11 persons and causing a million dollars damage. Hundreds of dead ducks dropped from the sky northeast of the track's end. (The Weather Channel)

1975: The SS Edmund Fitzgerald sinks 17 miles northwest of Whitefish Point, at the northeastern tip of Michigan's Upper Peninsula on Lake Superior. While the sinking cause is unknown, strong winds and high waves likely played a significant role. The crew of 29 members was lost from this event.

1987 - A cold front brought snow to the Appalachian Region and freezing temperatures to the central U.S. Up to nine inches of snow blanketed Garrett County of extreme western Maryland. Freezing temperatures were reported as far south as El Paso TX and San Angelo TX. Gale force winds lashed the Middle Atlantic Coast and the coast of southern New England. Thunderstorms brought fire quenching rains to Alabama, and produced large hail and damaging winds to eastern North Carolina. Ahead of the cold front, seven cities in Florida and Georgia reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 80s. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Strong winds circulating around a deep low pressure system in southeastern Ontario buffeted the northeastern U.S., with the Lower Great Lakes Region hardest hit. Winds in western New York State gusted to 68 mph at Buffalo, to 69 mph at Niagra Falls, and to 78 mph at Brockport. Four persons were injured at Rome NY when a tree was blown onto their car. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2002 - Severe thunderstorms developed ahead of a strong cold front and produced a widespread outbreak of severe weather including many tornadoes. The worst tornado damage was concentrated in Ohio, Tennessee and Alabama. A tornado rated as F-4 on the Fujita Scale struck Van Wert county in Ohio. In Tennessee, the community of Mossy Grove was nearly destroyed by a mile-wide tornado that claimed 12 lives (ENS). A major outbreak of severe weather and tornadoes occurred across the U.S. Tennessee and Ohio valley region on November 10-11, 2002, producing damage in 13 states. A total of 75 tornadoes touched down on Sunday 10th, resulting in at least 36 deaths (ENS).

Carry the Light

Ask God how He would like you to share His light in the world.

John 1:1-9: 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome[a] it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

In the Bible, light is equated with good. For instance, Jesus said, "I have come as Light into the world" (John 12:46). Once we trust Him as our Savior, He lives within us through the indwelling Holy Spirit. This means that when we're saved, we have the light of Christ (John 8:12).

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He instructed His followers to "make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19-20). In other words, we must carry the light around world. But how do we do this? Here are three ways:

God will send some of us abroad to share the truth of Jesus. There are people in every nation who have never heard about salvation, and we can go as missionaries to tell them.

The Father also calls us to spread the good news right where we are. The hope of the gospel is needed in our neighborhoods, families, and workplaces.

The Lord asks His followers to give of the resources He's provided, whether money, talents, or gifts. He wants us to be generous so the message of salvation can be proclaimed everywhere.

Are you willing to tell others about Jesus in whatever way the Lord has in mind? Ask Him how He'd like you to share His light in the world.

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

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 21 of 68

Upcoming Groton Events

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

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Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 22 of 68



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.07.25

16 21 23 48 70 5

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$900,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 17 Mins 14 Secs

[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: 16 Hrs 32 Mins 14 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.09.25

17 19 33 46 47 10

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 47 Mins 14 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.08.25

19 20 26 33 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$79,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 47 Mins 14 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.08.25

16 18 20 54 59 6

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 16 Mins 14 Secs

[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: 17 Hrs 16 Mins 14 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Porter Ihnen's double-double propels South Dakota past Ozark Christian 121-65

By The Associated Press undefined

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Porter Ihnen finished with 20 points and 13 rebounds to power South Dakota to a 121-65 victory over Ozark Christian on Sunday.

Jesse McIntosh also scored 20 for the Coyotes (1-2). He made 8 of 13 shots and grabbed five rebounds. Isaac Bruns scored 14 on 5-for-6 shooting.

Joey Foster led the Ambassadors with 11 points. Zeke Blades added 10 points and Kobe Bailey scored nine.

The Associated Press created this story using technology provided by Data Skrive and data from Sportradar.

Flight cancellations and delays worsen as government shutdown drags on

By KEN SWEET AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The pain Americans are facing at airports across the country is expected to get worse this week if Congress is unable to reach a deal to reopen the federal government.

U.S. airlines canceled more than 1,500 flights Saturday and more than 2,900 Sunday to comply with an FAA order to reduce traffic as some air traffic controllers, who have gone unpaid for nearly a month, have stopped showing up for work.

As of early Monday, airlines had already canceled nearly 1,600 flights for Monday and nearly 1,000 for Tuesday.

The Senate took a first step toward ending the shutdown Sunday, but final passage could still be several days away and experts have said it will take time for flights to go back to normal even after the government reopens.

Many airports are facing significant delays for flights that haven't been canceled as well, with airports in Newark, Orlando, Chicago and Detroit all facing departure delays of more than an hour and increasing, according to FlightAware.

This is the second pay period that air traffic controllers have not received any pay for their work. The head of the air traffic controllers union, Nick Daniels, will hold a press conference Monday morning to address the impact the shutdown is having on them.

The delays and cancellations are likely to get worse as airlines are increasingly unable to reposition planes, pilots and flight attendants due to the air traffic controller shortage.

The FAA implemented a 4% mandatory reduction in flights this weekend to manage staffing. That will increase to 6% on Tuesday and 10% reduction by this upcoming weekend. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said on "Fox News Sunday" that additional flight cuts of up to 20% might be needed.

"More controllers aren't coming to work day by day, the further they go without a paycheck," Duffy said.

The government has been short of air traffic controllers for years, and multiple presidential administrations have tried to persuade retirement-age controllers to remain on the job. Duffy said the shutdown has exacerbated the problem, leading some air traffic controllers to speed up their retirements.

While 4% may sound modest, much of that reduction is happening at 40 of the nation's busiest and most congested airports. The FAA says the flight reduction is necessary to keep travelers safe as many of the remaining controllers have been putting in long hours and mandatory overtime while the government remains unfunded.

If not addressed soon, the situation could get even worse as the U.S. heads into the busy holiday travel season. Duffy said that air travel may "be reduced to a trickle" by the week of Thanksgiving.

China rolls out its version of the H-1B visa to attract foreign tech workers

By CHAN HO-HIM AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Vaishnavi Srinivasagopalan, a skilled Indian IT professional who has worked in both India and the U.S., has been looking for work in China. Beijing's new K-visa program targeting science and technology workers could turn that dream into a reality.

The K-visa rolled out by Beijing last month is part of China's widening effort to catch up with the U.S. in the race for global talent and cutting edge technology. It coincides with uncertainties over the U.S.'s H-1B program under tightened immigration policies implemented by President Donald Trump.

"(The) K-visa for China (is) an equivalent to the H-1B for the U.S.," said Srinivasagopalan, who is intrigued by China's working environment and culture after her father worked at a Chinese university a few years back. "It is a good option for people like me to work abroad."

The K-visa supplements China's existing visa schemes including the R-visa for foreign professionals, but with loosened requirements, such as not requiring an applicant to have a job offer before applying.

Stricter U.S. policies toward foreign students and scholars under Trump, including the raising of fees for the H-1B visa for foreign skilled workers to \$100,000 for new applicants, are leading some non-American professionals and students to consider going elsewhere.

"Students studying in the U.S. hoped for an (H-1B) visa, but currently this is an issue," said Bikash Kali Das, an Indian masters student of international relations at Sichuan University in China.

China wants more foreign tech professionals

China is striking while the iron is hot.

The ruling Communist Party has made global leadership in advanced technologies a top priority, paying massive government subsidies to support research and development of areas such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors and robotics.

"Beijing perceives the tightening of immigration policies in the U.S. as an opportunity to position itself globally as welcoming foreign talent and investment more broadly," said Barbara Kelemen, associate director and head of Asia at security intelligence firm Dragonfly.

Unemployment among Chinese graduates remains high, and competition is intense for jobs in scientific and technical fields. But there is a skills gap China's leadership is eager to fill. For decades, China has been losing top talent to developed countries as many stayed and worked in the U.S. and Europe after they finished studies there.

The brain drain has not fully reversed.

Many Chinese parents still see Western education as advanced and are eager to send their children abroad, said Alfred Wu, an associate professor at the National University of Singapore.

Still, in recent years, a growing number of professionals including AI experts, scientists and engineers have moved to China from the U.S., including Chinese-Americans. Fei Su, a chip architect at Intel, and Ming Zhou, a leading engineer at U.S.-based software firm Altair, were among those who have taken teaching jobs in China this year.

Many skilled workers in India and Southeast Asia have already expressed interest about the K-visa, said Edward Hu, a Shanghai-based immigration director at the consultancy Newland Chase.

Questions about extra competition from foreign workers

With the jobless rate for Chinese aged 16-24 excluding students at nearly 18%, the campaign to attract more foreign professionals is raising questions.

"The current job market is already under fierce competition," said Zhou Xinying, a 24-year-old postgraduate student in behavioral science at eastern China's Zhejiang University.

While foreign professionals could help "bring about new technologies" and different international perspectives, Zhou said, "some Chinese young job seekers may feel pressure due to the introduction of the

K-visa policy.”

Kyle Huang, a 26-year-old software engineer based in the southern city of Guangzhou, said his peers in the science and technology fields fear the new visa scheme “might threaten local job opportunities”.

A recent commentary published by a state-backed news outlet, the Shanghai Observer, downplayed such concerns, saying that bringing in such foreign professionals will benefit the economy. As China advances in areas such as AI and cutting-edge semiconductors, there is a “gap and mismatch” between qualified jobseekers and the demand for skilled workers, it said.

“The more complex the global environment, the more China will open its arms,” it said.

“Beijing will need to emphasize how select foreign talent can create, not take, local jobs,” said Michael Feller, chief strategist at consultancy Geopolitical Strategy. “But even Washington has shown that this is politically a hard argument to make, despite decades of evidence.”

China’s disadvantages even with the new visas

Recruitment and immigration specialists say foreign workers face various hurdles in China. One is the language barrier. The ruling Communist Party’s internet censorship, known as the “Great Firewall,” is another drawback.

A country of about 1.4 billion, China had only an estimated 711,000 foreign workers residing in the country as of 2023.

The U.S. still leads in research and has the advantage of using English widely. There’s also still a relatively clearer pathway to residency for many, said David Stepat, country director for Singapore at the consultancy Dezan Shira & Associates.

Nikhil Swaminathan, an Indian H1-B visa holder working for a U.S. non-profit organization after finishing graduate school there, is interested in China’s K-visa but skeptical. “I would’ve considered it. China’s a great place to work in tech, if not for the difficult relationship between India and China,” he said.

Given a choice, many jobseekers still are likely to aim for jobs in leading global companies outside China.

“The U.S. is probably more at risk of losing would-be H-1B applicants to other Western economies, including the UK and European Union, than to China,” said Feller at Geopolitical Strategy.

“The U.S. may be sabotaging itself, but it’s doing so from a far more competitive position in terms of its attractiveness to talent,” Feller said. “China will need to do far more than offer convenient visa pathways to attract the best.”

How Gary Sinise is helping the nonprofit CreatiVets build ‘a place to go when the PTSD hits’

By GLENN GAMBOA AP Business Writer

NASHVILLE (AP) — Richard Casper shakes his head as he touches one of the boarded-up windows in the once-abandoned church he plans to transform into a new 24-hour arts center for veterans.

The U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Purple Heart recipient said he was an arm’s length away from military officials, including Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, at Marine Barracks Washington when he learned the former church his nonprofit CreatiVets just purchased had been vandalized.

The physical damage to the building and its stained glass windows saddened Casper. But what worried him more was that the church had remained empty since 2017 without damage. That vandalism came just weeks after CreatiVets bought it, suggesting that maybe he and the veterans in his program were not welcome.

“I almost just left,” Casper said. “It put me in a weird headspace.”

However, Casper, 40, a CNN Heroes winner and Elevate Prize Foundation winner, needed more support for the center — “a place to go when the PTSD hits.” Like so many veterans, he said his PTSD, caused by seeing a close friend die on patrol in Iraq, would generally come in the middle of the night, when the only places open are bars and other spaces that can be “destructive.”

He figured a 24-hour center where veterans could engage in music, painting, sculpture, theater and other arts could help. It could “turn all that pain into something beautiful.” The artistic element factored

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 26 of 68

in when Casper, who suffered a traumatic brain injury while serving in Iraq, returned home and found it hard to be in public — unless he was listening to live music.

So he completed his mission that night in Washington, introducing new people to CreatiVets' work. Then, Casper returned to Nashville to practice what he has preached to hundreds of veterans since his nonprofit opened in 2013. He asked for help.

And help came.

Within weeks, CreatiVets' Art Director Tim Brown was teaching a roomful of volunteers how to create stained glass pieces to replace those that were vandalized. Brown said the volunteers wanted to give back to the organization, "but also because of the impact that these activities have had on them."

Gary Sinise believes in art's impact

Gary Sinise values that impact. The actor, musician and philanthropist had already signed on to donate \$1 million through his foundation to help CreatiVets purchase the building. Sinise's involvement encouraged two other donors to help finalize the purchase.

The "CSI: NY" star said he believed in CreatiVets' work and had already seen a similar program in his hometown of Chicago help veterans process their wartime experiences.

"In the military, you're trained to do serious work to protect our country, right?" Sinise said. "If you're in the infantry, you're being trained to kill. You're being trained to contain any emotion and be strong."

Those skills are important when fighting the enemy, but they also take a toll, especially when veterans aren't taught how to discuss their feelings once the war is over.

"Quite often, our veterans don't want any help," Sinise said. "But through art — and with theater as well — acting out what they are going through can be very, very beneficial."

David Booth says he is living proof of how CreatiVets can help. And the retired master sergeant, who served 20 years in the U.S. Army as a medic and a counterintelligence agent, wishes he participated in the program sooner.

"For me, this was more important than the last year and a half of counseling that I've gone through," said Booth. "It has been so therapeutic."

After years of being asked, Booth, 53, finally joined CreatiVets' songwriting program in September. He traveled from his home in The Villages, Florida, to the historic Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, to meet with two successful songwriters — Brian White, who co-wrote Jason Aldean's "Blame It on You," and Craig Campbell, of "Outskirts of Heaven" fame — to help him write a song about his life.

Booth told them about his service, including his injury in Iraq in 2006 when the vehicle he was in struck an improvised explosive device and detonated it.

He suffered a traumatic brain injury in the explosion, and it took months of rehab before he could walk again. His entire cervical spine is fused. He still gets epidurals to relieve the nerve pain. And he still suffers from nightmares and PTSD.

In Iraq, Booth's unit was once surrounded by kids because American soldiers used to give them Jolly Rancher candies. Snipers shot the children in hopes the soldiers would become easier targets when they tried to help.

"Things like that stick in my head," Booth said. "How do you get them out?"

He also told them about his desire for a positive message and Combat Veterans to Careers, the veteran support nonprofit he founded. Those experiences became the song "What's Next."

Booth hopes "What's Next" becomes available on music streaming services so others can hear his story. CreatiVets has released compilations of its veterans' songs since 2020 in cooperation with Big Machine Label Group, Taylor Swift's first record label. This year's collection was released Friday.

"It's almost like they could feel what I was feeling and put it into the lyrics," said Booth, after hearing the finished version. "It was pretty surreal and pretty awesome."

Why Lt. Dan from 'Forrest Gump' launched a nonprofit

Sinise has seen the unexpected impact of art throughout his career. His Oscar-nominated role as wounded Vietnam veteran Lt. Dan Taylor in "Forrest Gump" in 1994 deepened his connection to veterans. His mu-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 27 of 68

sic with the Lt. Dan Band expanded it. In 2011, he launched the Gary Sinise Foundation to broadly serve veterans, first responders and their families.

"I think citizens have a responsibility to take care of their defenders," he said. "There are opportunities out there for all of us to do that and one of the ways to do it is through multiple nonprofits that are out there."

Sinise immediately connected with CreatiVets' mission. When the idea came to dedicate the performance space at the new center to his late son Mac, who died last year after a long battle with cancer, Sinise saw it as "a perfect synergy."

"Mac was a great artist," he said. "And he was a humble, kind of quiet, creative force... If Mac would have survived and not gone through what he went through, he'd be one of our young leaders here at the foundation. He would be composing music and he'd be helping veterans."

Mac Sinise is still helping veterans, as proceeds of his album "Resurrection & Revival" and its sequel completed after his death, are going to the Gary Sinise Foundation. And Gary Sinise said he discovered more compositions from his son that he plans to record later this year for a third album.

After the new center was vandalized, Casper said he was heartbroken, but also inspired knowing part of the center was destined to become the Mac Sinise Auditorium. He decided to take pieces of the broken stained glass windows and transform them into new artwork inspired by Mac Sinise's music.

"I told you we're going to go above and beyond to make sure everyone knows Mac lived," Casper told Sinise as he handed him stained glass panes inspired by Mac Sinise's songs "Arctic Circles" and "Penguin Dance," "not that he died, but that he lived."

Sinise fought back tears as he said, "My gosh, that's beautiful."

As he examined the pieces more closely, Sinise added, "I'm honored that we're going to have this place over there and that Mac is going to be supporting Richard and helping veterans."

States face uncertainty as Trump administration tries to reverse SNAP food payments

By DAVID A. LIEB and GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

States administering a federal food aid program serving about 42 million Americans faced uncertainty Monday over whether they can — and should — provide full monthly benefits during an ongoing legal battle involving the U.S. government shutdown.

President Donald Trump's administration over weekend demanded that states "undo" full benefits that were paid under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program during a one-day window between when a federal judge ordered full funding and a Supreme Court justice put a temporary pause on that order.

A federal appeals court now is considering whether to impose a longer halt to the full benefits. And Congress is considering whether to fund SNAP as part of a proposal to end the government shutdown.

Some states are warning of "catastrophic operational disruptions" if the Trump administration does not reimburse them for those SNAP benefits they already authorized. Meanwhile, other states are providing partial monthly SNAP benefits with federal money or using their own funds to load electronic benefit cards for SNAP recipients.

Millions receive aid while others wait

Trump's administration initially said SNAP benefits would not be available in November because of the government shutdown. After some states and nonprofit groups sued, two judges each ruled the administration could not skip November's benefits entirely.

The administration then said it would use an emergency reserve fund to provide 65% of the maximum monthly benefit. On Thursday, U.S. District Judge John J. McConnell said that wasn't good enough, and ordered full funding for SNAP benefits by Friday.

Some states acted quickly to direct their EBT vendors to disburse full monthly benefits to SNAP recipients. Millions of people in those states received funds to buy groceries before Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson put McConnell's order on hold Friday night, pending further deliberation by an appeals court.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 28 of 68

Millions more people still have not received SNAP payments for November, because their states were waiting on further guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers SNAP.

Trump's administration has argued that the judicial order to provide full benefits violates the Constitution by infringing on the spending power of the legislative and executive branches.

States are fighting attempt to freeze SNAP benefits

On Sunday, the Trump administration said states had moved too quickly and erroneously released full SNAP benefits after last week's rulings.

"States must immediately undo any steps taken to issue full SNAP benefits for November 2025," Patrick Penn, deputy undersecretary of Agriculture, wrote to state SNAP directors. He warned that states could face penalties if they did not comply.

Wisconsin, which was among the first to load full benefits after McConnell's order, had its federal reimbursement frozen. As a result, the state's SNAP account could be depleted as soon Monday, leaving no money to reimburse stores that sell food to SNAP recipients, according to a court filing submitted by those that had sued.

Some Democratic governors vowed to challenge any federal attempt to claw back money.

In Connecticut, Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont said "those who received their benefits should not worry about losing them."

"No, Connecticut does not need to take back SNAP benefits already sent to the 360,000 people who depend on them for food and who should have never been caught in the middle of this political fight," Lamont said. "We have their back."

Senate takes first step toward ending the government shutdown

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate took the first step to end the government shutdown on Sunday after a group of moderate Democrats agreed to proceed without a guaranteed extension of health care subsidies, angering many in their caucus who say Americans want them to continue the fight.

In a test vote that is the first in a series of required procedural maneuvers, the Senate voted 60-40 to move toward passing compromise legislation to fund the government and hold a later vote on extending Affordable Care Act tax credits that expire Jan. 1. Final passage could be several days away if Democrats object and delay the process.

The agreement does not guarantee the health care subsidies will be extended, as Democrats have demanded for almost six weeks. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York voted against moving ahead with the package, along with all but eight of his Democratic colleagues.

A group of three former governors — New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire Sen. Maggie Hassan and Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine — broke the six-week stalemate on Sunday when they agreed to vote to advance three bipartisan annual spending bills and extend the rest of government funding until late January in exchange for a mid-December vote on extending the health care tax credits.

The agreement also includes a reversal of the mass firings of federal workers by the Trump administration since the shutdown began on Oct. 1 and would ensure that federal workers receive back pay.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune quickly endorsed the deal and called an immediate vote to begin the process of approving it as the shutdown continued to disrupt flights nationwide, threaten food assistance for millions of Americans and leave federal workers without pay.

"The time to act is now," Thune said.

Returning to the White House on Sunday evening after attending a football game, President Donald Trump did not say whether he endorsed the deal. But he said, "It looks like we're getting close to the shutdown ending."

Five Democrats switch votes

In addition to Shaheen, King and Hassan, Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, home to tens of thousands of federal workers, also voted in favor of moving forward on the agreement. Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 29 of 68

the No. 2 Democrat, Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman and Nevada Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen also voted yes.

The moderates had expected a larger number of Democrats to vote with them as 10-12 Democratic senators had been part of the negotiations. But in the end, only five Democrats switched their votes — the exact number that Republicans needed. King, Cortez Masto and Fetterman had already been voting to open the government since Oct. 1.

The vote was temporarily delayed on Sunday evening as three conservatives who often criticize spending bills, Republican Sens. Mike Lee of Utah, Rick Scott of Florida and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, withheld their votes and huddled with Thune at the back of the chamber. They eventually voted yes after speaking to Trump, Lee said.

Another Republican, Sen John Cornyn of Texas, had to fly back from Texas to deliver the crucial 60th vote. Schumer votes no

After Democrats met for over two hours to discuss the proposal, Schumer said he could not “in good faith” support it.

Schumer, who received blowback from his party in March when he voted to keep the government open, said that Democrats have now “sounded the alarm” on health care.

“We will not give up the fight,” he said.

Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who caucuses with the Democrats, said giving up the fight was a “horrific mistake.”

Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., agreed, saying that in last week’s elections people voted overwhelmingly Democratic “to urge Democrats to hold firm.”

A bipartisan agreement

Democrats had voted 14 times not to reopen the government as they demanded the extension of tax credits that make coverage more affordable under the Affordable Care Act. Republicans said they would not negotiate on health care, but GOP leaders have been quietly working with the group of moderates as the contours of an agreement began to emerge.

The agreement includes bipartisan bills worked out by the Senate Appropriations Committee to fund parts of government — food aid, veterans programs and the legislative branch, among other things. All other funding would be extended until the end of January, giving lawmakers more than two months to finish additional spending bills.

The deal would reinstate federal workers who had received reduction in force, or layoff, notices and reimburse states that spent their own funds to keep federal programs running during the shutdown. It would also protect against future reductions in force through January and guarantee federal workers would be paid once the shutdown is over.

House Democrats push back

House Democrats swiftly criticized the Senate.

Texas Rep. Greg Casar, the chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, said a deal that doesn’t reduce health care costs is a “betrayal” of millions of Americans who are counting on Democrats to fight.

“Accepting nothing but a pinky promise from Republicans isn’t a compromise — it’s capitulation,” Casar said in a post on X. “Millions of families would pay the price.”

Rep. Angie Craig of Minnesota posted that “if people believe this is a ‘deal,’ I have a bridge to sell you.”

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries blamed Republicans and said Democrats will continue to fight.

“Donald Trump and the Republican Party own the toxic mess they have created in our country and the American people know it,” Jeffries said.

Health care debate ahead

It’s unclear whether the two parties would be able to find any common ground on the health care subsidies before a promised December vote in the Senate. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., has said he will not commit to bring it up in his chamber.

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 also want new limits on who can receive the subsidies and argue that the tax dollars for the plans should be routed through individuals.

Other Republicans, including Trump, have used the debate to renew their yearslong criticism of the law and called for it to be scrapped or overhauled.

Shutdown effects worsen

Meanwhile, the consequences of the shutdown have been compounding. U.S. airlines canceled more than 2,000 flights on Sunday for the first time since the shutdown began, and there were more than 7,000 flight delays, according to FlightAware, a website that tracks air travel disruptions.

Treasury Secretary Sean Duffy said on CNN's "State of the Union" that air travel ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday will be "reduced to a trickle" if the government doesn't reopen.

At the same time, food aid was delayed for tens of millions of people as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits were caught up in legal battles related to the shutdown.

And in Washington, home to tens of thousands of federal workers who have gone unpaid, the Capital Area Food Bank said it is providing 8 million more meals ahead of the holidays than it had prepared for this budget year — a nearly 20% increase.

Fedora man unmasked: Meet the teen behind the Louvre mystery photo

By THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — When 15-year-old Pedro Elias Garzon Delvaux realized an Associated Press photo of him at the Louvre on the day of the crown jewels heist had drawn millions of views, his first instinct was not to rush online and unmask himself.

Quite the opposite.

A fan of Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot who lives with his parents and grandfather in Rambouillet, west of Paris, Pedro decided to play along with the world's suspense.

As theories swirled about the sharply dressed stranger in the "Fedora Man" shot — detective, insider, AI fake — he decided to stay silent and watch.

"I didn't want to say immediately it was me," he said. "With this photo there is a mystery, so you have to make it last."

For his only in-person interview since that snap turned him into an international curiosity, he appeared for the AP cameras at his home much as he did that Sunday: in a fedora hat, Yves Saint Laurent waistcoat borrowed from his father, jacket chosen by his mother, neat tie, Tommy Hilfiger trousers and a restored, war-battered Russian watch.

The fedora, angled just so, is his homage to French Resistance hero Jean Moulin.

In person, he is a bright, amused teenager who wandered, by accident, into a global story.

From photo to fame

The image that made him famous was meant to document a crime scene. Three police officers lean on a silver car blocking a Louvre entrance, hours after thieves carried out a daylight raid on French crown jewels. To the right, a lone figure in a three-piece ensemble strides past; a flash of film noir in a modern-day manhunt.

The internet did the rest. "Fedora Man," as users dubbed him, was cast as an old-school detective, an inside man, a Netflix pitch, or not human at all. Many were convinced he was AI-generated.

Pedro understood why. "In the photo, I'm dressed more in the 1940s, and we are in 2025," he said. "There is a contrast."

Even some relatives and friends hesitated until they spotted his mother in the background. Only then were they sure: The internet's favorite fake detective was a real boy.

The real story was simple. Pedro, his mother and grandfather had come to visit the Louvre.

"We wanted to go to the Louvre, but it was closed," he said. "We didn't know there was a heist."

They asked officers why the gates were shut. Seconds later, AP photographer Thibault Camus, documenting the security cordon, caught Pedro midstride.

"When the picture was taken, I didn't know," Pedro said. "I was just passing through."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 31 of 68

Four days later, an acquaintance messaged: Is that you?

"She told me there were 5 million views," he said. "I was a bit surprised." Then his mother called to say he was in The New York Times. "It's not every day," he said. Cousins in Colombia, friends in Austria, family friends and classmates followed with screenshots and calls.

"People said, 'You've become a star,'" he said. "I was astonished that just with one photo you can become viral in a few days."

An inspired style

The look that jolted tens of millions is not a costume whipped up for a museum trip. Pedro began dressing this way less than a year ago, inspired by 20th-century history and black-and-white images of suited statesmen and fictional detectives.

"I like to be chic," he said. "I go to school like this."

In a sea of hoodies and sneakers, he shows up in a riff on a three-piece suit. And the hat? No, that's its own ritual. The fedora is reserved for weekends, holidays and museum visits.

At his no-uniform school, his style has already started to spread. "One of my friends came this week with a tie," he said.

He understands why people projected a whole sleuth character onto him: improbable heist, improbable detective. He loves Poirot ("very elegant"), and likes the idea that an unusual crime calls for someone who looks unusual. "When something unusual happens, you don't imagine a normal detective," he said. "You imagine someone different."

That instinct fits the world he comes from. His mother, Félicité Garzon Delvaux, grew up in an 18th-century museum-palace, daughter of a curator and a performer, and regularly takes her son to exhibits.

"Art and museums are living spaces," she said. "Life without art is not life."

For Pedro, art and imagery were part of everyday life. So when millions projected stories onto a single frame of him in a fedora beside armed police at the Louvre, he recognized the power of an image and let the myth breathe before stepping forward.

He stayed silent for several days, then switched his Instagram from private to public.

"People had to try to find who I am," he said. "Then journalists came, and I told them my age. They were extremely surprised."

He is relaxed about whatever comes next. "I'm waiting for people to contact me for films," he said, grinning. "That would be very funny."

In a story of theft and security lapses, "Fedora Man" is a gentler counterpoint: A teenager who believes art, style and a good mystery belong to ordinary life. One photo turned him into a symbol. Meeting him confirms he is, reassuringly, real.

"I'm a star," he says — less brag than experiment, as if he's trying on the words the way he tries on a hat. "I'll keep dressing like this. It's my style."

MLB pitchers Emmanuel Clase and Luis Ortiz charged with taking bribes to rig pitches for bettors

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Cleveland Guardians pitchers Emmanuel Clase and Luis Ortiz have been indicted on charges they took bribes from sports bettors to throw certain types of pitches, including tossing balls in the dirt instead of strikes, to ensure successful bets.

According to the indictment unsealed Sunday in federal court in Brooklyn, the highly paid hurlers took several thousand dollars in payoffs to help two unnamed gamblers from their native Dominican Republic win at least \$460,000 on in-game prop bets on the speed and outcome of certain pitches.

Clase, the Guardians' former closer, and Ortiz, a starter, have been on non-disciplinary paid leave since July, when MLB started investigating what it said was unusually high in-game betting activity when they pitched. Some of the games in question were in April, May and June.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 32 of 68

Ortiz, 26, was arrested Sunday by the FBI at Boston Logan International Airport. He is expected to appear in federal court in Boston on Monday. Clase, 27, was not in custody, officials said.

Ortiz and Clase "betrayed America's pastime," U.S. Attorney Joseph Nocella Jr. said. "Integrity, honesty and fair play are part of the DNA of professional sports. When corruption infiltrates the sport, it brings disgrace not only to the participants but damages the public trust in an institution that is vital and dear to all of us."

Ortiz's lawyer, Chris Georgalis, said in a statement that his client was innocent and "has never, and would never, improperly influence a game — not for anyone and not for anything."

Georgalis said Ortiz's defense team had previously documented for prosecutors that the payments and money transfers between him and individuals in the Dominican Republic were for lawful activities.

"There is no credible evidence Luis knowingly did anything other than try to win games, with every pitch and in every inning. Luis looks forward to fighting these charges in court," Georgalis said.

A lawyer for Clase, Michael J. Ferrara, said his client "has devoted his life to baseball and doing everything in his power to help his team win. Emmanuel is innocent of all charges and looks forward to clearing his name in court."

The Major League Baseball Players Association had no comment.

Unusual betting activity prompted investigation

MLB said it contacted federal law enforcement when it began investigating unusual betting activity and has fully cooperated with authorities. "We are aware of the indictment and today's arrest, and our investigation is ongoing," a league statement said.

In a statement, the Guardians said: "We are aware of the recent law enforcement action. We will continue to fully cooperate with both law enforcement and Major League Baseball as their investigations continue."

Clase and Ortiz are both charged with wire fraud conspiracy, honest services wire fraud conspiracy, money laundering conspiracy and conspiracy to influence sporting contests by bribery. The top charges carry a potential punishment of up to 20 years in prison.

In one example cited in the indictment, Clase allegedly invited a bettor to a game against the Boston Red Sox in April and spoke with him by phone just before taking the mound. Four minutes later, the indictment said, the bettor and his associates won \$11,000 on a wager that Clase would toss a certain pitch slower than 97.95 mph (157.63 kph).

In May, the indictment said, Clase agreed to throw a ball at a certain point in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, but the batter swung, resulting in a strike, costing the bettors \$4,000 in wagers. After the game, which the Guardians won, Clase sent text messages to one of the bettors with images of a man hanging himself with toilet paper and a sad puppy dog face, the indictment said.

Clase, a three-time All-Star and two-time American League Reliever of the Year, had a \$4.5 million salary in 2025, the fourth season of a \$20 million, five-year contract. The three-time AL save leader began providing the bettors with information about his pitches in 2023 but didn't ask for payoffs until this year, prosecutors said.

The indictment cited specific pitches Clase allegedly rigged — all of them first pitches when he entered to start an inning: a 98.5 mph (158.5 kph) cutter low and inside to the New York Mets' Starling Marte on May 19, 2023; an 89.4 mph (143.8 kph) slider to Minnesota's Ryan Jeffers that bounced well short of home plate on June 3, 2023; an 89.4 mph (143.8 kph) slider to Kansas City's Bobby Witt Jr. that bounced on April 12; a 99.1 mph (159.5 kph) cutter in the dirt to Philadelphia's Max Kepler on May 11; a bounced 89.1 mph (143.4 kph) slider to Milwaukee's Jake Bauers on May 13; and a bounced 87.5 mph (140.8 kph) slider to Cincinnati's Santiago Espinal on May 17.

Prosecutors said Ortiz, who had a \$782,600 salary this year, got in on the scheme in June and is accused of rigging pitches in games against the Seattle Mariners and the St. Louis Cardinals.

Ortiz was cited for bouncing a first-pitch 86.7 mph (139.5 kph) slider to Seattle's Randy Arozarena starting the second inning on June 15 and bouncing a first-pitch 86.7 mph (139.5 kph) slider to St. Louis' Pedro Pagés that went to the backstop opening the third inning on June 27.

Dozens of pro athletes have been charged in gambling sweeps

The charges are the latest bombshell developments in a federal crackdown on betting in professional sports.

Last month, more than 30 people, including prominent basketball figures such as Portland Trail Blazers head coach and Basketball Hall of Famer Chauncey Billups and Miami Heat guard Terry Rozier, were arrested in a gambling sweep that rocked the NBA.

Sports betting scandals have long been a concern, but a May 2018 U.S. Supreme Court ruling led to a wave of gambling incidents involving athletes and officials. The ruling struck down a federal ban on sports betting in most states and opened the doors for online sportsbooks to take a prominent space in the sports ecosystem.

Major League Baseball suspended five players in June 2024, including a lifetime ban for San Diego infielder Tucupita Marcano for allegedly placing 387 baseball bets with a legal sportsbook totaling more than \$150,000.

Top BBC bosses resign after criticism of the broadcaster's editing of a Trump speech

LONDON (AP) — The head of the BBC and the British broadcaster's top news executive both resigned Sunday after criticism of the way the organization edited a speech by U.S. President Donald Trump.

The BBC said Director-General Tim Davie and news CEO Deborah Turness had both decided to leave the corporation.

Britain's publicly funded national broadcaster has been criticized for editing a speech Trump made on Jan. 6, 2021, before protesters attacked the Capitol in Washington.

Critics said the way the speech was edited for a BBC documentary last year was misleading and cut out a section where Trump said he wanted supporters to demonstrate peacefully.

A clip of the BBC "Panorama" episode shared by The Daily Telegraph appears to show different parts of Trump's speech edited into one quote. In the episode, Trump is shown saying: "We're going to walk down to the Capitol and I'll be there with you. And we fight. We fight like hell."

According to video and a transcript from Trump's comments that day, he said: "We're going to walk down to the Capitol, and we're going to cheer on our brave senators and congressmen and women, and we're probably not going to be cheering so much for some of them.

"Because you'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength and you have to be strong. We have come to demand that Congress do the right thing and only count the electors who have been lawfully slated, lawfully slated.

"I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard."

Nearly an hour later, Trump used the phrase "we fight like hell" toward the end of his speech, but without referencing the Capitol.

"We fight like hell. And if you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore," Trump said then.

In a letter to staff, Davie said quitting the job after five years "is entirely my decision."

"Overall the BBC is delivering well, but there have been some mistakes made and as director-general I have to take ultimate responsibility," Davie said.

He said he was "working through exact timings with the Board to allow for an orderly transition to a successor over the coming months."

Turness said the controversy about the Trump documentary "has reached a stage where it is causing damage to the BBC — an institution that I love. As the CEO of BBC News and Current Affairs, the buck stops with me."

"In public life leaders need to be fully accountable, and that is why I am stepping down," she said in a note to staff. "While mistakes have been made, I want to be absolutely clear recent allegations that BBC

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 34 of 68

News is institutionally biased are wrong.”

Trump posted a link to a Daily Telegraph story about the speech-editing on his Truth Social network, thanking the newspaper “for exposing these Corrupt ‘Journalists.’ These are very dishonest people who tried to step on the scales of a Presidential Election.” He called that “a terrible thing for Democracy!”

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt reacted on X, posting a screen grab of an article headlined “Trump goes to war with ‘fake news’ BBC” beside another about Davie’s resignation, with the words “shot” and “chaser.”

Pressure on the broadcaster’s top executives has been growing since the right-leaning Telegraph published parts of a dossier compiled by Michael Prescott, who had been hired to advise the BBC on standards and guidelines.

As well as the Trump edit, it criticized the BBC’s coverage of transgender issues and raised concerns of anti-Israel bias in the BBC’s Arabic service.

The 103-year-old BBC faces greater scrutiny than other broadcasters — and criticism from its commercial rivals — because of its status as a national institution funded through an annual license fee of 174.50 pounds (\$230) paid by all households with a television.

The BBC airs vast reams of entertainment and sports programming across multiple television and radio stations and online platforms — but it’s the BBC’s news output that is most often under scrutiny.

The broadcaster is bound by the terms of its charter to be impartial, and critics are quick to point out when they think it has failed. It’s frequently a political football, with conservatives seeing a leftist slant in its news output and some liberals accusing it of having a conservative bias.

It has also been criticized from all angles over its coverage of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. In February, the BBC removed a documentary about Gaza from its streaming service after it emerged that the child narrator was the son of an official in the Hamas-led government.

Kemi Badenoch, leader of the opposition Conservative Party, said the BBC was full of “institutional bias,” and “the new leadership must now deliver genuine reform of the culture of the BBC, top to bottom.”

Lisa Nandy, the minister in charge of media in Britain’s center-left Labour government, thanked Davie for his work and said the government would help the BBC secure “its role at the heart of national life for decades to come.

“Now more than ever, the need for trusted news and high quality programming is essential to our democratic and cultural life, and our place in the world,” Nandy said.

US airlines’ daily cancellations exceed 2,700 as shutdown impact extends

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. airlines canceled more than 2,700 flights on Sunday as Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy warned that air traffic across the nation would “slow to a trickle” if the federal government shutdown lingered into the busy Thanksgiving travel holiday season.

The slowdown at 40 of the nation’s busiest airports began to cause more widespread disruptions in its third day. The FAA last week ordered flight cuts at the nation’s busiest airports as some air traffic controllers, who have gone unpaid for nearly a month, have stopped showing up for work.

In addition, nearly 10,000 flight delays were reported on Sunday alone, according to FlightAware, a website that tracks air travel disruptions. More than 1,000 flights were canceled Friday, and more than 1,500 on Saturday.

The FAA reductions started Friday at 4% and were set to increase to 10% by Nov. 14. They are in effect from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time and will impact all commercial airlines.

Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta stood to have the most cancellations Sunday, followed by Chicago O’Hare International, where wintry weather threatened. In Georgia, weather could also be a factor, with the National Weather Service office in Atlanta warning of widespread freezing conditions through Tuesday.

Traveler Kyra March finally arrived at Hartsfield-Jackson on Sunday after a series of postponements the day before.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 35 of 68

"I was coming from Tampa and that flight got delayed, delayed, delayed. Then it was canceled and then rebooked. And so I had to stay at a hotel and then came back this morning," she said.

The FAA said staffing shortages at Newark and LaGuardia Airport in New York were leading to average departure delays of about 75 minutes.

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport in Michigan was mostly empty Sunday morning, with minimal wait times at security checkpoints as delays and cancellations filled the departures and arrivals boards.

Earlier Sunday, Duffy warned that U.S. air traffic could decline significantly if the shutdown persisted. He said additional flight cuts — perhaps up to 20% — might be needed, particularly if controllers receive no pay for a second straight pay period.

"More controllers aren't coming to work day by day, the further they go without a paycheck," Duffy told "Fox News Sunday."

And he prepared Americans for what they could face during the busy Thanksgiving holiday.

"As I look two weeks out, as we get closer to Thanksgiving travel, I think what's going to happen is you're going to have air travel slow to a trickle as everyone wants to travel to see their families," Duffy said.

With "very few" controllers working, "you'll have a few flights taking off and landing" and thousands of cancellations, he said.

"You're going to have massive disruption. I think a lot of angry Americans. I think we have to be honest about where this is going. It doesn't get better," Duffy said. "It gets worse until these air traffic controllers are going to be paid."

The government has been short of air traffic controllers for years, and multiple presidential administrations have tried to convince retirement-age controllers to remain on the job. Duffy said the shutdown has exacerbated the problem, leading some air traffic controllers to speed up their retirements.

"Up to 15 or 20 a day are retiring," Duffy said on CNN.

Duffy said Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth texted him with an offer to lend military air traffic controllers, but it's unclear whether the staff is certified to work on civilian systems.

Duffy denied Democratic charges that the flight cancellations are a political tactic, saying they were necessary due to increasing near-misses from an overtaxed system.

"I needed to take action to keep people safe," Duffy said. "I'm doing what I can in a mess that Democrats have put in my lap."

Airlines for America, a trade group representing U.S. carriers, said air traffic control staffing-related delays exceeded 3,000 hours on Saturday, the highest of the shutdown, and that staffing problems contributed to 71% of delay time.

From Oct. 1 to Nov. 7, controller shortages have disrupted more than 4 million passengers on U.S. carriers, according to Airlines for America.

Salman Rushdie is being honored with a Dayton peace prize lifetime achievement award

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Salman Rushdie was among the honorees Sunday at the Dayton Literary Peace Prize event in Ohio, receiving a lifetime achievement award after publishing his first work of fiction since being stabbed on a New York lecture stage three years ago.

The prizes honor both literary merit and the writers' promotion of peace through their work, with separate awards annually for fiction, nonfiction and lifetime achievement. The Ohio city was the site of negotiations that led to the Dayton Peace Accords in 1995, ending a war in the Balkans marked by ethnic cleansing that killed more than 300,000 people, as well as the displacement of 1 million residents.

The 78-year-old Rushdie is best known for his 1988 novel, "The Satanic Verses," which includes a dream sequence about the Prophet Muhammad that prompted allegations of blasphemy and a 1989 call from Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for the Indian-born writer's death, driving him into hiding. He was blinded in one eye from the 2022 attack before a stunned audience, and his assailant — who wasn't born

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 36 of 68

when "The Satanic Verses" was published — was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

In accepting his award, Rushdie said it can be difficult to write about peace while living in a time of "inexcusable violence," including the conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan.

"A book cannot stop a bullet. A poem cannot intercept a bomb," he said.

But through literature, he said, writers can express solidarity with those who are suffering and others on the front lines of conflict zones, such as journalists.

"We can enlarge their voices by adding our voices to their voices," Rushdie said. "It can show us the reality of the other. It can show us what life looks like, not from our point of view, but from another point of view."

Authorities said Rushdie's attacker, Hadi Matar, then 24 and a U.S. citizen, was attempting to carry out the decades-old edict calling for his death when he traveled from his home in Fairview, New Jersey, to target the writer at the summer retreat of Chautauqua, New York, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) southwest of Buffalo.

Rushdie published an acclaimed memoir about the attack, "Knife," in 2024, a finalist for the National Book Award for Nonfiction. His most recent work, his 23rd, is "The Eleventh Hour," which includes three novellas and two short stories.

Other past recipients of the lifetime achievement award include former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, feminist movement icon Gloria Steinem and writers Margaret Atwood, John Irving, Barbara Kingsolver, and Studs Terkel. The lifetime achievement award, also known as the Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award, is named for the American diplomat who was an architect of the Dayton Peace Accords.

Other honorees this year include Kaveh Akbar for his novel, "Martyr!" about a poet and son of Iranian immigrants dealing with a mysterious family past, and Sunil Amrith, for "The Burning Earth," a history of how the global environment has been shaped by empires, wars and humanity's increasing freedom of movement.

Donald Trump booed as the 1st sitting US president at a regular-season NFL game since Carter in 1978

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP National Writer

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Donald Trump became the first sitting president in nearly a half-century at a regular-season NFL game, attending the Washington Commanders' 44-22 loss to the visiting Detroit Lions on Sunday.

There were loud boos from some spectators in the stands when Trump was shown on the videoboard late in the first half — standing in a suite with House Speaker Mike Johnson — and again when the president was introduced by the stadium announcer at halftime.

The jeering continued while Trump read an oath for members of the military to recite as part of an on-field enlistment ceremony during the break in the game.

"I'm a little bit late," Trump told reporters earlier when he got off Air Force One after landing at Joint Base Andrews, following a flyover of Northwest Stadium during the game. He then got in his armored car for the drive to the arena.

"We're gonna have a good game. Things are going along very well. The country's doing well. The Democrats have to open it up," he said — a reference to the government shutdown.

In the first quarter Sunday, before the president arrived, Lions receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown celebrated a touchdown catch by pointing into the stands and moving his arms a la the "Trump dance" that several athletes began doing last year.

"I heard Trump was going to be at the game," St. Brown said afterward. "I don't know how many times the president's going to be at the game, so just decided to have some fun."

Lions coach Dan Campbell said he was too consumed by the game itself to notice that Trump had ar-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 37 of 68

rived, "But that's cool. ... You're talking about the president of the United States. That's a big deal."

His team's quarterback, Jared Goff, was intrigued with seeing Trump's plane fly so low over the stadium. "Awesome that he was here," Goff said.

During the third quarter, Trump joined Fox broadcasters Kenny Albert and Jonathan Vilma for about eight minutes of lighthearted chat. Albert opened by asking Trump about his time playing high school football at New York Military Academy.

"I played tight end, but it was not quite football like this. It was a little bit easier. It wasn't so tough," Trump said.

Trump left before Sunday's game ended.

Only two other times did a president go to an NFL game during the regular season while in office, according to the league: Richard Nixon in 1969 and Jimmy Carter in 1978. Trump became the first president at a Super Bowl while residing in the White House when he watched the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Kansas City Chiefs 40-22 in February.

According to a report by ESPN on Saturday, an intermediary for the White House has told the Commanders' ownership group that Trump wants the club's new stadium — part of a nearly \$4 billion project in the nation's capital at the site of what was known as RFK Stadium — to bear his name.

In Sunday's TV appearance, Trump spoke about the team's plans to return to Washington.

"They're going to build a beautiful stadium. That's what I'm involved in, we're getting all the approvals and everything else," he said. "And you have a wonderful owner, Josh (Harris) and his group. And you're going to see some very good things."

Sunday's visit was the latest in a series of high-profile appearances at sporting events by Trump, including golf's Ryder Cup, auto racing's Daytona 500 and tennis' U.S. Open.

"I just love it. It's a microcosm of life," Trump said about sports during Sunday's broadcast. "It's sort of like life -- the good, the bad and the ugly."

Before the game, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth chatted with Harris — the leader of the group that purchased the Commanders from Daniel Snyder for about \$6 billion in 2023 — and took part in an on-field ceremony with members of the military.

Hegseth was among those watching the game with Trump, along with White House chief of staff Susie Wiles, Education Secretary Linda McMahon and Republican Sen. Steve Daines of Montana.

There was friction between Trump and the NFL during his first presidential term, when he objected to players kneeling during the national anthem to protest social or racial injustice. That movement began in 2016 with then-49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

Via social media and other public comments, Trump insisted that players should stand for the national anthem and called on team owners to fire anyone taking a knee.

Hall of Famer Lenny Wilkens, who coached the most games in NBA history, dies at 88

By TIM BOOTH and ANDREW DESTIN AP Sports Writers

SEATTLE (AP) — Lenny Wilkens, a three-time inductee into the Basketball Hall of Fame who was enshrined as both a player and a coach, has died, his family said Sunday. He was 88.

The family said Wilkens was surrounded by loved ones when he died and did not immediately release a cause of death.

Wilkens was one of the finest point guards of his era who later brought his calm and savvy style to the sideline, first as a player-coach and then evolving into one of the game's great coaches.

He coached 2,487 games in the NBA, which is still a record. He became a Hall of Famer as a player, as a coach and again as part of the 1992 U.S. Olympic team — on which he was an assistant. Wilkens coached the Americans to gold at the Atlanta Games as well in 1996.

"Lenny Wilkens represented the very best of the NBA — as a Hall of Fame player, Hall of Fame coach, and one of the game's most respected ambassadors," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said Sunday. "So

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 38 of 68

much so that, four years ago, Lenny received the unique distinction of being named one of the league's 75 greatest players and 15 greatest coaches of all time."

Wilkins was a nine-time All-Star as a player, was the first person to reach 1,000 wins as an NBA coach and was the second person inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame as a player and coach. He coached the Seattle SuperSonics to the NBA title in 1979 and remained iconic in that city for the rest of his life, often being considered a godfather of sorts for basketball in Seattle — which lost the Sonics to Oklahoma City in 2008 and has been trying to get a team back since.

And he did it all with grace, something he was proud of.

"Leaders don't yell and scream," Wilkins told Seattle's KOMO News earlier this year.

Wilkins, the 1994 NBA coach of the year with Atlanta, retired with 1,332 coaching wins — a league record that was later passed by Don Nelson (who retired with 1,335) and then Gregg Popovich (who retired with 1,390).

Wilkins played 15 seasons with the St. Louis Hawks, SuperSonics, Cleveland Cavaliers and Portland Trail Blazers. He was an All-Star five times with St. Louis, three times in Seattle and once with Cleveland in 1973 at age 35. A statue depicting his time with the SuperSonics was installed outside Climate Pledge Arena in June.

"Even more impressive than Lenny's basketball accomplishments, which included two Olympic gold medals and an NBA championship, was his commitment to service — especially in his beloved community of Seattle where a statue stands in his honor," Silver said. "He influenced the lives of countless young people as well as generations of players and coaches who considered Lenny not only a great teammate or coach but also an extraordinary mentor who led with integrity and true class."

Leonard Wilkins was born Oct. 28, 1937, in New York. His basketball schooling came on Brooklyn's playgrounds and at a city powerhouse, then Boys High School, where one of his teammates was major league baseball star Tommy Davis. He would go on to star at Providence College and was drafted by the Hawks as the sixth overall pick in 1960.

His resume as a player would have been enough to put Wilkins in consideration for the Hall of Fame. What he accomplished as a coach — both through success and longevity — cemented his legacy.

Countless other honors also came his way, including being elected to the FIBA Hall of Fame, the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame, the College Basketball Hall of Fame, the Providence Hall of Fame and the Cleveland Cavaliers' Wall of Honor.

His coaching stops included two stints in Seattle totaling 11 seasons, two seasons in Portland — during one of which he still played and averaged 18 minutes per game — seven seasons in both Cleveland and Atlanta, three seasons in Toronto and parts of two years with the Knicks.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr, who played for Wilkins from 1989 to 1993, remembers him most for the dignity with which he maneuvered through life.

"He was such a dignified human being and a great leader with this kind of quiet confidence," Kerr said. "He'd been through quite a bit in his life, in his childhood, just in America and dealing with being a Black man in America. And he shared some of that with us and for him to forge the career that he did in the game and to make the impact that he did on so many people, pretty impressive."

Wilkins moved into first place on the wins list on Jan. 6, 1995, while coaching the Hawks. His 939th victory surpassed Red Auerbach's record. From there, he became the first coach to reach 1,000 career wins, a mark since matched by nine others.

The possibility of playing and coaching at the same time was raised before the 1969 season when Wilkins was at the home of SuperSonics general manager Dick Vertlieb and playing a leisurely game of pool.

"I thought he was crazy," Wilkins recalled. "I kept putting him off, but he was persistent. Finally, we were getting so close to training camp, so I said, 'What the heck, I'll try it.'"

From there, he became increasingly enamored with coaching.

Seattle trailed the Cincinnati Royals by four points with a few seconds remaining when Wilkins set up a play that resulted in a dunk. Then, he ordered his players to press since the Royals were out of timeouts. The Sonics stole the inbounds pass, scored again to tie the game and won in overtime.

"I was like, 'Wow!'" Wilkens said. "I had just done something as a coach that helped us win, not as a player."

After his coaching career ended in 2005, Wilkens returned to the Seattle area where he lived every offseason. Wilkens ran his foundation for decades, with its primary benefactor being the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic in Seattle's Central District.

Wilkens is survived by his wife, Marilyn; their children, Leesha, Randy and Jamee; and seven grandchildren.

Trump administration demands states 'undo' full SNAP payouts as states warn of 'catastrophic impact'

By SCOTT BAUER and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

President Donald Trump's administration is demanding states "undo" full SNAP benefits paid out under judicial orders in recent days, now that the U.S. Supreme Court has stayed those rulings, marking the latest swing in a seesawing legal battle over the anti-hunger program used by 42 million Americans.

The demand from the U.S. Department of Agriculture came as more than two dozen states warned of "catastrophic operational disruptions" if the Trump administration does not reimburse them for those SNAP benefits they authorized before the Supreme Court's stay.

Nonprofits and Democratic attorneys general sued to force the Trump administration to maintain the program in November despite the ongoing government shutdown. They won favorable rulings last week, leading to the swift release of benefits to millions in several states. The Trump administration indicated to states that it would facilitate the full payments in accordance with the rulings, while it also was appealing them.

On Friday night, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson temporarily paused rulings ordering the full SNAP disbursement while an appeals court considers the administration's request to halt the payments. That led the Department of Agriculture on Saturday to write state SNAP directors to warn them it now considers full payments under the prior orders "unauthorized."

States could face penalties for paying benefits

"To the extent States sent full SNAP payment files for November 2025, this was unauthorized," Patrick Penn, deputy undersecretary of Agriculture, wrote to state SNAP directors. "Accordingly, States must immediately undo any steps taken to issue full SNAP benefits for November 2025."

Penn warned that states could face penalties if they did not comply. It was unclear if the directive applies to states that used their own funds to keep the program alive or to ones relying on federal money entirely. The Department of Agriculture did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In a filing in federal court on Sunday, the agency said states moved too quickly and erroneously released full SNAP benefits after last week's rulings.

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, a Republican, on Sunday called the directive "shocking" if it applies to states, like hers, that used their own money to prop up the program.

"It's one thing if the federal government is going to continue its level of appeal through the courts to say, no, this can't be done," Murkowski said. "But when you are telling the states that have said this is a significant enough issue in our state, we're going to find resources, backfill or front load, whatever term you want, to help our people, those states should not be penalized."

'We will see him in court'

Democratic Gov. Maura Healey of Massachusetts said SNAP benefits were processed and placed on EBT cards before the U.S. Supreme Court order Friday night, in line with the previous guidance from the USDA. She said that if Trump attempts to claw back the money, "we will see him in court."

"Massachusetts residents with funds on their cards should continue to spend it on food," she said in a statement Sunday. "President Trump should be focusing on reopening the government that he controls instead of repeatedly fighting to take away food from American families."

Democrats have hammered Trump for targeting the anti-hunger program during the government shutdown, contending the administration could have maintained it even with other parts of the government

idle. As senators worked through the weekend on a deal to end the stalemate, their bipartisan package of agreed-upon measures to keep open some aspects of government included full funding of SNAP programs and a provision that would ensure reimbursements for expenditures made during the shutdown.

More than two-dozen states represented by Democratic attorneys general and other party officeholders on Saturday warned in a court filing that, even before the Supreme Court put the rulings on hold, the Trump administration was refusing to reimburse them for those legally-ordered SNAP payments.

Four different directives in six days

Wisconsin, for example, loaded benefits onto cards for 700,000 residents once a judge in Rhode Island ordered the restoration of benefits last week, but after the U.S. Treasury froze its reimbursements to the state, it anticipates running out of money by Monday, Democratic Gov. Tony Evers' administration warned in a lengthy statement on Sunday.

The lack of money could leave vendors unpaid and trigger escalating legal claims, the states warned. "States could face demands to return hundreds of millions of dollars in the aggregate," the states' filing at the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals says.

That situation "would risk catastrophic operational disruptions for the States, with a consequent cascade of harms for their residents," the filing concludes.

Evers issued a quick response to the Trump administration's demand to undo the payments. "No," the governor said in a statement.

"Pursuant to and consistent with an active court order, Wisconsin legally loaded benefits to cards, ensuring nearly 700,000 Wisconsinites, including nearly 270,000 kids, had access to basic food and groceries," Evers said. "After we did so, the Trump Administration assured Wisconsin and other states that they were actively working to implement full SNAP benefits for November and would 'complete the processes necessary to make funds available.' They have failed to do so to date."

Gov. Wes Moore of Maryland said in an interview on CBS on Sunday that "in the past six days, we've received four different measures of guidance" from the Trump administration. He fumed over the latest that threatened to punish states that paid the full benefits.

"There is a chaos, and it is an intentional chaos, that we are seeing from this administration," Moore said.

Preliminary tests find germ that causes botulism in ByHeart baby formula

By JONEL ALECCIA AP Health Writer

Preliminary tests showed that ByHeart baby formula contained the type of bacteria that produces the toxin linked to a botulism outbreak, California health officials said.

The outbreak has sickened at least 13 infants in 10 states. No deaths have been reported.

"Consumers in possession of this product should stop using it immediately," the California Department of Public Health said in a statement late Saturday.

More tests of ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula are pending as state and federal health officials investigate the outbreak that started in mid-August. The New York-based company this weekend recalled two lots of the powdered product.

Here's what to know about the outbreak and infant botulism.

Infant botulism outbreak

The outbreak of infant botulism has sickened babies aged 2 weeks to 5 months since mid-August. All were hospitalized after consuming ByHeart powdered formula, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

ByHeart officials agreed to recall two lots of the company's Whole Nutrition Infant Formula, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The formula has a best-by date of December 2026.

California health officials tested a can of the powdered formula that was fed to a baby who fell ill. The results "suggest the presence" of the type of bacteria that produces the botulism toxin confirmed in other cases. It can take several days to confirm the results.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 41 of 68

ByHeart officials said that "more testing is needed" to know whether the type of bacteria that causes botulism is present. It comes from a large family of bacteria, many of which are found naturally in the environment and don't cause illness, the company said.

"We take this very seriously," it said in a statement Sunday.

The FDA is investigating reports of 83 cases of infant botulism reported since August including the cases linked to ByHeart baby formula.

Causes of infant botulism

Infant botulism typically affects fewer than 200 babies in the U.S. each year. It is caused by a type of bacteria that produces toxins in the large intestine. The bacterium is spread through hardy spores present in the environment that can cause serious illness, including paralysis.

Infants younger than 1 are particularly vulnerable and can be sickened after exposure to the spores in dust, dirt or water or by eating contaminated honey.

Symptoms can take weeks to develop and can include poor feeding, loss of head control, drooping eyelids and a flat facial expression. Babies may feel "floppy" and can have problems swallowing or breathing.

No known outbreaks of infant botulism tied to powdered formula have previously been confirmed, said Dr. Steven Abrams, a University of Texas nutrition expert.

"This would be extremely rare," he said.

Infant botulism treatment

The only treatment is known as BabyBIG, an IV medication made from the pooled blood plasma of adults immunized against botulism. California's Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program developed the product and is the sole source worldwide.

BabyBIG works to shorten hospital stays and decrease the severity of illness in babies with botulism. Because the infection can affect the ability to breathe, infants often need to be placed on ventilators.

All of the children in the ByHeart outbreak have received the medication, the CDC said.

Potential impact on U.S. formula supplies

There is no danger of infant formula shortages because of this outbreak. ByHeart, which was founded in 2016, accounts for an estimated 1% of national formula sales, according to the CDC. The company sells formula through its website and in retail stores nationwide.

That's different from the crisis in late 2021 and 2022, when four infants were sickened by a different germ after consuming formula made by Abbott Nutrition. Two of the babies died. No direct link was found between the Abbott products and the infections caused by *Cronobacter sakazakii*, but FDA officials closed the company's Michigan plant after contamination and other problems were detected.

Abbott recalled top brands of infant formula, triggering a massive nationwide shortage that lasted for months.

In 2022, ByHeart recalled five batches of infant formula after a sample at the company's packaging plant tested positive for *Cronobacter sakazakii*, the germ at the heart of the Abbott crisis. In 2023, the FDA sent a warning letter to the company detailing "areas that still require corrective actions."

Reviewing infant formula ingredients

Federal health officials have vowed to overhaul the U.S. food supply and are taking a new look at infant formula.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has directed the Food and Drug Administration to review the nutrients and other ingredients in infant formula, which fills the bottles of millions of American babies.

The effort, dubbed "Operation Stork Speed," is the first deep look at the ingredients since 1998.

FDA officials are reviewing comments from industry, health experts and public to decide next steps.

Al-Sharaa to become the first Syrian president to visit the White House after an unlikely rise

By ABBY SEWELL Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Two decades ago, Ahmad al-Sharaa was held in a U.S.-run detention center in Iraq after joining al-Qaida militants fighting against American forces there.

Few would have predicted that he would go on to become the first Syrian president to visit Washington since the country's independence in 1946.

Since rebel forces he led ousted former Syrian President Bashar Assad last December, al-Sharaa — who cut ties with al-Qaida years earlier — has gone on a largely successful charm offensive to establish new ties with countries that had shunned Assad's government after its brutal crackdown on protesters in 2011 spiraled into a 14-year civil war.

Al-Sharaa met with U.S. President Donald Trump in Saudi Arabia in May, where Trump announced that he would lift decades of sanctions.

The two men will meet again on Monday in Washington, where Syria is widely expected to officially join the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group. Al-Sharaa arrived in the U.S. on Saturday ahead of the meeting, according to Syrian state media.

Apart from that agreement, al-Sharaa will use the visit to push for a full repeal of the Caesar Act, which imposed sweeping sanctions over human rights abuses by Assad's government and security forces.

The Caesar sanctions are currently waived by presidential order, but a permanent repeal will require a congressional vote.

Syria's Ministry of Information said in a statement Sunday that al-Sharaa will "emphasize the importance of lifting economic sanctions, particularly the Caesar Act, to allow for Syria's economic recovery and investment growth" and will also "reaffirm (Syria's) commitment to continuing the fight against terrorism and promoting regional security."

A push to lift the last sanctions

Days ahead of al-Sharaa's visit, Trump told reporters that he had moved to lift sanctions from Syria "to give them a fighting shot, and I think (al-Sharaa's) doing a very good job so far."

"It's a tough neighborhood and he's a tough guy, but I got along with him very well, and a lot of progress has been made with Syria," he said.

On Thursday, the U.N. Security Council voted to lift sanctions from al-Sharaa and his interior minister, and the U.S. then removed them from its "specially designated global terrorist" list.

Meanwhile, senators have advanced a repeal of the Caesar Act through an annual defense authorization bill, but the final legislation is being negotiated with the House, where some top Republicans want to put conditions on it.

Rep. Brian Mast, the Republican chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, has expressed reservations about a full repeal. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican who is close to Trump, has also pushed for conditions on the repeal, including security and representation for religious and ethnic minorities, "maintaining peaceful relations with other states in the region, including the State of Israel," and removing foreign fighters from government and security institutions.

Skeptics of al-Sharaa point to eruptions of sectarian violence over the past year during which pro-government Sunni gunmen killed hundreds of civilians from the Alawite and Druze religious minorities. Al-Sharaa has promised to hold perpetrators accountable, but minority communities remain wary.

The advocacy group Save the Persecuted Christians sent a letter signed by 100 U.S. religious leaders calling on Trump to address the "massacre" of minorities in Syria and to push al-Sharaa to open a humanitarian corridor from the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights to the Druze enclave of Sweida in southern Syria.

Since Assad's fall, Israel has seized a formerly U.N.-patrolled buffer zone in southern Syria and pushed for a demilitarized zone south of Damascus. The two countries, which do not have diplomatic relations, have been negotiating a potential security agreement.

Meanwhile, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, has

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 43 of 68

led the effort for a full Caesar repeal. Shaheen said that “we have a real opportunity in the Middle East right now that we haven’t had in my lifetime.”

Advocates say it is unfair to keep sanctions that were specifically imposed on Assad’s government as leverage over the new authorities and that the threat of a Caesar snapback would prevent international companies from investing in rebuilding the war-battered country.

Mouaz Moustafa, executive director of the Syrian Emergency Task Force, which lobbied for the imposition of the Caesar sanctions but is now trying to get them removed, said the U.S. government can impose new targeted sanctions if warranted.

“But to use Caesar for that is like using a sledgehammer instead of a scalpel — you’re going to kill the person you’re operating on,” Moustafa said.

A strengthened military alliance

U.S. envoy Tom Barrack said last week that Syria will “hopefully” soon join the coalition of some 80 countries working to prevent a resurgence of IS.

A Trump administration official said Al-Sharaa is expected to sign an agreement to join the coalition during his visit. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt declined to comment when asked about the possibility.

Another U.S. official with knowledge of the situation said that while Syrian forces had already been fighting IS, their formal entry into the coalition will be a “milestone” and will enable U.S. forces to work more closely with the Syrians.

Both officials were not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Syrian officials declined to comment on the discussions about joining the coalition.

While the Islamic State group lost hold of all of the territory it once held in Syria and Iraq years ago, cells of the extremist group have continued to carry out attacks in both countries and abroad.

Lt. Cmdr. Emily Pumphrey, a spokesperson for U.S. Central Command, said there have been 311 IS attacks in Syria and 64 in Iraq so far this year, down from 878 in Syria and 160 in Iraq in 2024.

Before Assad’s fall, al-Sharaa — then known by the nom de guerre Abu Mohammed al-Golani — led Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an Islamic insurgent group controlling much of northwestern Syria. It was formerly an offshoot of al-Qaida but later split from it. HTS and IS were rivals, and al-Sharaa cracked down on Islamic State cells in the area he controlled.

The main U.S. partner in the fight against IS at the time was the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces in the country’s northeast.

Since al-Sharaa took power, the U.S. military has expanded its cooperation with Damascus and Washington has pushed for a deal to merge the SDF and the new Syrian army.

While Damascus and the SDF have agreed in principle to do so, implementation has stalled amid tensions that have sometimes escalated into clashes between the two sides.

Paul Tagliabue, NFL commissioner of 17 years who led an era of riches and expansion, dies at 84

By BARRY WILNER and ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Paul Tagliabue, who helped bring labor peace and riches to the NFL during his 17 years as commissioner but was criticized for not taking stronger action on concussions, died Sunday from heart failure. He was 84.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said Tagliabue’s family informed the league of his death in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Tagliabue, who had developed Parkinson’s disease, was commissioner after Pete Rozelle from 1989 to 2006. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame as part of a special centennial class in 2020. Current Commissioner Roger Goodell succeeded Tagliabue.

“Paul was the ultimate steward of the game — tall in stature, humble in presence and decisive in his loyalty to the NFL,” Goodell said in a statement. “I am forever grateful and proud to have Paul as my

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 44 of 68

friend and mentor. I cherished the innumerable hours we spent together where he helped shape me as an executive but also as a man, husband and father.”

News of Tagliabue’s death came shortly before seven games kicked off Sunday at 1 p.m. EST. Several teams held moments of silence throughout the day for Tagliabue and Marshawn Kneeland, the Dallas Cowboys defensive tackle who died on Thursday.

Tagliabue oversaw the construction of myriad new stadiums and negotiated television contracts that added billions of dollars to the league’s bank account. Under him, there were no labor stoppages.

During his time, Los Angeles lost two teams and Cleveland another, migrating to Baltimore before being replaced by an expansion franchise. Los Angeles eventually regained two teams.

Tagliabue implemented a policy on substance abuse that was considered the strongest in all major sports. He also established the “Rooney Rule,” in which all teams with coaching vacancies must interview minority candidates. It has since been expanded to include front-office and league executive positions.

When he took office in 1989, the NFL had just hired its first Black head coach of the modern era. By the time Tagliabue stepped down in 2006, there were seven minority head coaches in the league.

In one of his pivotal moments, Tagliabue called off NFL games the weekend after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. It was one of the few times the public compared him favorably to Rozelle, who proceeded with the games two days after President John Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963. A key presidential aide had advised Rozelle that the NFL should play, a decision that was one of the commissioner’s great regrets.

Tagliabue certainly had his detractors, notably over concussions. The issue has plagued the NFL for decades, though team owners had a major role in the lack of progress in dealing with head trauma.

In 2017, Tagliabue apologized for remarks he made decades ago about concussions in football, acknowledging he didn’t have the proper data at the time in 1994. He called concussions “one of those pack-journalism issues” and contended the number of concussions “is relatively small; the problem is the journalist issue.”

“Obviously,” he said on Talk of Fame Network, “I do regret those remarks. Looking back, it was not sensible language to use to express my thoughts at the time. My language was intemperate, and it led to a serious misunderstanding.

“My intention at the time was to make a point which could have been made fairly simply: that there was a need for better data. There was a need for more reliable information about concussions and uniformity in terms of how they were being defined in terms of severity.”

While concussion recognition, research and treatment lagged for much of Tagliabue’s tenure, his work on the labor front was exemplary.

As one of his first decisions, Tagliabue reached out to the players’ union, then run by Gene Upshaw, a Hall of Fame player and former star for Al Davis’ Raiders. Tagliabue had insisted he be directly involved in all labor negotiations, basically rendering useless the Management Council of club executives that had handled such duties for nearly two decades.

It was a wise decision.

“When Paul was named commissioner after that seven-month search in 1989, that’s when the league got back on track,” said Joe Browne, who spent 50 years as an NFL executive and was a confidant of Rozelle and Tagliabue.

“Paul had insisted during his negotiations for the position that final control over matters such as labor and all commercial business dealings had to rest in the commissioner’s office. The owners agreed and that was a large step forward toward the tremendous rebound we had as a league — an expanded league — in the ‘90s and beyond.”

Tagliabue forged a solid relationship with Upshaw. In breaking with the contentious dealings between the league and the NFL Players Association, Tagliabue and Upshaw kept negotiations respectful and centered on what would benefit both sides. Compromise was key, Upshaw always said — although the union often was criticized for being too accommodating.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 45 of 68

Tagliabue had been the NFL's Washington lawyer, a partner in the prestigious firm of Covington & Burling. He was chosen as commissioner in October 1989 over New Orleans general manager Jim Finks after a bitter fight highlighting the differences between the NFL's old guard and newer owners.

Yet during his reign as commissioner, which ended in the spring of 2006 after pushing through a highly contested labor agreement, he managed to unite those divided owners and, in fact, relied more on the old-timers who supported him than on Jerry Jones and many of the younger owners at the time.

Tagliabue was born on Nov. 24, 1940, in Jersey City, New Jersey. He was the 6-foot-5 captain of the basketball team at Georgetown and graduated in 1962 as one of the school's leading rebounders at the time — his career average later listed just below that of Patrick Ewing. He was president of his class and a Rhodes scholar finalist. Three years later, he graduated from NYU Law School and subsequently worked as a lawyer in the Defense Department before joining Covington & Burling.

He eventually took over the NFL account, establishing a close relationship with Rozelle and other league officials during a series of legal actions in the 1970s and 1980s.

Tagliabue was reserved by nature and it sometimes led to coolness with the media, which had embraced Rozelle, an affable former public relations man. Even after he left office, Tagliabue did not measure up in that regard with Goodell, who began his NFL career in the public relations department.

But after 9/11, Tagliabue showed a different side, particularly toward league employees who had lost loved ones in the attacks. He accompanied Ed Tighe, an NFL Management Council lawyer whose wife died that day, to Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, a few blocks from the NFL office.

Art Shell, a Hall of Fame player, became the NFL's first modern-day Black head coach with the Raiders. He got to see Tagliabue up close and thought him utterly suited for his job.

"After my coaching career was over, I had the privilege of working directly with Paul in the league office," Shell said. "His philosophy on almost every issue was, 'If it's broke, fix it. And if it's not broke, fix it anyway.'"

"He always challenged us to find better ways of doing things. Paul never lost sight of his responsibility to do what was right for the game. He was the perfect choice as NFL commissioner."

Tagliabue is survived by his wife, Chandler, son Drew and daughter Emily.

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.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 46 of 68

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.

The Latest: 19 teams in the AP Top 25 take new spots

By MAURA CAREY Associated Press

A month before the playoff matchups are set and things are unsettled: The latest AP Top 25 college football poll has 19 teams in new spots, including Texas at No. 10.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 47 of 68

The Longhorns, ranked No. 1 in the preseason poll, jumped three spots to return to the top 10 just in time for an SEC showdown at No. 5 Georgia.

The top five — No. 1 Ohio State, No. 2 Indiana, No. 3 Texas A&M, No. 4 Alabama and No. 5 Georgia — were unchanged. No. 11 Oklahoma was the only other team that stayed put.

No. 6 Ole Miss swapped spots with No. 7 Oregon, while No. 8 Texas Tech and No. 9 Notre Dame both moved up.

Here's the latest:

Predicting the playoff based on this week's Top 25

By ERIC OLSON

James Madison of the Sun Belt Conference would represent the Group of Five in the College Football Playoff on a bracket based on this week's Top 25 rankings. Georgia Tech and Texas also would be among the 12 teams.

James Madison, at No. 24, is the highest-ranked G5 team in the AP poll. Memphis, which had been the highest-ranked, lost at home to Tulane on Friday and dropped off the bracket.

Georgia Tech was idle and returned to the bracket as the highest-ranked Atlantic Coast Conference team following Virginia's home loss to Wake Forest. Texas moved up to No. 10 in the AP poll after BYU and Virginia lost.

The CFP committee will release its second rankings of the season Tuesday night.

The SEC's biggest questions will be answered in Week 12

By MAURA CAREY

Week 12 is a pivotal one in the playoff race, especially in the SEC.

No. 10 Texas has revived its season with a four-game winning streak and heads to Athens to face Georgia, ranked No. 5 in both the AP Top 25 and the CFP rankings. The Longhorns likely need to win out to keep their playoff hopes intact.

Meanwhile, No. 11 Oklahoma heads to Tuscaloosa to take on No. 4 Alabama. It's a must-win for Alabama to retain a top-four ranking and first-round bye. Georgia is on Alabama's heels, ready to take over if the Crimson Tide stumbles.

Oklahoma needs the win to stay in the playoff conversation. As of now, the Sooners would be knocked out of the bracket by a Group of Five team entitled to an automatic bid.

Mizzou falls out of Top 25

Missouri struggled to get momentum rolling on offense without quarterback Beau Pribula on Saturday, falling 38-17 to an undefeated Texas A&M team.

Matt Zollers, the first true freshman quarterback to start for Missouri since Drew Lock, felt pressure all game long. By halftime, he had completed 3 of 11 passes for 31 yards, was sacked twice and fumbled once.

Texas A&M quarterback Marcel Reed looked sharp, completing 20 of 29 passes for 221 yards and hitting KC Concepcion and Ashton Bethel-Roman for touchdowns. Reed ran the ball five times for 29 yards.

Louisville and Virginia drop after a pair of ACC upsets

Louisville dropped from No. 14 to No. 19 after a 29-26 overtime loss to California.

Virginia fell from No. 12 to No. 20 after failing to find the end zone for four quarters in a 16-9 loss against Wake Forest.

Georgia Tech benefitted, moving up two spots to No. 14 despite being idle this week. The Yellow Jackets are now the highest ranked ACC team in the AP Top 25.

Miami also jumped over Louisville and Virginia, coming in at No. 16.

Hear from a voter: Thoughts on expanding the College Football Playoff?

By DAVID JABLONSKI

I don't have a problem with another expansion.

I've covered Division III football for many years, and the lower divisions have had a playoff system for decades. Why not make all the divisions consistent?

I would like to see all the Division I conferences receive an automatic bid, as is done in D-II and D-III.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 48 of 68

If conferences like the MAC have no path to the playoff, they should have a separate playoff.

David Jablonski is a sports reporter for the Dayton Daily News and has been an AP Top 25 college football voter for six years. You can follow him on X: @davidpjablonski.

Who benefits from losses by Louisville, Virginia and Missouri?

By MAURA CAREY

A handful of teams moved up two or three spots in this week's rankings thanks to losses by Louisville and Virginia.

No. 13 Vanderbilt, No. 14 Georgia Tech, No. 15 Utah and No. 16 Miami each moved up two spots. No. 17 USC and No. 18 Michigan jumped three spots over Virginia, Louisville and Missouri, which lost 38-17 to Texas A&M on Saturday.

AP Top 25 temperature check

Heating up: Ole Miss (6), Texas Tech (8), Notre Dame (9), Texas (10), Vanderbilt (13), Georgia Tech (14), Utah (15), Miami (16), USC (17), Michigan (18), Tennessee (21), Cincinnati (22), Pitt (23), JMU (24), USF (25).

Cooling down: Oregon (7), BYU (12), Louisville (19), Virginia (20).

Steady: Ohio State (1), Indiana (2), Texas A&M (3), Alabama (4), Georgia (5), Oklahoma (11).

Ole Miss and Oregon swap spots

Ole Miss and Oregon swapped places in the poll this week.

Ole Miss improved to No. 6 after a 49-0 victory over Citadel. The Week 11 matchup offered a break from SEC action for the Rebels before their final two games against Florida and Mississippi State.

The Ducks just barely escaped Iowa with a win on Saturday, coming out on top 18-16 thanks to a 39-yard field goal in the final three seconds of the game. Oregon fell to No. 7 as a result.

Texas and Notre Dame benefit from Big 12 reshuffling

Texas Tech's 29-7 win against BYU reshuffled the top 10 this week.

The Red Raiders moved from No. 9 to No. 8 as BYU dropped four spots to No. 12. The results paved the way for the Texas Longhorns to crack the top 10 for the first time since Week 5, coming in at No. 10.

Notre Dame moved up one spot to No. 9.

Hear from a voter: Does No. 1 Ohio State have any weaknesses?

By DAVID JABLONSKI

If we're nitpicking Ohio State, its weakness is the run game.

It's 10th in the Big Ten in rushing yards per game, but second in passing. I'm sure Ryan Day would like to be a bit more balanced.

Indiana might pose the biggest challenge to the Buckeyes. The Hoosiers look like a team of destiny after that victory against Penn State. On the other hand, it's hard to imagine Indiana beating Ohio State because they haven't done so since 1988.

USF, James Madison enter rankings in Group of Five CFP race

By MAURA CAREY

South Florida re-entered the rankings this week, coming in at No. 25 after a 55-23 win over UTSA on Thursday night.

USF has been in and out of the rankings this season and was unranked the past two weeks.

No. 24 James Madison cracked the AP Top 25 for the first time this season after a 35-23 win against Marshall. The Dukes are 8-1 and have a real shot at the Group of Five CFP spot given that Memphis lost over the weekend.

USF, Tulane and North Texas are other contenders.

AP Top 25 poll rankings

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. Ohio State
2. Indiana
3. Texas A&M
4. Alabama
5. Georgia

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 49 of 68

6. Ole Miss
7. Oregon
8. Texas Tech
9. Notre Dame
10. Texas
11. Oklahoma
12. BYU
13. Vanderbilt
14. Georgia Tech
15. Utah
16. Miami (Fla.)
17. USC
18. Michigan
19. Louisville
20. Virginia
21. Tennessee
22. Cincinnati
23. Pittsburgh
24. James Madison
25. South Florida

Inside a voter's ballot: Ranking the American Conference

By DAVID JABLONSKI

There were tough calls at the bottom of my ballot, too.

The American Conference has two eight-win teams and three seven-win teams. I decided to rank South Florida, which has been dominant in conference play outside of a loss to Memphis, and Tulane, which won at Memphis on Friday.

Memphis might deserve to be ranked ahead of South Florida, except it has a loss to a 3-6 UAB. One-loss North Texas is another deserving team, but it lost 63-36 at home to South Florida.

Texas Tech hands BYU its first loss and takes the Big 12 lead

By MAURA CAREY

No. 9 Texas Tech improved to first place in the Big 12 after a 29-7 win against No. 8 BYU on Saturday.

Texas Tech kicker Stone Harrington led the team to the win with a school-record of five field goals. The Red Raiders' defense held the Cougars scoreless until midway through the fourth quarter, when BYU quarterback Bear Bachmeier found Chase Roberts in the end zone.

If both teams win out, they'll meet again in the Big 12 Championship game, but BYU's late November matchup against Cincinnati could be a challenge.

Inside a voter's ballot: Ranking Notre Dame and Miami

By DAVID JABLONSKI

Another big question for me was what to do with Notre Dame and Miami. Miami beat Notre Dame in Week 1. They're both 7-2.

I've kept Miami ahead of Notre Dame (unlike the College Football Playoff committee), but that has limited my ability to move Notre Dame up in the poll. With Virginia and Louisville losing this week, Miami and Notre Dame both rose on my ballot.

Hear from a voter: Will Texas Tech land in the top 5?

By DAVID JABLONSKI

I ranked Texas Tech seventh.

It's having a great season but is just behind Georgia and Ole Miss in my poll. It will need those teams, or others, to stumble to move into the top five.

ACC front-runners lose in Week 11

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 50 of 68

By MAURA CAREY

No. 12 Virginia and No. 14 Louisville both lost in Week 11, improving an idle Georgia Tech team's chances at the ACC Championship game.

Virginia lost 16-9 to Wake Forest on Saturday. Cavaliers' quarterback Chandler Morris went down with an injury early in the game and Virginia failed to find the end zone under backup quarterback Daniel Kaelin.

Louisville fell 29-26 in an overtime thriller against California, marking the Cardinals' second conference loss this season.

Who might rise and fall in this week's poll

Stock up: Texas Tech, Miami, Notre Dame, USC, Ole Miss, Vanderbilt.

Stock down: BYU, Memphis, Missouri, Washington, Virginia, Louisville.

Knocking on the door

James Madison is chasing the Group of Five spot in the College Football Playoff, with this weekend's 35-23 win against Marshall strengthening its resume.

The Dukes are on a seven-game winning streak and top the Sun Belt with a perfect 6-0 conference record. They're 8-1 overall. The team's only loss was early in the season against Louisville, which went on to crack the rankings.

Inside a voter's ballot: Ranking the top 3

By DAVID JABLONSKI

It was a busy day in the top 25 with six teams losing, including one defeated team and some close calls involving top-10 teams.

Fortunately, my dog Fergus woke me up at 6 a.m., so I had plenty of time to analyze the results. I had to balance that with attending to my 7-year-old son's needs. That's the challenge every Sunday morning.

I moved Texas A&M up a spot on my ballot, past Indiana, to reward the Aggies for their victory against Missouri. Anyone putting Texas A&M at No. 1, ahead of Ohio State, wouldn't be wrong.

Ohio State, Texas A&M and Indiana should all receive first-place votes this week. I like to mix it up with my poll, especially with the top spot, but I wasn't ready to drop the Buckeyes.

Vanderbilt, Oregon and Indiana escape close ones

Indiana, Oregon and Vanderbilt narrowly avoided losses on Saturday.

The Hoosier's Fernando Mendoza found Omar Cooper Jr. in the back of the end zone for a touchdown with 36 seconds remaining in the fourth against Penn State, turning a 26-24 deficit into a 27-24 lead. The Nittany Lions couldn't answer and Indiana improved to 10-0.

Oregon's 18-16 win against Iowa also came down to the final whistle. Iowa scored a touchdown to take a late one-point lead, but Oregon responded with a game-winning field goal in the final three seconds.

Vanderbilt allowed an Auburn touchdown and two-point conversion late in the fourth to force overtime, but Diego Pavia and Co. came out on top with a game-winning touchdown in OT.

Who votes in the poll, and how does it work?

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

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

There is a 1-to-25 point system, with a team voted No. 1 receiving 25 points down to 1 point for a 25th-place vote. After that, it's simple: The poll lists the teams with the most points from 1 to 25, and others receiving votes are also noted.

Voting is done online, and the tabulation is automated.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 51 of 68

Israel confirms receiving the remains of a soldier killed in Gaza in 2014

By MELANIE LIDMAN and KAREEM CHEHAYEB Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel on Sunday confirmed it had received the remains of Hadar Goldin, a soldier killed in the Gaza Strip in 2014, closing a painful chapter for the country.

The 23-year-old was killed two hours after a ceasefire took effect in that year's war between Israel and Hamas. Goldin's family waged a public campaign for 11 years to bring home his remains. Earlier this year, they marked 4,000 days since his body was taken.

Israel's military had long determined that he had been killed, based on evidence found in the tunnel where his body was taken, including a blood-soaked shirt and prayer fringes. His remains had been the only ones left in Gaza predating the current war between Israel and Hamas.

The remains of four hostages taken in the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, which sparked the current war, are still in Gaza.

The return of Goldin's remains were a significant development in the U.S.-brokered truce, which has faltered during the slow return of bodies of hostages and skirmishes between Israeli troops and militants in Gaza.

Dozens of people gathered along intersections where the police convoy carried the remains to the national forensic institute, paying last respects.

Many more gathered later outside the home of Goldin's parents, who noted the "many disappointments" in their efforts over the years and said that Israel's military and "not anyone else" had brought home their son — apparent criticism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu told the weekly Cabinet meeting that holding the body for so long caused "great agony of his family, which will now be able to give him a Jewish burial." Israel recovered the remains of another soldier killed in 2014, Oron Shaul, earlier this year.

Kushner said to be in Israel again

U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has returned to Israel to help press ahead with ceasefire efforts, a person familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity because the visit hasn't been publicly announced.

Kushner, a top adviser to Trump, was a key architect of Washington's 20-point ceasefire plan. The deal that took effect Oct. 10 has focused on the first phase of halting the fighting, releasing all hostages and boosting humanitarian aid to Gaza. Details of the second phase, including deploying an international security force, disarming Hamas and governing postwar Gaza, haven't been worked out.

Kushner was helping to lead negotiations to secure safe passage for 150-200 trapped Hamas militants in exchange for surrendering their weapons after the release of Goldin's remains, according to someone close to the negotiations, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the talks.

Israeli media, citing anonymous officials, previously reported that Hamas was delaying the release of Goldin's body in hopes of negotiating safe passage for more than 100 militants surrounded by Israeli forces and trapped in Rafah.

Gila Gamliel, the minister of innovation, science and technology and a member of Netanyahu's Likud party, told Army Radio that Israel wasn't negotiating for a deal within a deal.

"There are agreements whose implementation is guaranteed by the mediators, and we shouldn't allow anyone to come now and play (games) and to reopen the agreement," she said.

Hamas made no comment on a possible exchange for its fighters stuck in the so-called yellow zone, which is controlled by Israeli forces, though they acknowledged that clashes were taking place there.

A mother's pain

Goldin's family had held what his mother, Leah Goldin, has called a "pseudo-funeral" at the urging of Israel's military rabbis. But the lingering uncertainty was like a "knife constantly making new cuts."

Leah Goldin told The Associated Press earlier this year that returning her son's body has ethical and religious value and is part of the sacrosanct pact Israel makes with its citizens, who are required by law to serve in the military.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 52 of 68

"Hadar is a soldier who went to combat and they abandoned him, and they destroyed his humanitarian rights and ours as well," Goldin said. She said that her family often felt alone in their struggle to bring Hadar, a talented artist who had just become engaged, home for burial.

After the Oct. 7 attack, the Goldin family attempted to help hundreds of families of those taken into Gaza. Initially, the Goldins found themselves shunned as advocacy for the hostages surged.

"We were a symbol of failure," Goldin recalled. "They told us, 'we aren't like you, our kids will come back soon.'"

Palestinians' remains

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 Gaza city of Khan Younis, said that the remains of 300 have now been returned, with 89 identified.

Around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed in the Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel, and 251 people were kidnapped.

On Saturday, Gaza's Health Ministry said that the number of Palestinians killed in Gaza has risen to 69,176. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by independent experts.

Texas returns to top 10, ACC has five teams ranked in the Top 25 and there is Group of Five intrigue

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Texas returned to the top 10 of The Associated Press college football poll on Sunday, the Atlantic Coast Conference has five teams ranked for the first time this season and two Group of Five conferences are now represented in the Top 25 a month before the playoff bracket is set. The top five was unchanged.

The Longhorns, the preseason No. 1 team, are ranked No. 10 in advance of its visit to No. 5 Georgia this week. They had been in the top 10 for the first six polls before their loss at Florida knocked them out of the Top 25 for a week.

Four straight wins elevated them to No. 13 last week, and they jumped three spots ahead of BYU and Virginia and an idle Oklahoma, which they beat 23-6 on Oct. 11. Texas did not play over the weekend.

Ohio State was No. 1 for the 11th week in a row with 55 first-place votes. Indiana remained No. 2 after its narrow escape at Penn State, but the Hoosiers' six first-place votes were five fewer than last week.

No. 3 Texas A&M got four first-place votes, three more than a week ago, and was 31 points behind Indiana. Alabama and Georgia rounded out the top five. Mississippi, Oregon, Texas Tech, Notre Dame and Texas rounded out the top 10.

In all, 19 spots in the Top 25 have new teams.

The ACC has five teams with one loss in conference play and two others with two losses. That's reflected in the closely bunched group of ACC teams in the poll — No. 14 Georgia Tech, No. 16 Miami, No. 19 Louisville, No. 20 Virginia and No. 23 Pittsburgh. The last time the ACC had as many ranked teams was Nov. 3, 2024.

The race for the Group of Five's automatic bid in the College Football Playoff got more interesting with Memphis' loss to Tulane on Friday. The CFP committee did not have a G5 team in its top 25 but said Memphis was first in line. That will almost certainly change when the committee's next rankings come out Tuesday.

No. 24 James Madison of the Sun Belt Conference made its first AP poll appearance since 2023. The Dukes are 8-1, their only loss to Louisville, and are the highest-ranked G5 team. No. 25 South Florida of the American Conference is right behind, and Tulane of the American received the most votes among the unranked.

In and out

— No. 23 Pittsburgh, No. 24 in the initial CFP rankings, is in the AP poll for the first time since last November.

— No. 24 James Madison's previous Top 25 appearance was in 2023, when Curt Cignetti's last Dukes

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 53 of 68

team was in the final seven regular-season polls.

— No. 25 South Florida's 32-point win over USTA helped Bulls to return after a two-week absence. Missouri (19), Memphis (22) and Washington (24) dropped out.

Poll points

— The last time there teams from two G5 conferences ranked at the same time was last year, when Boise State and UNLV of the Mountain West and Army and Memphis of the American were in the final two polls of the season.

— BYU, which was unbeaten before its 29-7 loss at Texas Tech, dropped four spots to No. 12 to end its two-week stay in the top 10.

— Virginia and James Madison give the commonwealth two ranked teams for the first time since the final 2023 regular-season poll (Liberty, James Madison).

Conference call

SEC (8): Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 21.

ACC (5): Nos. 14, 16, 19, 20, 23.

Big Ten (5): Nos. 1, 2, 7, 17, 18.

Big 12 (4): Nos. 8, 12, 15, 22.

Independent (1): No. 9.

Sun Belt (1): No. 24.

American (1): No. 25.

Ranked vs. ranked

No. 10 Texas (7-2, 4-1 SEC, No. 11 CFP) at No. 5 Georgia (8-1, 6-1, No. 5 CFP): Bulldogs won regular-season meeting and SEC championship game against Longhorns last year. Third straight time this is an top-10 matchup.

No. 9 Notre Dame (6-2, No. 10 CFP) at No. 23 Pittsburgh (7-2, No. 24 CFP): Huge playoff implications for both. Irish and Panthers both ranked at time of their meeting for first time since 1991.

No. 11 Oklahoma (7-2, 3-2, No. 12 CFP) at No. 4 Alabama (8-1, 6-0, No. 4 CFP): Last year's embarrassing loss in Norman killed Crimson Tide's playoff hopes.

'Predator: Badlands' tops box office with \$80 million worldwide

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Predator: Badlands" led all films in North American theaters with a debut of \$40 million, according to studio estimates Sunday, a better-than-expected result that slightly lifted the box office from its autumn doldrums.

On the heels of the worst box office weekend of 2025, "Predator: Badlands" faced little competition from new titles. Not accounting for inflation, the \$40 million opening marked a new high for the dreadlocked alien franchise, besting the \$38.3 million launch of 2004's "Alien vs. Predator."

"Predator: Badlands," written and directed by Dan Trachtenberg, collected another \$40 million overseas for the Walt Disney Co.'s 20th Century Studios. A key factor for "Predator: Badlands" is that, with a budget of \$105 million, it's also the most expensive "Predator" film.

"Badlands," the eighth movie in the franchise that began with 1987's "Predator," offers a novel twist for the sci-fi series. On a remote planet, a young, outcast predator (Dimitrius Schuster-Koloamatangi) encounters an android researcher (Elle Fanning), and the two set off on a journey. Reviews (85% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) have been good. Moviegoers gave it an "A-" CinemaScore.

Good news had lately been hard to find in movie theaters. On Wednesday, AMC Theaters, the largest theater chain, posted a \$298.2 million quarterly loss, partly due to a less-than-stellar summer season. But the fall has been worse. Last month was the lowest-grossing October in nearly three decades. Few awards hopefuls have made much of a mark.

This weekend, a new wave hit theaters. But despite plenty of star power, most fell flat.

"Die My Love," starring Jennifer Lawrence and Robert Pattinson, launched with \$2.8 million from 1,983

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 54 of 68

theaters. The film, directed by Lynne Ramsay, stars Lawrence as a new mother and Pattinson as her husband. Mubi plunked down a reported \$24 million for "Die My Love" after its debut at the Cannes Film Festival. Audience slammed it with a "D+" CinemaScore.

"Christy," starring Sydney Sweeney as the professional boxer Christy Martin, debuted with \$1.3 million in 2,011 theaters. The film, the first one distributed by production company Black Bear Pictures, has earned Sweeney awards buzz since its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Sony Pictures Classics' "Nuremberg," a post-World War II drama about the Nuremberg trials starring Rami Malek and Russell Crowe, managed to do a bit better. It opened with \$4.1 million in 1,802 theaters.

It was slightly edged by the best performer of the newcomers: "Sarah's Oil." The Amazon MGM release opened with \$4.5 million from 2,410 locations. It stars Naya Desir-Johnson as a young Black girl in the early 1900s who learns that her Oklahoma land allotment is rich with oil. "Sarah's Oil" scored a rare "A+" CinemaScore from ticket buyers.

Arguably the most promising of the prospective awards movies to open in theaters over the weekend was Neon's "Sentimental Value." The film, a prize-winner at Cannes, directed by Norwegian-Danish filmmaker Joachim Trier, has been tabbed as a major Oscar contender this year. The family drama's cast includes Renate Reinsve, Stellan Skarsgård, Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas, and, in her second movie of the weekend, Elle Fanning. It opened in four theaters with \$200,000, giving it a \$50,000 per-screen average. That's the third best of the year.

The debut of "Predator: Badlands" sealed the Walt Disney Co.'s fourth straight year of \$4 billion in world-wide ticket sales. It also broke a short streak of disappointments for the studio, including "Tron: Ares" and "Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere." With potentially two of the biggest box-office hits of the year still to come in "Zootopia 2" and "Avatar: Fire and Ash," Disney is poised to surpass \$5 billion.

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

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

1. "Predator: Badlands," \$40 million.
2. "Regretting You," \$7.1 million.
3. "Black Phone 2," \$5.3 million.
4. "Sarah's Oil," \$4.5 million.
5. "Nuremberg," \$4.1 million.
6. "Chainsaw Man," \$3.6 million.
7. "Bugonia," \$3.5 million.
8. "Die My Love," \$2.8 million.
9. "Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere," \$2.2 million.
10. "Tron: Ares," \$1.8 million.

In new era of college hoops rosters, \$20.5M salary cap feels more like a suggestion than a rule

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

Imagine an NBA where teams in the Eastern Conference have a salary cap twice as big as those in the West. In college basketball, it's sort of like that with the added fact that, ultimately, nobody really knows what everyone else is spending.

With schools now allowed to shell out \$20.5 million to their players this year, most are doling out the lion's share to football players and giving whatever's left to the hoops stars.

Some schools – think St. John's, Gonzaga and Wichita State – don't have to worry about football, which could expand their possibilities. Adding uncertainty to the arrangement is how the role of payments above and beyond the \$20.5 million that come from third parties impact the competitive and financial balance.

The 2025-26 hoops season is the first where we find out how big an impact these tilted salary caps

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 55 of 68

might have on the hardwood. As the completely unpredictable football season has shown — who foresaw Indiana, Georgia Tech and Vanderbilt in the top 10 in late October? — anyone who thinks they have the answer to a still-evolving question involving name, image, likeness payments in hoops before the first ball is tipped is fooling themselves.

“The short answer is, it remains to be seen who are going to be the winners and who are going to be the losers in this system,” said Val Ackerman, the commissioner of the Big East, where only UConn plays football.

The number \$20.5 million vs. the ‘real’ salary cap

At some schools where some, or most, of the \$20.5 million must be parceled out to football, the concern over basketball teams getting less of that pie doesn’t feel all that palpable. The main reason is because nobody really believes the \$20.5 million is the real salary cap.

Under terms of the House settlement, schools are allowed to share up to that amount with their players. But it did not do away with the option to provide third-party deals outside the school-to-player payments.

Those deals are subject to scrutiny from the newly created College Sports Commission, though there is still uncertainty over what kind of deals it will approve. And though the CSC promised to add a level of transparency to the entire business of paying players, so far, most schools are operating in the dark.

“They deserve to be paid,” Villanova coach Kevin Willard said. “Do we have the right system? No. We don’t have any system. And that’s why you have fans who embrace it and fans who hate it.”

Early on, the CSC tried to take a more restrictive approach to those deals — putting out guidance that third-party deals would not be approved if those parties were set up solely as a way to pay players. After the plaintiffs in the House case challenged that, the CSC rewrote the guidance to set a more liberal standard.

“To understand what we need to do, yeah, understand the Big East, they have that advantage,” said Duke coach Jon Scheyer. “Understand other schools, other conferences can make more money and all that. But I don’t spin my wheels on that too much, to be honest, because I think it’s a little bit of a waste of time.”

Best hoops deals still go to players at schools with football

This season, rosters are also stacked with players whose deals were finalized before the House settlement, which meant the \$20.5 million salary cap didn’t apply, and neither did the CSC’s oversight of the third-party deals.

Some of the more massive deals have gone to BYU recruit AJ Dybantsa, whose reported NIL haul of \$5 million to \$7 million with the school’s collective is less than the reported \$10 million he’s receiving from the sports-merchandise company Fanatics.

Texas Tech’s JT Toppin received a reported \$4 million NIL deal to stay with the Red Raiders after his successful sophomore season.

The website 247 Sports put out a list of the 10 teams believed to be spending \$10 million or more on their basketball rosters. Only one, St. John’s, came from a school that didn’t have football.

Pitino gets the best of both worlds at St. John’s

Hall of Fame coach in Rick Pitino recruited what 247 Sports called the top-ranked transfer-portal class of 2025. It included Ian Jackson (North Carolina) and Dillon Mitchell (Cincinnati), who were both top-10 prospects coming out of high school.

Jackson, according to reports, already had NIL deals signed before he stepped foot in college. Assuming those are still going, Pitino had two options — offer him from out of St. John’s \$20.5 million bankroll and push him to other deals through collectives that are heavily bankrolled by deep-pocketed alum Mike Repole.

“I let (St. John’s) know that, listen, you guys would have my cooperation to do whatever it takes to help the university get back in the national spotlight,” Repole told Front Office Sports shortly after Pitino was hired.

The CSC’s first dive into third-party deals to see what’s allowable and what isn’t will play a big role into whether the St. John’s advantage comes from not having to divvy up as much of the \$20.5 million, or from Repole’s money, or both.

For a program with such a big booster, it’s a double-edged sword. For others in the Big East, maybe

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 56 of 68

not so much.

"If we have an advantage, it's going to depend on whether third-party scrutiny holds up," Ackerman said. "If deals that are clearly against the rules are allowed to go through, then a football school can just make up for whatever basketball shortfall exists under the \$20.5 million. They'll go out and get it."

What to know about the 4 hostages whose remains are still in Gaza

By MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Since the U.S.-brokered ceasefire in Gaza began on Oct. 10, Palestinian militants have released the remains of 24 hostages held for the past two years. But the process of returning the bodies of the four remaining hostages, as called for under the truce deal, is progressing slowly.

Hamas says it has not been able to reach all of the remains because they are buried under rubble left by Israel's two-year offensive in Gaza. Israel has accused the militants of dragging their feet and threatened to resume military operations or withhold humanitarian aid if all remains are not returned.

In the most recent release, Hamas returned the remains of Hadar Goldin, a soldier killed in Gaza in 2014.

In return, Israel has released the bodies of 300 Palestinians back to Gaza. Israel has not provided details on their identities, and it is unclear if they were people killed in Israel during the Oct. 7 attack, Palestinian detainees who died in Israeli custody or bodies taken from Gaza by Israeli troops during the war.

Health officials in Gaza have struggled to identify the bodies without access to DNA kits and have identified 89 of the bodies.

Here's a look at the hostages whose remains have not been returned.

Meny Godard, 73

Meny Godard was a professional soccer player before enlisting in the Israeli military and serving in the 1973 Mideast War, according to Kibbutz Be'eri. He served in a variety of different positions in the kibbutz, including at its printing press.

On the morning of Oct. 7, Godard and his wife, Ayelet, were forced out of their home after it was set on fire. She hid in the bushes for a number of hours before militants discovered her and killed her. She was able to tell her children that Meny had been killed before she died. The family held a double funeral for the couple. They are survived by four children and six grandchildren.

Ran Gvili, 24

Ran Gvili, who served in an elite police unit, was recovering from a broken shoulder he sustained in a motorcycle accident but rushed to assist fellow officers on Oct. 7. After helping people escape from the Nova music festival, he was killed fighting at another location and his body was taken to Gaza. The military confirmed his death four months later. He is survived by his parents and a sister.

Dror Or, 52

Dror Or was a father of three who worked at the dairy farm on Kibbutz Be'eri for 15 years, rising to the position of manager. He was an expert cheesemaker, according to family and friends. On Oct. 7, the family was hiding in their safe room when militants lit the house on fire. Dror and his wife, Yonat, were killed. Two of their children, Noam, who was then 16, and Alma, then 13, were abducted and released during the November 2023 ceasefire.

Sudthisak Rinthalak

Sudthisak Rinthalak was an agricultural worker from Thailand who had been employed at Kibbutz Be'eri. According to media reports, Rinthalak was divorced and had been working in Israel since 2017. A total of 31 workers from Thailand were kidnapped on Oct. 7, the largest group of foreigners to be held in captivity. Most of them were released in the first and second ceasefires. The Thai Foreign Ministry has said in addition to the hostages, 46 Thais have been killed during the war.

Landmark Paris Agreement set a path to slow warming. The world hasn't stayed on it

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

BELEM, Brazil (AP) — The world has changed dramatically in the decade since leaders celebrated a historic climate agreement in Paris a decade ago, but not quite in ways they expected or wanted.

Earth's warming climate has gotten nastier faster than society has been able to wean itself from burning the coal, oil and natural gas that emits carbon pollution that triggers global warming, several scientists and officials said.

There's been progress — more than a degree Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) has been shaved off future warming projections since 2015 — but the lack of enough of it will be a big focus for the next two weeks as diplomats gather in Belem, Brazil, for annual United Nations climate negotiations.

"I think it's important that we're honest with the world and we declare failure," said Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Research in Germany. He said warming's harms are happening faster and more severely than scientists predicted.

But diplomats aren't giving up.

"We're actually in the direction that we established in Paris at a speed that none of us could have predicted," said former U.N. climate chief Christiana Figueres, who helped shepherd that agreement, which requires countries to come up with plans to fight warming.

But the speed of humanity's climate-fighting effort is slower than the acceleration of climate's harms, she said, adding that means that "the gap between the progress that we see on the ground and where we ought to be, that gap is still there and widening."

U.N. Environment Programme Executive Director Inger Andersen said that the world is "obviously falling behind."

"We're sort of sawing the branch on which we are sitting," she said.

Danger signs

The planet's annual temperature jumped about 0.46 degrees Celsius (0.83 degrees Fahrenheit) since 2015, one of the biggest 10-year temperature hikes on record, according to data from the European climate service Copernicus. This year will be either the second or third hottest on record, Copernicus calculated. Each year since 2015 has been hotter than the year of the Paris climate deal.

Deadly heat waves have struck not just traditional hot spots like India and the Middle East, but even in more temperate places such as the Pacific Northwest in North America and Russia's Siberia.

Earth has been hit repeatedly with more costly, dangerous and extreme weather. The decade since 2015 has seen the most Category 5 Atlantic hurricanes and the most billion-dollar weather disasters in the United States, according to records kept by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. America has been hit by 193 disasters that cost at least \$1 billion in the past 10 years for a total bill of \$1.5 trillion.

Wildfires have consumed parts of Hawaii, California, Europe and Australia. Floods have devastated parts of Pakistan, China and the American South. And many of those, but not all, have had the fingerprints of human-caused climate change, scientists have calculated.

Since 2015, more than 7 trillion tons of ice in the world's glaciers and ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica have disappeared, ice scientists calculate. That's the equivalent of more than 19 million Empire State Buildings.

Sea level rise is accelerating. In the past decade, the world's seas have gone up 40 millimeters (1.6 inches). It may not sound like much, but it's enough water to fill 30 lakes the size of Lake Erie, according to Steve Nerem, a University of Colorado professor who researches sea level rise.

Even the Amazon, where the climate negotiations will convene, has gone from a planet-saving region that sucks heat-trapping gases out of the air to a region that, because of deforestation, at times is spewing them.

Success in bending the curve

But there's also a lot that officials celebrate in the past 10 years.

Renewable energy is now cheaper in most places than polluting coal, oil and natural gas. Last year, 74%

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 58 of 68

of the growth in electricity generated worldwide was from wind, solar and other green choices, according to two July U.N. reports. In 2015, a half-million electric vehicles were sold globally, and last year it was 17 million, the report said.

"There's no stopping it," said former U.S. Special Climate Envoy Todd Stern, who helped negotiate the Paris Agreement. "You cannot hold back the tides."

In 2015, U.N. projections figured that Earth was on path for almost 4 degrees Celsius (7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming since the mid-1800s. Now, the world is on track to warm 2.8 degrees (5 degrees Fahrenheit), maybe a little less if countries do as they promise.

But that's nowhere near the goal of keeping warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), a level that scientific reports say is more or less the danger line and which became the Paris Agreement's overarching goal.

"Ten years ago we had a more orderly pathway for staying away from 1.5 degrees C entirely," Rockstrom said. "Now we are 10 years later. We have failed."

A report examining dozens of indicators of progress — such as solar and wind power installations — in transitioning from a fossil fuel economy found that none were on pace for keeping warming at or below the 1.5 degree goal.

The report by the Bezos Earth Fund, Climate Analytics, the Climate High-Level Champions, ClimateWorks Foundation and World Resources Institute found that 35 of them are at least going in the right direction, although far too slowly.

"Technologies, once hypothetical, are now becoming a reality. And the good news is that reality has outpaced many of the projections a decade ago," said report author Kelly Levin, science and data chief at the Bezos Earth Fund. "But it's not nearly fast enough for what's needed."

Pollution keeps growing

Methane levels in the atmosphere increased 5.2% from 2015 to 2024, while carbon dioxide levels jumped 5.8% in the same time, according to NOAA data.

Several developing countries, including the United States and the rest of the developed world, have reduced their carbon dioxide emissions by about 7% since 2015, but other countries have seen their emissions soar, with China's going up 15.5% and India's soaring 26.7%, according to data from the Global Carbon Project.

Oxfam International looked at global emissions by income level and found that the richest 0.1% of people increased their carbon emissions by 3% since 2015. Meanwhile, the poorest 10% of people reduced their emissions by 30%.

"The Paris Agreement itself has underperformed," said climate negotiations historian Joanna Depledge of the University of Cambridge in England. "Unfortunately, it is one of those half-full, half-empty situations where you can't say it's failed. But then nor can you say it's dramatically succeeded."

A car fleeing police slams into a bar in Florida, killing 4 and injuring 11

By KATE PAYNE Associated Press/Report for America

A speeding car fleeing police slammed into a crowded bar early Saturday, killing four people and injuring 11 in a historic district of Tampa, Florida, that is known for its nightlife and tourists.

An air patrol unit spotted the silver sedan driving recklessly on a freeway at about 12:40 a.m. after it was seen street racing in another neighborhood, the Tampa Police Department said in a statement.

The Florida Highway Patrol caught up with the vehicle and tried to perform a PIT maneuver, which involves bumping the rear fender to cause a spinout, but it was unsuccessful.

Highway patrol officers "disengaged" as the vehicle sped toward historic Ybor City near downtown, police said, and ultimately the driver lost control and hit more than a dozen people outside the bar, Bradley's on 7th.

Three people died at the scene, and a fourth died at a hospital. As of Saturday afternoon, two people were hospitalized in critical condition, seven were listed as stable and two had been treated and discharged, police said. Additionally there were two people who had only minor injuries and declined treatment at the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 59 of 68

scene.

"What happened this morning was a senseless tragedy, our hearts are with the loved ones of the victims and all those who were impacted," Police Chief Lee Bercaw said in a statement.

Officers identified the suspect as 22-year-old Silas Sampson, who was booked Saturday and was being held at the Hillsborough County Jail.

Court documents show Sampson was charged with four counts of vehicular homicide and four counts of aggravated fleeing or eluding with serious bodily injury or death, all first-degree felonies.

No attorney was immediately listed for Sampson who could speak on his behalf.

"Our entire city feels this loss," Mayor Jane Castor, who also served as Tampa's first female police chief, said on social media. She added that the investigation is ongoing.

In recent years some states and local agencies have pushed to restrict high-speed car chases to protect both civilians and officers. Following a rise in fatalities, a 2023 study funded by the U.S. Department of Justice called for chases to be rare, saying the dangers often outweigh the immediate need to take someone into custody.

Nevertheless, Florida's highway patrol has loosened limits on car chases and PIT maneuvers, tactics that the Justice Department-backed report characterized as "high-risk" and "controversial."

Ukrainian strikes disrupt power and heating to 2 major cities in Russia

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian strikes disrupted power and heating to two major Russian cities near the Ukrainian border, local Russian officials reported Sunday.

The report comes as Russia and Ukraine have traded almost daily assaults on each other's energy infrastructure and U.S.-led diplomatic efforts to stop the nearly four-year war have not advanced.

Elsewhere, Ukraine's top diplomat accused Moscow of deliberately endangering nuclear safety, as he said Russia's mass drone and missile attack on Friday struck substations that power two nuclear power plants.

And in Russia, the Kremlin spokesman said Moscow intended to honor its obligations under a global nuclear test ban, despite a recent order by President Vladimir Putin to study the possibility of resuming atomic tests.

Power knocked out in two Russian cities

A drone strike temporarily caused blackouts and cut heating to parts of Voronezh, regional Gov. Alexander Gusev said. He said several drones were electronically jammed during the night over the city, home to just over 1 million people, sparking a fire at a local utility facility that was quickly extinguished.

Russian and Ukrainian news channels on Telegram claimed the strike targeted a local thermal power plant.

A missile strike late on Saturday also caused "serious damage" to power and heating systems supplying the city of Belgorod, with some 20,000 households affected, local Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov reported the following morning.

Russia's defense ministry said Sunday that its forces destroyed or intercepted 44 Ukrainian drones during the night that flew over the Bryansk and Rostov regions in southwestern Russia. The statement made no mention of either the Voronezh or Belgorod provinces, nor did it specify how many drones Ukraine launched.

Local authorities in the Rostov region on Sunday reported on hourslong blackouts in the city of Taganrog, home to some 240,000 people, blaming them on an emergency shutdown of a power line. They did not specify the cause, though local media claimed a nearby transformer substation caught fire.

Months of Ukrainian long-range drone strikes on Russian refineries have aimed to deprive Moscow of the oil export revenue it needs to pursue the war. Meanwhile, Kyiv and its western allies say Russia is trying to cripple the Ukrainian power grid and deny civilians access to heat, light and running water for a fourth consecutive winter, in what Ukrainian officials call "weaponizing" the biting cold.

Strikes endanger power supply to nuclear plants

Russia's mass drone and missile strikes Friday hit power substations that supply two of Ukraine's nuclear power plants, according to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha.

"Russia once again targeted substations that power the Khmelnytskyi and Rivne nuclear power plants," Sybiha said in a statement on X late Saturday. "These were not accidental but well-planned strikes. Russia

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 60 of 68

is deliberately endangering nuclear safety in Europe.”

Sybiha called for an urgent meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency board of governors to respond to the risks posed by the attacks.

Moscow’s massive attacks on Ukraine’s electricity infrastructure last winter have heightened scrutiny over the Ukrainian Energy Ministry’s apparent failure to protect the country’s most critical energy facilities near nuclear power sites, according to several current and former officials who spoke to the AP.

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.

Kremlin says Russia will abide by nuclear ban

Russia will abide by its obligations under a global nuclear ban, the Kremlin spokesman said Sunday, following days of uncertainty over remarks by U.S. President Donald Trump that appeared to suggest Washington might restart atomic tests after more than three decades.

Trump’s comments came after Russia announced it had tested a new atomic-powered and nuclear-capable underwater drone and a new nuclear-powered cruise missile. But Moscow did not announce any tests of its nuclear weapons, which last occurred in 1990.

“Putin has repeatedly said that Russia is committed to its obligation to end nuclear tests, and that we have no intention” of conducting them, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Earlier this week, Putin ordered officials to study the possibility of resuming nuclear testing, though Russia said it would not do so unless the U.S. did so first.

Russia’s Lavrov says he’s ready to meet Rubio

Elsewhere, Russia’s top diplomat said Sunday that he was ready to meet U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, to discuss the war in Ukraine and mending bilateral ties.

“Secretary of State Marco Rubio and I understand the need for regular communication,” Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told Russia’s Ria state agency, weeks after efforts to organize a summit between the Russian and U.S. leaders were put on ice.

Lavrov on Sunday repeated that peace can’t be achieved without “taking Russian interests into account,” a phrase Moscow has used to signal it is standing firm in its maximalist demands for Ukraine.

Flight cuts from government shutdown strain a supply chain that’s already stretched thin

By MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration’s announcement of a 10% reduction in flight capacity across 40 major U.S. airports could put a strain on air cargo as the peak holiday season approaches.

Several airports with major package distribution centers are on the list of airports that will reduce capacity — FedEx has hubs at the airports in Indianapolis and Memphis, Tennessee. UPS’ biggest hub, Worldport, is in Louisville, Kentucky, the site of this week’s deadly cargo plane crash.

Meanwhile, UPS and FedEx said late Friday they’re grounding their fleets of McDonnell Douglas MD-11 planes “out of an abundance of caution” following the Tuesday crash, which killed 14 people, including the three pilots on the MD-11 headed for Honolulu.

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

Logistics companies say consumers shouldn’t expect delays on their packages due to the reduction in flights — for now. But they put a strain on the supply chain ahead of the all-important holiday shopping season.

It could take weeks before the MD-11s fly again

Patrick Penfield, a supply-chain management professor at Syracuse University, called the 10% reduction in flight capacity and the grounding of the MD-11 planes a “one-two punch” for cargo carriers and shoppers.

“This is such a stressful time for both companies, and you’ve got this surge in demand and then you

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 61 of 68

just lost some of your capacity," Penfield said. "So they're already scrambling as it is during the holiday season, and they're going to scramble even more."

Penfield thinks that it could take weeks for UPS and FedEx to get their MD-11 fleets back in service after a thorough review. He estimated that during the mid-December time frame, when shipping is at its peak, shoppers could see delays in deliveries by a day or two. He recommends ordering holiday gifts early.

As for the 10% reduction in flight capacity, most air freight is international. The reduction in flights so far is only on domestic air travel, not global flights. Airlines transport about 35% of global trade by value but only about 1% of world trade by volume, according to the trade group International Air Transport Association.

The FAA order did not address cargo flights specifically, but directed air carriers at 40 airports to reduce their total daily scheduled domestic operations by 10% between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. local time at each airport. Air freight is carried not only on cargo planes, but also in the bellies of passenger aircraft.

Most air shipping is international, and so far unaffected

Shipping companies said they're adjusting plans due to the cutbacks.

Both FedEx and UPS said many of their flights take place at night, outside the restricted window. Both also said they had contingency plans to protect shipments of critical items like pharmaceuticals, medical devices and essential manufacturing goods.

FedEx says that it "made the necessary operational modifications to meet the requirements so that shipments continue to move safely and swiftly through our network," following the FAA order.

UPS said it has built a network "to be safe and resilient and we're confident we can keep delivering the reliable service our customers count on."

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 on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Mike Short, president of Global Forwarding at global freight forwarder C.H. Robinson, said it's working with customers on contingency plans for the flight reductions if needed.

"While the FAA's 10% reduction in intra-U.S. flights will create some ripple effects in transportation, the impact on air freight overall is expected to be limited," he said. "Because most U.S. domestic air freight moves in the bellies of passenger aircraft versus cargo planes, reductions in commercial routes will tighten air capacity in those markets. So the domestic air market could see temporary constraints and longer transit times."

Trucks expected to keep supplies moving

He said trucks and expedited ground networks can absorb some displaced volume, but "not without challenges given that short-term surges drive spot rate volatility and equipment repositioning."

Smaller, high-value goods like smartphones, chips, videogame consoles and electronic toys are more likely to be transported by air using both cargo and passenger planes.

Domestic overnight parcels and letters are also carried by air cargo, but trucks can pick up some of the slack if needed so delays on those are less likely, said Ed Anderson, a professor of supply chain and operations management for the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas.

Brandon Fried, executive director of the Airforwarders Association, which represents hundreds of air cargo companies, said flight reductions will worsen the disruption already being felt across the aviation sector as the federal government shutdown stretches on.

"Air cargo depends on every part of the aviation ecosystem working in sync," he said. "When capacity is cut and federal employees are stretched thin, the supply chain slows, and the longer this shutdown continues, the worse it will get."

Eytan Buchman, chief marketing officer for cargo booking platform Freightos, said fewer flights will put a strain on the domestic cargo-moving ecosystem.

"Typical safety valves will tighten and that may lengthen lead times and lift spot prices," he said. But the supply chain has grown more nimble in recent years so that might help, he added.

"The silver lining is that airlines have become very good at consolidating loads and adjusting fleets after

five years of dramatic supply chain swings, so this won't translate to a simple one-to-one loss of capacity everywhere," he said. "I'd expect carriers to prioritize high-yield lanes, route via secondary hubs, and shift some domestic legs to other modes when it makes sense. Near term, space may feel a bit tighter and schedules less predictable on some connections."

3 dead and 15 injured in tidal surge on Spain's Canary Islands

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Strong waves killed three people on Spain's Canary Islands by pulling them into the Atlantic Ocean during a tidal surge, officials said Sunday.

Another 15 were injured in four different incidents along the coast of the island of Tenerife on Saturday, according to emergency services.

A man and a woman died and several others were injured after strong waves pulled them into the ocean in the municipalities of La Guancha, Puerto de la Cruz and Santa Cruz de Tenerife, emergency services said. A third man was found dead floating in the ocean near a beach in Granadilla.

Authorities had warned people of a tidal surge and strong winds, advising them not to walk along coastal paths and avoid putting themselves at risk by taking photos and videos of the rough seas.

Super Typhoon Fung-wong slams into Philippines, killing 2 and displacing 1 million

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Super Typhoon Fung-wong slammed ashore on Sunday in the northeastern coast of the Philippines, where the massive storm had already left at least two people dead and forced more than a million people to evacuate from flood- and landslide-prone areas, officials said.

The typhoon blew into Dinalungan town in Aurora province Sunday night after setting off fierce rain and wind in northeastern Philippine provinces all day from offshore, with sustained winds of up to 185 kph (115 mph) and gusts of up to 230 kph (143 mph).

The biggest typhoon to threaten the Philippines in years, Fung-wong could cover two-thirds of the archipelago with its 1,800-kilometer (1,118-mile) -wide rain and wind band, forecasters said. It approached from the Pacific while the Philippines was still dealing with the devastation wrought by Typhoon Kalmaegi, which left at least 224 people dead in central provinces on Tuesday before pummeling Vietnam, where at least five were killed.

A villager drowned in flash floods in the eastern province of Catanduanes and another died in Catbalogan city in eastern Samar province when she was hit by debris, officials said.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has declared a state of emergency due to the extensive devastation caused by Kalmaegi and the expected calamity from Fung-wong, which is also called Uwan in the Philippines.

Tropical cyclones with sustained winds of 185 kph (115 mph) or higher are categorized in the Philippines as a super typhoon, a designation adopted years ago to underscore the urgency tied to more extreme weather disturbances.

'Zero visibility'

"The rain and wind were so strong there was nearly zero visibility," Roberto Monterola, a disaster-mitigation officer for Catanduanes, told The Associated Press by telephone.

Despite calls for residents to evacuate Saturday, some still stayed on.

"Our personnel rescued 14 people who were trapped on the roof of a house engulfed in flood in a low-lying neighborhood," Monterola said. "A father also called in panic, saying the roof of his house was about to be ripped off by the wind. We saved him and four relatives."

Over a million people were evacuated from high-risk villages in northeastern provinces, including in Bicol, a coastal region vulnerable to Pacific cyclones and mudflows from Mayon, one of the country's most active volcanoes.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 63 of 68

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. warned about the potentially catastrophic impact of Fung-wong in televised remarks Saturday. He said the storm could affect a vast expanse of the country, including Cebu, the central province hit hardest by the previous typhoon, and metropolitan Manila, the densely populated capital region.

More than 30 million people could be exposed to hazards posed by Fung-wong, the Office of Civil Defense said.

Teodoro asked people to follow government orders and seek shelter away from villages and towns prone to flash floods, landslides and coastal tidal surges. "We need to do this because when it's already raining or the typhoon has hit and flooding has started, it's hard to rescue people," Teodoro said.

Power cut in eastern towns

The Philippines has not called for international help following the devastation caused by Kalmaegi, but Teodoro said the United States, the country's longtime treaty ally, and Japan were ready to provide assistance.

As Fung-wong approached with its wide band of fierce wind and rain, several eastern towns and cities lost power, Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro, deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defense said.

Authorities in northern provinces that could be hit or sideswiped by Fung-wong preemptively shut schools and most government offices on Monday and Tuesday. At least 325 domestic and 61 international flights have been canceled over the weekend and into Monday, and more than 6,600 commuters and cargo workers were stranded in seaports, where the coast guard prohibited ships from venturing into rough seas.

Authorities warned of a "high risk of life-threatening and damaging storm surge" of more than 3 meters (nearly 10 feet) along the coasts of more than 20 provinces and regions, including metropolitan Manila.

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

7 Myanmar migrants dead and 13 rescued after boat capsizes near Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Rescuers in Malaysia recovered the bodies of seven migrants from Myanmar and found 13 alive from a boat that capsized with dozens aboard, officials said Sunday.

The vessel had departed from the town of Buthidaung, in Myanmar's Rakhine state, carrying some 300 people, said First Adm. Romli Mustafa from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, citing a preliminary investigation.

Police and the maritime agency said the passengers were believed to have been split into three smaller boats once the vessel neared Malaysia. One of the boats was believed to have sank near Tarutao island in southern Thailand on Thursday, and some of the victims drifted into Malaysia's northern resort island of Langkawi, the authorities said.

The timing and exact location of the incident is not known. The fate of the other two boats is also unclear, officials said.

Local media quoted the Kedah state police chief in northern Malaysia, Adzli Abu Shah, as saying that some of those rescued were Rohingya Muslims, from Myanmar, where they have faced persecution for decades. Romli warned in a statement that cross-border syndicates are becoming increasingly active in exploiting migrants using perilous sea routes.

The maritime agency said rescuers found 10 migrants and recovered the body of a woman from the sea on Saturday. Another six bodies were discovered Sunday as well as three survivors, it said, adding it has expanded the area of the search that will continue on Monday.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees urged regional governments to step up search and rescue efforts and take action to prevent such tragedies.

So far this year, some 5,200 Rohingya refugees have embarked on dangerous maritime journeys, with nearly 600 reported to be missing or dead, said UNHCR spokesman Diogo Alcantara.

In January, Malaysian authorities turned away two boats carrying nearly 300 people believed to be Muslim Rohingya refugees who were trying to enter the country illegally. Malaysia is a popular destination

because of its dominant Malay Muslim population.

Malaysia has accepted Rohingya in the past on humanitarian grounds but has tried to limit their numbers, fearing a mass influx of people arriving on boats. There are around 117,670 Rohingya refugees registered with the UNHCR in Malaysia — about 59% of the total refugee population in the country.

Aaron Rai denies Tommy Fleetwood another title by winning playoff in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Aaron Rai of England overcame a shocking short miss with a pair of late birdies for a 5-under 67 and defeated Tommy Fleetwood on the first playoff hole with a 10-foot birdie putt to win the Abu Dhabi Championship on Sunday.

Rai returned from a two-month break to win for the first time this year and pick up his third European tour title — his first on the tour since defeating Fleetwood in the 2020 Scottish Open. He won the Wynnham Championship in August 2004 for his first PGA Tour title.

Rory McIlroy started the back nine at Yas Links with five straight birdies and closed with a 62, matching his low score on the European tour. He wound up one shot behind, but expanded his lead in the Race to Dubai that concludes next week.

Fleetwood was aiming for a third title worldwide in what already has been a memorable season that included a 4-1 record in a winning Europe Ryder Cup team. He holed a 15-foot birdie putt on the 16th and made a 15-foot par putt to stay tied with Rai on the 17th.

Both narrowly missed birdie chances in regulation on the par-5 18th. Fleetwood shot 66 to join Rai on 25-under 263.

They finished one shot ahead of McIlroy and Nicolai Hjoogaard of Denmark, who just missed a 15-foot eagle putt on the final hole to join the playoff. He closed with a 66.

"It's hard to put into words how this feels," Rai said. "It's amazing to be here."

It was a tight battle on a day for low scoring, and the 30-year-old Rai fell out of the lead when his 3-foot par putt on the 14th spun hard out of the cup. Then, he had to scramble for par on the 15th, making a 6-foot putt.

But he hit 5-iron to 8 feet on the 16th for birdie to stay within one shot of Fleetwood, who holed a 15-foot birdie. Rai made from 18 feet on the par-3 17th to reach 25 under, and Fleetwood had to make his 15-foot putt for par to stay tied.

The playoff became a pitch-and-putt contest as neither had the length to reach the 616-yard in two shots. Fleetwood's birdie chance missed to the right, and Rai converted.

Rai came into the week at No. 55 in the Race to Dubai and the victory moved him to No. 9 to qualify for the season-ending DP World Tour Championship next week in Dubai for the top 50. Matthew Jordan tied for 15th to earn the 50th spot.

McIlroy, the defending champion next week, will be going for his seventh title as Europe's No. 1 and created a bigger cushion with his runner-up finish in Abu Dhabi.

Marco Penge of England closed with a 63 to tie for ninth, but he is now 767 points behind, with 2,000 points to the winner in Dubai.

"I just tried to keep my foot down and make as many birdies as possible knowing that, OK, I'm trying to win this tournament but also give myself the biggest cushion possible going into Dubai next week, as well," McIlroy said.

King Charles III leads Britain's Remembrance Sunday ceremony for war dead

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — King Charles III led Britain's annual ceremony of remembrance for the country's war dead on Sunday, under November sunshine and the shadow cast across Europe by the almost 4-year-old war in Ukraine.

As Parliament's Big Ben bell tolled 11 a.m., thousands of military personnel, veterans and members of the public gathered in central London fell still for two minutes of silence, broken by a single artillery blast and Royal Marines buglers sounding "The Last Post."

The 76-year-old king, dressed in the uniform of an army field marshal, laid a wreath of red paper poppies on a black background at the base of the Cenotaph war memorial. Erected over a century ago to honor the British and allied troops killed in World War I, it has become the focus of annual ceremonies for members of military and civilian services killed in that war and subsequent conflicts.

The national ceremony of remembrance is held every year on the nearest Sunday to the anniversary of the end of World War I on Nov. 11, 1918, at 11 a.m. Similar memorial services are held in dozens of towns and cities across Britain and at U.K. military bases overseas.

A military band played as heir to the throne Prince William followed his father in laying a wreath on the simple Portland stone monument inscribed with the words "the glorious dead."

Other members of the royal family followed, including the king's youngest brother, Prince Edward — but not former prince Andrew Mountbatten Windsor. The king stripped his brother Andrew of his titles last month and evicted him from his royal mansion over his relationship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Wreaths were also laid by Prime Minister Keir Starmer, other political leaders and diplomats from across the Commonwealth of Britain's former colonies.

Queen Camilla, the Princess of Wales and other members of the royal family watched from their traditional place on a balcony of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Many of the wreaths were made of poppies, and most people in attendance wore paper poppies on their lapels. The scarlet flowers that bloomed on the muddy battlefields and makeshift graveyards of northern France and Belgium during World War I — made famous by the poem "In Flanders Fields" — have become a symbol of remembrance in Britain and other countries.

Like many other NATO members, Britain has increased its defense spending since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Britain says it will spend 3.5% of GDP on defense by 2035.

After the wreath-laying, some 10,000 military veterans with gleaming medals marched past the Cenotaph, accompanied by jaunty military music and applauded by well-wishers lining the sidewalks. Among them, in wheelchairs, were about 20 of the dwindling band of WWII veterans, the youngest of them 98 years old.

Donald Poole, 101, who served in as a Royal Army Ordnance Corps explosives handler in the conflict that ended 80 years ago, said it was "a great honor to be able to pay tribute to the poor souls who have died in all conflicts.

"I know how lucky I am to still be here thanks to all those who have fought and served, past and present," he said. "I also want to pay tribute to the civilian services who suffered during the Second World War, particularly the fire service, who saved so many lives during the Blitz — many of whom lost their own."

Iraq's displaced Yazidis and security forces cast ballots in early voting in parliament election

By QASSIM ABUL-ZAHRA and STELLA MARTANY Associated Press

DOHUK, Iraq (AP) — Members of Iraqi security forces and displaced people living in camps, including minority Yazidis, cast their ballots Sunday in early voting ahead of this week's parliamentary election in Iraq.

The election, which will help determine whether Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani gets a

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 66 of 68

second term, comes against the backdrop of fears of another conflict between Israel and Iran, and Iraq's balancing act with Tehran and Washington.

An estimated 1.3 million army and security personnel and around 26,000 displaced people are eligible to vote. There are 7,744 candidates competing in the election, most of them from largely sectarian-aligned parties. Election day is set for Tuesday.

A school turned polling station

Yazidis, many who fled their homes over a decade ago after attacks by the Islamic State group voted at a camp near Dohuk, in the semi-autonomous northern Iraqi Kurdish region. Many have still not been able to return home because of political disputes and lack of infrastructure.

A polling station set up in a small Dohuk school stood almost empty until after 9 a.m., when more voters began to appear, some clutching worn ID cards, others guiding elderly relatives toward the entrance.

Inside, the classrooms were crowded with dozens of monitors from rival parties and candidates.

During their terror campaign, IS militants rampaged through Iraq's Sinjar district in Nineveh province, killing and enslaving thousands of Yazidis, who the extremist group considered heretics.

An uncertain future

Since the defeat of IS in Iraq and Syria, members of the Yazidi community have been trickling back to their homes in Sinjar, but many see no future there. There's no money to rebuild destroyed homes. Infrastructure is still wrecked. Multiple armed groups carve up the area.

The area has also been caught up in political disputes between the central government in Baghdad and authorities in the Kurdish region wrestling over Sinjar, where each backed a rival local government for years.

"Eleven years passed and the situation is the same," said Khedhir Qassim, a displaced Yazidi from Sinjar who voted at the camp in Dohuk, saying he has little faith that new leaders will bring change.

"We want them to support us and rebuild our areas that are ruined due to their political dispute and where everyone works for their own benefit," he added.

Edris Zozani, another displaced Yazidi who voted in the camp, said he voted for the Kurdish Democratic Party, or KDP, one of the two main Kurdish parties in the country, which holds sway in Dohuk.

"If we have independent Yazidi candidates, they wouldn't be able to represent us effectively," he said. "But if they go to parliament as part of strong lists, like the KDP, they would be in a better position to support the Yazidi community."

Uniforms at the polls in Baghdad

In the Iraqi capital, Iraqi soldiers and police voted, as well as members of the Popular Mobilization Forces, a coalition of primarily Shiite, Iran-backed militias that united to fight IS. The coalition was formally placed under the control of Iraq's military in 2016 but in practice, still operates with significant autonomy.

The fate of the PMF will be a difficult issue facing the next parliament amid tensions between Baghdad and Washington over the presence of Iran-backed militias in Iraq.

The parliament has been considering legislation that would solidify the relationship between the military and the PMF, drawing objections from Washington.

"I voted for the list that defends the PMF," said one militiaman after voting in Baghdad, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to journalists. He did not specify which list he meant.

Several of the armed groups making up the PMF have associated political parties that are participating in the elections.

Powerful quake strikes off the coast of Japan, tsunami advisory lifted after 3 hours

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A powerful quake rattled northern Japan Sunday evening, followed by several more temblors, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. A tsunami advisory was issued.

The earthquake, with an upgraded magnitude of 6.9 and depth of 16 kilometers (10 miles), struck off

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 67 of 68

the coast of Iwate prefecture at 5:03 p.m. Japan time.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, or any reports of abnormalities at the two nuclear power plants in the area.

The agency issued an advisory for a tsunami of up to 1 meter (3 feet) along the northern coastal region, and subsequently said the water could reach as high as 3 meters in some spots.

A tsunami of about 10 centimeters (4 inches) was detected at Ofunato city in Iwate Prefecture, Ominato port, Miyako and Kamaishi, and subsequently as high as 20 centimeters (8 inches) in the coastal area of Kuji. The tsunami that followed in Ofunato also reached 20 centimeters (8 inches), according to the agency.

Tsunami waves that follow earthquakes can continue for a few hours afterward, hitting the coast repeatedly, and can possibly get bigger with time.

While the advisory was in place, people were warned to stay away from the ocean and coastal areas and told more shaking could follow in the area.

The tsunami advisory was lifted about three hours after the initial quake, but the meteorological agency told reporters the area was at risk for strong quakes for about a week, especially the next two or three days.

More quakes were recorded in Iwate Prefecture, and the northernmost major island of Hokkaido was also rocked by the series of quakes.

Northeastern Japan is prone to earthquakes, including a triple disaster of a quake, tsunami and a nuclear meltdown in Fukushima, just south of Iwate, in March 2011, that killed nearly 20,000 people, mostly from the tsunami, and severely damaged the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station.

More than a decade later, people still remain displaced from the no-go zone. Demonstrations are still periodically held, as recent as Saturday, to protest what is being seen as a lack of recognition by the authorities of the serious risks of nuclear power.

An agency official, briefing reporters late Sunday, said there was nothing to indicate the latest quake was directly related to the one in 2011, except that the region was generally at risk for major quakes, including another one that hit in 1992.

Bullet trains in the area were temporarily delayed, according to JR East railway operator. Japan, which sits on the Pacific "ring of fire," is one of the world's most earthquake-prone countries.

Today in History: November 10

White supremacists stage coup in Wilmington, North Carolina

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Nov. 10, the 314th day of 2025. There are 51 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 10, 1898, a mob of up to 2,000 white supremacists killed dozens of African Americans in Wilmington, North Carolina, burned Black-owned businesses and forced the mayor, police chief and aldermen to resign at gunpoint before installing their own mayor and city council in what became known as the "Wilmington Coup."

Also on this date:

In 1775, the U.S. Marines were organized under authority of the Continental Congress.

In 1954, the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, depicting the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima in 1945, was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Arlington, Virginia.

In 1969, the children's educational program "Sesame Street" made its debut on National Educational Television (now PBS).

In 1975, the Great Lakes freighter SS Edmund Fitzgerald sank in a severe storm on Lake Superior, claiming the lives of all 29 crew members.

In 2019, Bolivia's first indigenous president, Evo Morales, resigned after weeks of public protests in response to alleged fraud in a general election that year.

In 2021, Kyle Rittenhouse took the stand in his murder trial, testifying that he was under attack and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, November 10, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 159 ~ 68 of 68

acting in self-defense when he shot and killed two men and wounded a third during a turbulent night of street protests in Kenosha, Wisconsin. (He would be acquitted of all charges.)

In 2024, a shooting during homecoming weekend at Tuskegee University in Alabama left one person dead and 16 others wounded, a dozen of them by gunfire.

Today's Birthdays: Lyricist Tim Rice is 81. Country singer Donna Fargo is 80. Film director Roland Emmerich is 70. Actor-comedian Sinbad is 69. Actor Mackenzie Phillips is 66. Author Neil Gaiman (GAY'-mihn) is 65. Actor Hugh Bonneville is 62. Actor-comedian Tommy Davidson is 62. Long jump world record holder Mike Powell is 62. Country singer Chris Cagle is 57. Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan is 57. Actor Ellen Pompeo is 56. Rapper-producer Warren G is 55. Actor Walton Goggins is 54. Football Hall of Famer Isaac Bruce is 53. Rapper-actor Eve is 47. Country singer Miranda Lambert is 42. Actor Josh Peck is 39. Actor Taron Egerton is 36. Golfer Jon Rahm is 31. Actor Kiernan Shipka is 26. Olympic gold medal pole vaulter Armand Duplantis is 26. Actor Mackenzie Foy is 25.