

Groton Daily Independent

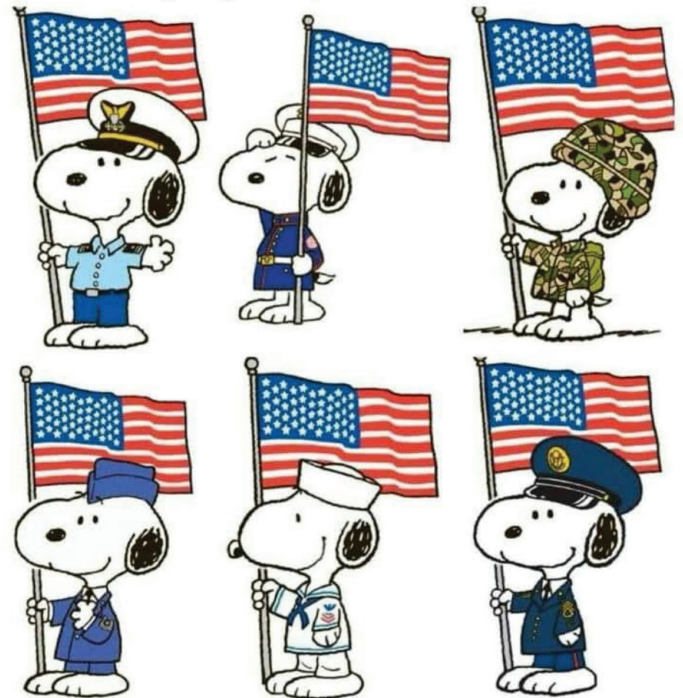
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Tuesday, Nov. 11

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.

Veterans, you are the reason we wake up in a free country. Your strength, courage, and loyalty will forever be honored.



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.

Groton Daily Independent
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1440

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

Historic US Visit

President Donald Trump hosted Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa at the White House yesterday in a first-of-its-kind visit. Al-Sharaa—who was once a local al-Qaida commander with a \$10M bounty on his head—is the first Syrian leader to visit the White House since the Middle Eastern country's independence from France in 1946.

Al-Sharaa, 43, previously led the Islamist rebel coalition (and US-designated terror group) Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, which helped topple the decadeslong dictatorship of predecessor Bashar al-Assad in December. Al-Sharaa's presidency ended nearly 14 years of civil war that displaced an estimated 14 million people—more than half of the country's prewar population—and killed around 600,000.

Following yesterday's meeting, the US announced it will waive a majority of its sanctions on Syria for 180 days. Syria has agreed to integrate the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, which have been the leading US partner in fighting the Islamic State, into the Syrian military.

Menopause Medication Update

Hormone replacement therapy for women undergoing menopause will no longer carry warnings about significant health risks, the Food and Drug Administration said yesterday.

The medications contain estrogen and progesterone, two hormones involved in bone density and brain health. As a woman's egg supply diminishes, her levels decline until she no longer produces them. The process takes seven to 10 years on average and can be accompanied by symptoms including hot flashes, insomnia, brain fog, and an increased risk of fractures. After decades of use (the first product was FDA-approved in 1942), a 2002 clinical trial cast doubt on the therapy when women taking a particular formulation in their 60s and 70s saw increased risk of breast cancer, heart attack, and stroke.

In yesterday's announcement, accompanied by a JAMA editorial, FDA Commissioner Marty Makary noted subjects in the trial were past the average age of menopause—52 in the US. Going forward, the medications will include advice to limit HRT usage to within 10 years of symptom onset.

Swipe Fee Settlement

Visa and Mastercard yesterday announced a roughly \$38B settlement in a two-decade antitrust lawsuit with merchants over credit card processing fees. If approved by a judge, businesses could reject several popular cards at checkout.

Visa and Mastercard have historically required merchants to accept all their credit cards, despite each carrying a different interchange fee—the charge banks impose to process transactions. Fees range from 2% to 2.5%, with higher rates tied to cards offering shoppers more rewards or cash back. Merchants paid roughly \$38B in interchange fees last year, up 71% from 2019, as Americans favor rewards cards and fees rise. Under the proposed settlement, Visa and Mastercard would cut interchange fees by 0.1 percentage point annually for five years. Merchants could also accept or decline three categories of cards, with all rewards cards grouped together.

Several merchant industry groups object to the deal, arguing businesses have little choice but to accept rewards cards since they account for about 85% of cards issued.

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

President Donald Trump threatens \$1B lawsuit against BBC over alleged misleading edits of speech Trump delivered before Jan. 6, 2021, storming of the US Capitol; BBC director and CEO resigned Sunday

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amid allegations.

Author David Szalay's "Flesh" wins 2025 Booker Prize for best English-language novel published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.

NBA great Lenny Wilkens—one of five men to be inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame as both a coach and player—dies at age 88.

Giants coach Brian Daboll fired after the New York-based NFL team drops to 2-8 in 2025 season.

Science & Technology

Apple delays release of second-generation iPhone Air amid weak demand for first version of ultra-thin smartphone launched in September.

Researchers use electric fields to move nanoparticles in porous materials, a feat with potential to improve drug delivery and air purification systems.

Drone mapping reveals thousands of mysterious holes in the Andes Mountains may have been ancient marketplaces.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +1.5%, Dow +0.8%, Nasdaq +2.3%) with federal shutdown deal in sight.

Gamma, AI-generated presentation startup, raises \$68M at \$2.1B valuation, with investors including Andreessen Horowitz.

AI company CoreWeave beats Wall Street estimates, reports 134% year-over-year increase in Q3 revenue.

More than 100 US lawmakers call on Starbucks to resume bargaining talks with union representing baristas ahead of potential strikes in 25 cities Thursday.

Politics & World Affairs

Senate approves government funding bill by vote of 60-40; House to vote as early as tomorrow.

Supreme Court rejects appeal challenging legality of same-sex marriage; takes up case challenging legality of mail-in ballot grace periods.

Car explodes in New Delhi, killing at least eight people.

Thailand suspends peace deal with Cambodia after land mine explosion wounds two Thai soldiers.

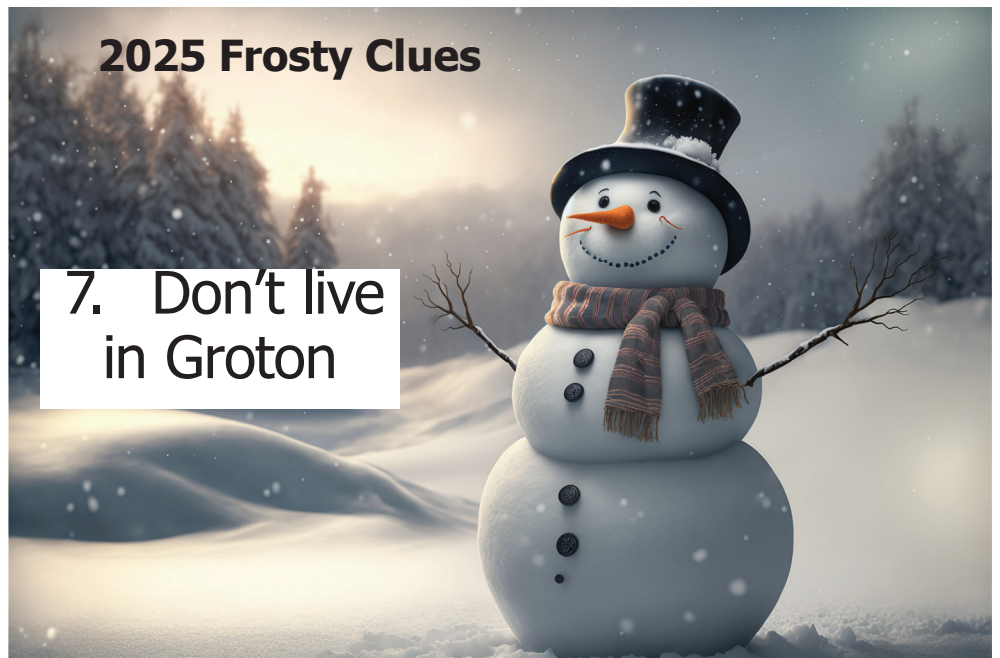
President Donald Trump pardons former lawyer Rudy Giuliani and 72 other people accused of 2020 election-related charges; pardons viewed as symbolic, as those pardoned did not face federal charges.

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

7. Don't live in Groton



Groton Post No. 39 American Legion

Annual Turkey Party

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025

Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

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



Lunch served
by Auxiliary

**DOOR
PRIZE!**

FREE ADMISSION

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Volleyball SoDak 16



Groton Area Tigers



Image from Groton Area Facebook Page

Groton Area vs. Rapid City Christian at Stanley County High School (Ft. Pierre) at 5:30 p.m CT, Nov. 11

Good Luck from these GDILIVE.COM Sponsors!

Avantara Groton
Bary Keith at Harr Motors
BaseKamp Lodge
Bierman Farm Service
Blocker Construction
Dacotah Bank
Doug Abeln Seed Company
Ferney Farmers Union Co-op
Groton Ag Partners
Groton American Legion
Groton Chamber

Groton Dairy Queen
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Hanlon Brothers
John Sieh Agency
KR Body Shop
Lori's Pharmacy
Milbrandt Enterprises
S & S Lumber & Hardware
Spanier Harvesting & Trucking
Sun & Sea Travel
The Meat House

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Groton Area Veteran's Day Program

will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 12:30 p.m.

Groton Area Arena

GDI Subscribers can watch for free; otherwise a \$5 ticket will need to be purchased.

on

GDILIVE.COM



VB SoDak16

Groton vs. RC Christian

Tues. Nov. 11, 5:30 p.m.

on at Stanley County (Ft. Pierre)



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE



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Groton Daily Independent



For more info: GDILIVE.COM

Name Released in Day County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

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

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

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

Vehicle 1: 2017 Toyota Rav 4

Seat belt Used: Yes

Day County, S.D.- A Groton, SD man died Sunday, Nov. 2, following a crash Wednesday, Oct. 29, five miles west of Webster, SD.

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

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

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

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

GFP Commission Holds November Meeting

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission held their November meeting at the GFP Outdoor Campus in Rapid City November 7 and 8.

FINALIZATIONS

Custer State Park Buffalo Season

The Commission approved making Custer State Park (CSP) Trophy Bison and Non-Trophy Bison licenses available with 60% of licenses available for residents only in the first draw, then the remaining 40% of the licenses available to both residents and nonresidents for the first draw.

The finalization sets a maximum number of licenses at:

15 Trophy Buffalo Licenses; and,

30 Non-Trophy Buffalo Licenses.

Annual license allocation will be determined by forage and herd health conditions.

The Commission then set the 2026 and 2027 CSP Bison license allocation, which will include 12 Trophy Buffalo licenses and 25 Non-Trophy Buffalo licenses.

This would increase the Trophy Buffalo allocation by 2 and Non-Trophy Buffalo allocation by 5 from the 2025 season.

Public Comments Being Accepted

To hear the discussion on these proposals, audio from the meeting is available through South Dakota Public Broadcasting and will soon be available on the GFP website as part of the meeting archive.

To see these proposals in their entirety, visit gfp.sd.gov/commission/information.

To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on November 30.

The next GFP Commission meeting will be held in Pierre December 4-5.

Board of Regents Names Dr. Alan LaFave as Next President of Northern State University

PIERRE, S.D. — The South Dakota Board of Regents is pleased to announce the appointment of Alan D. LaFave, D.M.A., as the next President of Northern State University (NSU) in Aberdeen, beginning this January.

Dr. LaFave returns to his alma mater and longtime institution after seven years as President of Valley City State University (VCSU) in North Dakota, during which he oversaw a time of growth, progress, and strategic collaborations. Prior to his presidency at VCSU, he spent nearly three decades at Northern State University, from Instructor to Professor of Music, Department Chair, Associate Dean, Dean of the School of Fine Arts, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. LaFave earned his bachelor's degree in music education from Northern State University and his master's and doctoral degrees from Arizona State University.

"Dr. LaFave brings the combination of deep institutional knowledge of Northern State University, a proven leadership record in a university presidency, and a clear vision for aligning higher education with community needs," said Board President Tim Rave. "We are confident that he will guide NSU towards a vibrant future where students succeed, the campus community is engaged, and the region benefits. We're grateful for his willingness to come home and serve."

The South Dakota Board of Regents and Northern State University look forward to working with Dr. LaFave to ensure a smooth transition and to support his vision for the university's future.

"I am excited to return to NSU and to the Aberdeen community. I am committed to honoring NSU's legacy while guiding it toward a future of continued growth, innovation, partnerships, and student success," said Dr. LaFave. "I am grateful for this opportunity and appreciative of the South Dakota Board of Regents. I look forward to strengthening the university's relationships with the community and the region as we continue to address workforce needs."

Dr. LaFave's appointment follows an extensive national search process conducted in partnership with the Regents, the NSU search committee, campus stakeholders, and community members.



Salem residents invest own money in new subdivision

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

SALEM, S.D. – In an effort to build new housing that will help this small eastern South Dakota city recover from two weather disasters in the same year, community leaders, local businesses and even individual residents have put up their own money – without any potential financial return – to help make it happen.

The town of about 1,300 people just north of Interstate 90 midway between Sioux Falls and Mitchell is still rebounding from two separate derecho wind storms that took no lives but damaged numerous homes and businesses in 2022.

To lay the groundwork for a new subdivision that could include up to 24 new houses, Salem economic development leaders needed to find roughly \$1 million in 2023.

Two years later, the city and the Salem Economic Development Corp. (SEDC) have reached their funding goal and are using a combination of a state grant, donations from a local bank and insurance company, and contributions from about 50 businesses and individual residents to fund the project.

"It was amazing to see people wanting to invest in their community because they're not getting any return on their money up front," said Jeremy Grady, an executive at First Dakota Bank in Salem who also serves on the SEDC board.

During the wind storms that hit in May and July of 2022, Salem saw a number of homes damaged and had its National Guard Armory and the Avantara nursing home damaged beyond repair. Avantara decided against rebuilding the nursing home or opening a new facility in Salem, which stung but which also suddenly made land available for new development.

In the years before the derechos, local government and business leaders had already realized they were hampered in encouraging housing, commercial or industrial development in Salem.

Response: Revitalizing development efforts

At the time of the storms, Salem faced many of the same challenges in housing development as other small, rural South Dakota cities. That included a shortage of buildable lots, limited interest from homebuilders seeking to make a quick profit, and a lack of population and employment growth.

Beyond that, the city's economic development group had withered due to inaction.

"Economic development had been dormant for some time," said Mayor Glenda Blindert, co-owner of Blindert Insurance Agency and a leading proponent of housing and commercial development in Salem.



Salem, S.D., Mayor Glenda Blindert, on Sept. 24, 2025, points to a new twin home built in a subdivision now being developed in the city. (Photo: Bart Pfankuch/

South Dakota News Watch)

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With guidance from the Sioux Metro Growth Alliance, a regional development agency located in Sioux Falls, the SEDC was revived in late 2021 and obtained non-profit status, a board and bylaws to guide its efforts.

The relaunch of the SEDC has been critical to the effort to build new housing in Salem, as the group played a major role in obtaining the land, funding and community support to build a new subdivision.

"For us, it wasn't a chicken-or-the-egg thing because we know that in order to have more businesses we are going to need more housing," said Grady.

In 2023, the SEDC began raising the roughly \$1 million needed to buy the land and build the infrastructure for a new housing subdivision.

As has taken place in other small South Dakota cities seeking to encourage construction of new housing, Salem leaders knew that developers would be far more likely to build homes if the streets and sewer and water systems were provided by the municipality in advance.

The SEDC was able to secure about \$330,000 in a matching grant from South Dakota Housing, a state agency that uses state and federal funds to boost local development projects.

First Dakota Bank in Salem donated \$50,000 in seed money and matched further donations up to \$50,000, making the bank's total contribution \$100,000, Grady said. The Blindert Insurance Agency, the business co-owned by the mayor, contributed another \$50,000, he said.

Insights: Locals step up with support and money

After that, the group was able to raise another \$100,000 from 50 other local businesses and individuals who did so knowing that there would be no other return on investment other than helping the community grow and thrive, Grady said.

The SEDC spent about \$250,000 to buy the land and clear it for construction and has used state and local money to build roads and install water and sewer for the subdivision. The SEDC is borrowing the remainder of the funding needed to build out the infrastructure, Grady said.

To date, four of the 24 lots in the subdivision have been sold and one twin home has been built as a "spec" home, he said. The SEDC has also received interest from potential buyers who include developers that will build and sell houses or individuals who hire their own housing contractor, he said.

"There's going to be a lot of housing opportunities, which is great because housing drives your local economy," Grady said.

As of November, the underground systems are in place and roads have been mapped and cleared in the Colonial Estates subdivision, with final road paving to occur in the spring, Grady said.

Limitations: Rural housing market a challenge

So far, it appears the concept is working, though some challenges lay ahead.

Brian Kappenman is a developer who so far is the only buyer of lots in the new Salem subdivision. He bought three lots with plans to build two twin homes, which are essentially side-by-side duplexes. One of the twin homes is fully built and both sides are available for sale, Kappenman said.



Road work, shown on Sept. 24, 2025, is ongoing in the Colonial Estates subdivision being developed in Salem, S.D. (Photo: Bart Pfankuch/South Dakota News Watch)

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Kappenman said he paid \$42,000 for each of the three lots, less than half the per-lot price he paid in nearby Hartford, where he is also building homes.

Each side of the twin home has 1,758 square feet of space with three bedrooms and two bathrooms, a three-stall garage and a list price of \$365,000, which is lower than average for new homes in the region, he said.

Kappenman, who developed housing in Salem seven years ago, said efforts by the city and the SEDC to build out the infrastructure made his housing project more attractive by reducing overhead costs.

"As far as price-wise and the size of the lots, they're doing it right, and the city and development group are very easy to work with," Kappenman said.

However, Kappenman said he hoped he would have sold his twin homes faster or at least had more interest than he has so far, with high interest rates and location dampening buyer interest.

"You're kind of far away from Sioux Falls and Mitchell, so it makes it harder to sell those homes," he said. "You've got to have people to buy, and so far I haven't been able to get that done."

As city leaders try to develop housing that they hope will make Salem more attractive to new employers, Kappenman said the lack of businesses and industry in the city may deter developers from buying lots and building homes in the new subdivision.

"They need to bring in some new businesses because nobody is going to build if there's nobody to buy," he said.

Proof: First home project builds momentum

Grady said Kappenman's willingness to build a home in an unfinished subdivision shows confidence in the project and has helped maintain a strong level of community support.

"Nothing creates buzz in a town like moving dirt. And when he started moving dirt and building things, you could start to see what this can look like," Grady said.

As far as luring new business and industry to Salem, Grady said the SEDC is seeking to attract several small-scale employers rather than a single large operation.

"We're not looking for a company to come in that's going to hire 100 people. Our sweet spot is really 15 to 25 employees," he said. "Given our proximity to Sioux Falls, Mitchell and Madison, I think we sit in a really nice spot."

Mayor Blindert said the new subdivision will be a first step in what she believes will be a positive future for Salem.

"We'll see more businesses, more property and sales tax dollars, and more families and children in our school system to keep it viable," she said.

Grady said interest in living in Salem or opening a business there will rise if people visit and see the city's amenities that include a new city hall and community center, a budding industrial park, a strong education system, a sprawling sporting complex and, ultimately, a subdivision bursting with new homes.

Grady, an Iowa native, said he planned to live in Salem a year or two but has instead spent the past 28 years working, living and supporting the community.

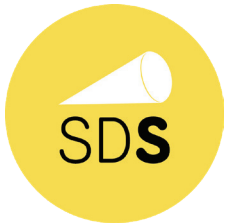
"It's a great place to raise a family," he said. "Everything we're doing is for the betterment of the community, and I believe the direction the city is going is very positive."

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



The dining room at the Avantara Nursing Home in Salem, S.D., on May 13, 2022, one day after a derecho wind storm severely damaged the structure. (Photo: Annie Todd/Sioux Falls Argus Leader)

(Photo: Annie Todd/Sioux Falls Argus Leader)



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

US Senate in bipartisan vote passes bill to end record-breaking shutdown, House up next

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate approved a stopgap spending bill Monday that will end the longest government shutdown in American history once the measure becomes law later this week.

The 60-40 vote sends the updated funding package back to the House, where lawmakers in that chamber are expected sometime during the next few days to clear the legislation for President Donald Trump's signature.

Shortly before the vote, Trump said he plans to follow the agreements included in the revised measure, including the reinstatement of thousands of federal workers who received layoff notices during the shutdown.

"I'll abide by the deal," Trump said. "The deal is very good."

Republicans, he added, will soon begin work on legislation to provide direct payments to Americans to help them afford the rising cost of health insurance, one of the core disagreements between the political parties that led to the shutdown.

"We want a health care system where we pay the money to the people instead of the insurance companies," Trump said from the Oval Office. "And I tell you, we are going to be working on that very hard over the next short period of time."

House members told to head to D.C.

Earlier in the day, House Speaker Mike Johnson urged representatives to begin traveling back to Capitol Hill as soon as possible to ensure they arrive in time to vote on the bill to reopen the government, after the measure arrives from the Senate.

The Louisiana Republican's request came as airlines were forced to delay or cancel thousands of flights on the 41st day of the shutdown, a situation that could potentially impact a House vote on the stopgap spending bill if members don't follow his advice.

"The problem we have with air travel is that our air traffic controllers are overworked and unpaid. And many of them have called in sick," Johnson said. "That's a very stressful job and even more stressful, exponentially, when they're having trouble providing for their families. And so air travel has been grinding to a halt in many places."

Johnson then told his colleagues in the House, which hasn't been in session since mid-September, that lawmakers from both political parties "need to begin right now returning to the Hill."

Trump threatens air traffic controllers

Trump took a markedly different tone over the challenges air traffic controllers have faced during the shutdown in a social media post that he published several hours before he spoke to reporters about the deal to reopen government.

"All Air Traffic Controllers must get back to work, NOW!!! Anyone who doesn't will be substantially 'docked,'" Trump wrote, without explaining what that would mean for workers who had to take time off since the shutdown began Oct. 1.

Trump added that he would like to find a way to provide \$10,000 bonuses to air traffic controllers who didn't require any time off during the past six weeks.

"For those that did nothing but complain, and took time off, even though everyone knew they would be

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paid, IN FULL, shortly into the future, I am NOT HAPPY WITH YOU. You didn't step up to help the U.S.A. against the FAKE DEMOCRAT ATTACK that was only meant to hurt our Country," Trump wrote. "You will have a negative mark, at least in my mind, against your record. If you want to leave service in the near future, please do not hesitate to do so, with NO payment or severance of any kind!"

An end in sight

The Senate-passed package will provide stopgap funding for much of the federal government through January 30, giving lawmakers a couple more months to work out agreement on nine of the dozen full-year spending bills.

The package holds several other provisions, including the full-year appropriations bills for the Agriculture Department, the Legislative Branch, military construction projects and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Seven Democrats and one independent broke ranks Sunday on a procedural vote that advanced the package, drawing condemnation from some House members and outside advocacy groups unhappy that no solution was arrived at to counter skyrocketing health insurance premium increases for people in the Affordable Care Act marketplace.

Republicans hold 53 seats in the Senate, where bipartisanship is required for major bills to move forward under the 60-vote legislative filibuster.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said during a floor speech Monday he was "grateful that the end" of the stalemate was in sight.

"We're on the 41st day of this shutdown — nutrition benefits are in jeopardy; air travel is in an extremely precarious situation; our staffs and many, many other government workers have been working for nearly six weeks without pay," Thune said. "I could spend an hour talking about all of the problems we've seen, which have snowballed the longer the shutdown has gone on. But all of us, Democrat and Republican, who voted for last night's bill are well aware of the facts."

Schumer bid for deal on health care costs fails

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., was far less celebratory after his bid to get Republicans to negotiate a deal on health care costs by forcing a shutdown failed.

"The past few weeks have exposed with shocking clarity how warped Republican priorities truly are. While people's health care costs have gone up, Republicans have come across as a party preoccupied with ballrooms, Argentina bailouts and private jets," Schumer said. "Republicans' breach of trust with the American people is deep and perhaps irreversible."

"And now that they have failed to do anything to prevent premiums from going up, the anger that Americans feel against Donald Trump and the Republicans is going to get worse," Schumer added. "Republicans had their chance to fix this and they blew it. Americans will remember Republican intransigence every time they make a sky-high payment on health insurance."

Schumer was insistent throughout the shutdown that Democrats would only vote to advance a funding bill after lawmakers brokered a bipartisan deal to extend tax credits that are set to expire at the end of December for people who purchase their health insurance from the Affordable Care Act marketplace.

That all changed on Sunday when 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 to move the bill toward a final passage vote.

Maine independent Sen. Angus King of Maine, who caucuses with Democrats, also voted to advance the legislation.

Jeffries still supports Schumer

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said during a press conference Monday afternoon that he still believes Schumer is effective and should keep his role in leadership, despite the outcome.

"Leader Schumer and Senate Democrats over the last seven weeks have waged a valiant fight on behalf of the American people. And I'm not going to explain what a handful of Senate Democrats have decided to do. That's their explanation to offer to the American people," Jeffries said.

"What we're going to continue to do as House Democrats, partnered with our allies throughout America,

is to wage the fight, to stay in the coliseum, to win victories in the arena on behalf of the American people notwithstanding whatever disappointments may arise," he said. "That's the reality of life, that's certainly the reality of this place. But we're in this fight for all the right reasons."

Speaker Johnson said earlier in the day that the "people's government cannot be held hostage to further anyone's political agenda. That was never right. And shutting down the government never produces anything."

Johnson reiterated that GOP lawmakers are "open to finding solutions to reduce the oppressive costs of health care," though he didn't outline any plans to do that in the weeks and months ahead.

Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.

Uncertainty still reigns as South Dakota's monthly SNAP payment day arrives

Benefits are stalled as state officials, grocers and participants await Supreme Court action and an end to the government shutdown

BY: JOHN HULT AND SETH TUPPER

The South Dakota Department of Social Services says it began preparations over the weekend to issue partial food assistance benefits for this month, but the department is also keeping open the possibility that it could pay full benefits.

In either case, said an advisory on the department's website as of Monday afternoon, benefits won't come until "later this week." The 10th day of the month, which was Monday, is the normal day for payment of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in the state.

RF Buche, whose Buche Foods stores serve many SNAP participants in South Dakota, said it's not clear when benefits might come or whether those benefits will be the full amount or a partial amount.

"Right now, we're just sitting and waiting," Buche said. "Waiting to hear what comes next, and hoping that what we hear next will be accurate."

Rapidly changing situation

The confusion comes in response to federal government shutdown-related chaos affecting the program that helps 42 million Americans, including 75,000 South Dakotans, afford groceries.

On Thursday, a federal judge ordered the Trump administration to pay the program's full November benefits, despite the ongoing shutdown.

On Friday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture told states it was releasing full November funding for SNAP, and the South Dakota Department of Social Services said it would pay full benefits Monday.

Later Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court temporarily blocked the order from the lower court, which the Trump administration had appealed. A decision from the Supreme Court is expected Tuesday. The South Dakota Department of Social Services reacted Saturday by saying it had "paused implementation of its plan to provide full benefits."

A Saturday memo from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service said states should fund 65% of benefits. In South Dakota, said the Department of Social Services, paying partial benefits "involves several days of system programming and approval."

Meanwhile, the department said, it is "also monitoring the probability that Congress will act to re-open the federal government this week." On Sunday night, the U.S. Senate advanced a bill that could end the shutdown, but the legislation still needs final Senate approval and also needs approval from the House of Representatives and President Donald Trump.

"DSS will issue November benefits — either partial or full, depending on the timing of Congress's actions — later this week," said a message on the state department's website as of Monday morning.

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Crow Creek eying backstops

Crow Creek Tribal Chairman Peter Lengkeek took to his tribe's Facebook communications page to warn members that no SNAP checks would come Monday, but that state officials "assured me they are working diligently on the issue."

"The tribe is also working to fill that gap by partnering with private entities, local churches and tribal programs to provide the necessary food items as needed," Lengkeek wrote. "I will pass along information as I receive it."

In an interview with South Dakota Searchlight, Lengkeek said Social Services Secretary Matt Althoff took his call Monday and told him the agency intends to get SNAP benefits of 65% out to South Dakotans by Wednesday.

About 40% of people in Buffalo County, where the tribe's headquarters are located, receive SNAP benefits.

The Crow Creek tribe has worked on building a food sovereignty program since 2020, Lengkeek said, in response to near-shortfalls in food availability during the COVID-19 pandemic. The tribe purchased a herd of elk, as well as buffalo and cattle, and built up a processing plant.

Typically, the livestock operation functions as a money-maker for the tribe, Lengkeek said, but the animals can also serve as a backstop in situations where food may run out. The tribe is prepared to slaughter some of its buffalo and cattle if necessary, Lengkeek said.

The tribe also recently set up a soup kitchen in Fort Thompson that opens three times a week, serving as many as 300 each time. That happened before the government shutdown, the chairman said.

"Wages are stagnant, benefits have been stagnant, so we've had to do that to fill the gap," he said.

Grocer uses nonprofit to distribute food vouchers

RF Buche is president of Buche Foods, a grocer that serves many tribal communities, including on the Crow Creek reservation. Like Lengkeek, he said SNAP payments aren't high enough at current prices.

The payments are nonetheless critical for many South Dakota families, Buche said.

Three of the nation's most SNAP-dependent counties are centered on tribal land in South Dakota, and benefit recipients in those low-population counties represent an outsized share of the \$15 million in monthly SNAP benefits paid throughout the state. Those counties include Todd County, home of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, and Oglala Lakota County, home of the Pine Ridge Reservation.

"In Todd and Oglala Lakota alone, you're looking at \$2.5 million in benefits," Buche told South Dakota Searchlight, estimating that another \$5 million in benefits flow to families who live in the other tribal communities served by his stores.

There have been some inventory and ordering headaches for Buche's store managers over the past few weeks and into the weekend, but those issues, he said, "are minute in comparison to what families are going through when they don't know where their next meal is coming from."

Team Buche Cares, the grocer's nonprofit arm, distributed about \$300,000 in food vouchers to SNAP-eligible families over the weekend. That was facilitated in part by donations that came after the SNAP concerns bubbled over with the government shutdown.

A Wagner business owner donated enough to feed 50 families "without being asked," Buche said, and a Pine Ridge store's appearance in a CNN article spurred additional donations.

"People from all over the country have been sending anything from \$10 on up," Buche said. "It's been very humbling."

In his interview with Searchlight, Lengkeek said he's been grateful to Buche for the assistance on the Crow Creek Reservation. Anna Halverson, an Oglala Sioux Tribal Council representative, expressed a similar sentiment. It's "nothing new" for Buche's charitable arm to offer aid to Pine Ridge, she said, but it's also not especially uncommon for tribes to find themselves in the position of needing help.

It's not supposed to be like that, Halverson said. Treaties inked between the U.S. government and tribal leaders in 1851 and 1868 were meant to guarantee food security for Native Americans in exchange for

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land. Halverson said cuts or proposed cuts to SNAP, as well as the threat of benefit losses in a shutdown, open old wounds from broken treaty promises.

"As leaders, it feels like our people's basic human needs are being used as bargaining chips," Halverson said. "Food should never be a weapon."

Feeding South Dakota: More people using food network

Stacey Andernacht, a spokeswoman for Feeding South Dakota, said her organization's statewide food distribution network has also seen a boost in support over the past month.

Shortly after the shutdown began, the group put up a banner on its website asking for support to provide 500,000 more meals in response to both a pre-shutdown spike in need and the anticipated need that would appear with a loss or cut in SNAP benefits.

The help has been welcome and necessary, but Andernacht said it's unrealistic to expect donations to cover the loss of SNAP. The program provides nine meals for every one that Feeding South Dakota does, she said.

"You'd be talking about trying to grow our inventory ten times," she said.

Feeding South Dakota does about 100 mobile food distribution events each month. Last week saw 25 such distributions. Not all of them saw an increase in visitors, but the average increase for those that did was 21%.

In July, the organization asked for \$3 million from state government in the state's upcoming budget to continue to help the same number of families it historically has. Earlier this month, Feeding South Dakota said its need has grown beyond that amount; meanwhile, South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden told South Dakota Searchlight he was unaware of the funding request.

On Monday, Andernacht said the organization has been "hyperfocused on the response" to the SNAP situation and hasn't re-engaged with lawmakers on funding. She expects the topic to come up when the Legislature convenes for the 2026 session in January, though.

"The community is engaging and we're getting great support, but it's hard when you start from behind," she said.

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

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

Math educators push state board to keep current standards in place

Health standards also discussed during hearing in Sioux Falls

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER

SIoux FALLS — Calls to retain South Dakota's current math standards continued at the state Board of Education Standards meeting Monday, as opponents flagged a proposed rewrite of the standards as overly simplistic.

The state Department of Education received 44 comments on the new standards as of Friday, most of which were critical of some or all of the rewritten standards. Department officials presented the board with a revised proposal during the Monday meeting at the Sioux Falls Ramkota hotel, addressing some concerns in the submitted feedback.

The proposed standards were reviewed by a 20-person revision committee earlier this year after being developed by a statewide advisory group. South Dakota Secretary of Education Joe Graves said the proposal leaves core concepts largely unchanged but describes them more clearly and concisely.

Graves told board members that the current standards are "incomprehensible" to some — especially parents and elementary school teachers. It's important for parents and primary educators to understand

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the standards so they can help support students and build a foundation in mathematics, he added.

All of the opponents who spoke against the standards on Monday were higher level math educators with specializations in the field.

Sharon Vestal, a math professor at South Dakota State University and president of the South Dakota Council of Teachers of Mathematics, said she was concerned the simplification removes clear language from the current standards, which could lead to new educators not teaching material students should know because it's not explicitly laid out.

Stephanie Higdon is with the Center for the Advancement of Math and Science Education at Black Hills State University. She worked with the state Department of Education when it surveyed school districts with higher math test scores prior to Graves' appointment as department secretary. Those "bright spot schools," she said, taught more closely to the current math standards.

"The current math standards are not broken when teachers believe in their students, believe that they can meet these standards and receive the support to do so," Higdon said.

Gail Jacobsma, a math teacher at Arlington, said the current standards aren't perfect, but "are quite good."

"For schools like mine, which have enviable math scores, they are vital," Jacobsma said. "They provide a detailed, coherent map for us to follow and help ensure that the instructional materials we purchase are well aligned."

The proposal pulls from other states' standards across the nation, and from the Archimedes standards, which the conservative-leaning National Association of Scholars says are "depoliticized": "No ideologies permeate the problems and tasks, no ethnomathematics guides the pedagogies, and no tangential applications have been inserted that politicize math." The Archimedes standards were written by an assistant professor at Hillsdale College in Michigan, which was also involved in South Dakota's revised social studies standards, accepted in 2023 after a lengthy and controversial process and implemented this school year.

Graves added that South Dakota students "lack significant progress" on math testing since the COVID-19 pandemic, which he attributed to the current standards. About 44% of students were proficient or above on the state test annually over the last five years, he said.

Department officials presented South Dakota's latest report card to the board at the Monday meeting, showing that math proficiency remained at 44%. English and reading increased by one percentage point to 52% proficiency.

Health standards also discussed; next meeting is in February

The board is also considering an update to South Dakota's health education standards.

Two South Dakota advocacy groups requested board members amend the standards: the South Dakota Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association wants to include caregiver education for students as Alzheimer's diagnoses increase in the state, and Call to Freedom wants to include abuse and human trafficking education for students.

Graves cautioned board members against adding more topics to the standards and encouraged organizations to work with local school districts to arrange instruction.

Some board members disagreed with Graves, suggesting the state should recommend additional health-related topics for schools.

The board will meet again on Feb. 23 in Pierre to take more public comment on the proposed math and health standards.

Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota's Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.

Shutdown battle ebbs, but Trump won't give up trying to withhold full SNAP benefits

BY: JACOB FISCHLER

The Trump administration continued Monday to press the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn lower court decisions requiring the federal government pay for full benefits for a major food program, even as Congress appeared to approach an end to the record-breaking government shutdown.

Late Sunday, the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a Rhode Island federal judge's order that the U.S. Department of Agriculture pay full November benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

On Monday morning, the top federal litigator told the Supreme Court the administration was continuing its appeal.

Later Monday, a Massachusetts federal judge kept in place an order canceling a USDA memo to states over the weekend asking them to "undo" full November benefits, while chastising the administration for sowing confusion. The memo had left states unsure how to proceed, and some refused to obey it.

President Donald Trump and top administration officials have resisted calls to fund November SNAP benefits during the shutdown that began Oct. 1. They argue that because Congress had not appropriated any money for the program for the fiscal year that began that date, USDA lacked the legal authority to make payments.

That position was a reversal from the first Trump administration's 2019 guidance and a shutdown plan the department published Sept. 30, then deleted, and has sparked several court challenges.

About 42 million people, about 1 in 8 Americans, use SNAP. Monday was the 41st day of the longest government shutdown in U.S. history.

Trump attorney seeks high court pause

In an afternoon brief following his morning notice to the high court, U.S. Solicitor General D. John Sauer largely repeated the argument he made in an initial appeal to the high court Nov. 7.

Sauer said courts could not command the USDA to "raid" a fund for child nutrition programs that holds about \$23 billion, so as to fund a roughly \$4 billion shortfall for SNAP in the short term.

He added Monday that the lower courts' orders threaten to derail a deal in the Senate to reopen the government, expected to be completed this week.

"Literally at the eleventh hour, those orders inject the federal courts into the political branches' closing efforts to end this shutdown," Sauer wrote. "But the answer to this crisis is not for federal courts to reallocate resources without lawful authority. The only way to end this crisis—which the Executive is adamant to end—is for Congress to reopen the government."

Sauer's brief came after Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson ordered the government to say how it would proceed in light of the 1st Circuit order late Sunday and gave the coalition of nonprofit groups and municipal government that brought the original suit until 8 a.m. Eastern on Tuesday to respond.

Massachusetts federal judge slams USDA

At an afternoon hearing in Massachusetts, U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani denounced USDA's Saturday night demand that states return authorized funding and maintained a temporary restraining order blocking it from going into effect.

The Saturday night memo called on states to "immediately undo" actions to send benefits to people who use SNAP.

But the states had been complying with a midday Nov. 7 memo from the same department official that instructed them to process full benefits in accordance with the Rhode Island order, Talwani said.

"What you have right now is confusion of the agency's own making," Talwani said.

Keith Becker, who represented the administration in the hearing, said that guidance was meant to keep

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states from distributing benefits while the Supreme Court stay, issued late Nov. 7, was in place.

Minnesota authorized benefits after the Supreme Court order, he said.

Talwani said he had provided no evidence of that.

Becker also said Wisconsin, Oregon and Michigan sent out benefits between the time of the Rhode Island order and the Nov. 7 guidance telling states to issue benefits, but Talwani said they were complying with the Rhode Island court order.

The Saturday letter to states was inappropriate, she added.

"It seems to me that the states acted fairly reasonably to follow your Nov. 7 guideline," she said. "Even if there is a mistake here, the notion that the next move, on Saturday night, is a blustering order, that they're all going to be sued, and this thing and that thing — we're trying to get ... benefits to people who need food."

She also said the administration appeared to be using Americans who use SNAP as political leverage, noting that even as the shutdown appears near its end, the administration was refusing to transfer reserve money from a fund that had enough to stay solvent into the spring.

"You've chosen not to pay your benefits at this point, and it's hard to see how it's not just being used as a leverage point," she said. "I understand that there's nice language about saying it's for child nutrition, but it doesn't really ring true right now."

Appeals court ruling

Federal courts have issued a flurry of rulings on the matter since groups, cities and Democratic states sued to force Trump to release November benefits late last month.

The late Sunday ruling came from a three-judge panel of the 1st Circuit, which upheld a Thursday order from U.S. District Chief Judge John J. McConnell Jr. that the government forfeited its option to issue partial November benefits when it missed a Nov. 5 deadline McConnell had set.

USDA had argued that making partial SNAP payments, which it had never done before, would be difficult. But it made no plans to prepare those partial benefits nearly a month into the shutdown, Judge Julie Rikelman wrote in the panel's opinion.

"The record here shows that the government sat on its hands for nearly a month, unprepared to make partial payments, while people who rely on SNAP received no benefits a week into November and counting," Rikelman wrote. "In light of these unique facts, we cannot conclude that the district court abused its discretion in requiring full payment of November SNAP benefits."

The U.S. Senate is expected to vote Monday night on a bill to end the shutdown. The measure is likely to pass after advancing in a key procedural vote Sunday, but the House would still need to clear it and Trump would have to sign it before the government will reopen. House members have been told to begin returning to Washington.

Sauer noted in his Monday letter that if the bill were to become law, the case would become moot.

Dems blast court fight

Congressional Democrats have been unsparing in their criticism of Trump's efforts to keep from paying November benefits.

U.S. House ranking Democrat Angie Craig of Minnesota said administration officials "simply do not care about America's hungry children, veterans, seniors or people with disabilities."

"Instead of helping hungry seniors and children, President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins spent weeks illegally withholding food assistance from hungry Americans," Craig said. "Now, they are again asking the Supreme Court to stop states from feeding hungry residents. The Trump administration would rather preserve its own sense of power than preserve the lives and wellbeing of hungry Americans."

Republicans have blamed Democrats for the lack of benefits payments, which they say could have been avoided if enough Senate Democrats voted with Republicans for a bill that would have temporarily reopened the government at current spending levels.

California Democrat Adam Schiff “voted against funding SNAP 15 times,” the Senate GOP X account wrote in response to a tweet from Schiff. “If he wants to fund SNAP, he should join the eight other Democrats who have voted to reopen the government instead.”

All but three Senate Democrats voted against the measure in 14 consecutive votes. Most continued to oppose the 15th vote Sunday, but seven Democrats and independent Sen. Angus King of Maine voted with Republicans on the bill to reopen the government that also included three full-year spending bills and reinstated fired federal workers.

Those votes gave Republicans the margin needed to bypass the Senate’s filibuster rule.

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.

Here’s the list of newly pardoned Trump fake electors, other allies

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced on Monday he pardoned his former lawyer Rudy Giuliani and other people allegedly involved in the attempt to overturn the 2020 presidential election, but the president’s federal pardon does not shield members of the group from state charges.

Posting to social media early Monday, U.S. Pardon Attorney Ed Martin released the names of 77 people for whom Trump signed federal pardons in a proclamation dated Nov. 7. Martin is an attorney who represented several people charged in the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection on the U.S. Capitol.

After losing the 2020 presidential election, Trump goaded his supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol and stop Congress from certifying the election results. He was later impeached by the House for a second time, in connection with the insurrection, but the Senate acquitted him.

It’s the latest move from the president, following his return to the White House, to absolve anyone involved in the efforts to overturn or challenge former President Joe Biden’s victory. The proclamation notes that pardons were granted to address “a grave national injustice.”

Those on the list include former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and Sidney Powell, a lawyer who was indicted along with Trump in a Georgia election case to overturn the state’s results in the 2020 presidential election.

The proclamation, which is only for federal charges, is symbolic and does not prevent state-level prosecutions. Many of the people named on the list were alleged to have been part of the fake electors’ plot to submit fraudulent certificates claiming that Trump won the battleground states of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, New Mexico, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, instead of Biden.

The White House did not respond to States Newsroom’s request for comment.

‘Pardoning a conspiracy’

A coalition of more than 100 pro-democracy groups, Not Above the Law, condemned the move by the president to pardon people involved in trying to subvert the 2020 presidential election.

“Trump isn’t just pardoning people – he’s pardoning a conspiracy and trying to rewrite history,” according to the coalition. “He’s creating a two-tier justice system where he and his allies operate above the law. In Trump’s America, loyalty overrides accountability to the Constitution and our federal laws.”

Those on the list include:

Mark Amick, a fake elector from Georgia.

Kathy Berden, a fake elector from Michigan.

Christina Bobb, a former personal lawyer for Trump.

Tyler Bowyer, a fake elector from Arizona.

Joseph Brannan, a fake elector from Georgia.

Carol Brunner, a fake elector from Wisconsin.

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Mary Buestrin, a fake elector from Wisconsin.
Darryl Carlson, a fake elector from Wisconsin.
James "Ken" Carroll, a fake elector from Georgia.
Brad Carver, a fake elector from Georgia.
Robert Cheeley, a lawyer who pushed false claims about Georgia's 2020 presidential election results.
Kenneth Chesebro, an architect of the fake electors plot.
Hank Choate, a fake elector from Michigan.
Jeffrey Clark, a Trump attorney who allegedly assisted the president in his failed bid to overturn the 2020 presidential election results.
Vikki Townsend Consiglio, a fake elector from Georgia.
Nancy Cottle, a fake elector from Arizona.
James DeGraffenreid, a fake elector from Nevada.
John Downey, a fake elector from Georgia.
John Eastman, an alleged architect of the fake electors plot.
Jenna Ellis, a Trump attorney who allegedly assisted the president in his failed bid to overturn the 2020 presidential election results.
Boris Epshteyn, a Trump advisor who was indicted in Arizona for trying to overturn the state's 2020 presidential election results.
Amy Facchinello, a fake elector from Michigan.
Bill Feehan, a fake elector from Wisconsin.
Carolyn Hall Fisher, a fake elector from Georgia.
Harrison Floyd, a lawyer who allegedly tried to overturn Georgia's 2020 presidential election results.
Clifford Frost, a fake elector from Michigan.
Gloria Kay Godwin, who tried to obtain signatures for a recall election petition in Georgia's 2020 presidential election.
Edward Scott Grabins, a fake elector from Wisconsin.
Stanley Grot, a fake elector from Michigan.
John Haggard, a fake elector from Michigan.
Scott Hall, the first to plead guilty in the 2020 election subversion case in Georgia.
Misty Hampton, who was indicted in Georgia's Fulton County election interference case.
David G. Hanna, a fake elector from Georgia.
Mark W. Hennessy, a fake elector from Georgia.
Mari-Ann Henry, a fake elector from Michigan.
Durward James Hindle III, a fake elector from Nevada.
Andrew Hitt, a fake elector from Wisconsin.
Jake Hoffman, a fake elector from Arizona.
Burt Jones, a fake elector from Georgia.
Anthony T. Kern, a fake elector from Arizona.
Kathy Kiernan, a fake elector from Wisconsin.
Timothy King, a fake elector from Michigan.
Trevian Kutti, former publicist of Kayne West, now Ye, who was accused of intimidating Fulton County election workers into falsely admitting to fraudulent ballots in the 2020 election.
James Lamon, a fake elector from Arizona.
Cathleen Alston Latham, a fake elector from Georgia.
Jesse Law, a fake elector from Nevada.
Stephen Cliffgard Lee, a Chicago pastor accused of intimidating Fulton County election workers into falsely admitting to fraudulent ballots in the 2020 election.
Michele Lundgren, a fake elector from Michigan.
Meshawn Maddock, a fake elector from Michigan.

Michael J. McDonald, a fake elector from Nevada.
Shawn Meehan, a fake elector from Nevada.
Robert Montgomery, a fake elector from Arizona.
Daryl Moody, a fake elector from Georgia.
Samuel I. Moorhead, a fake elector from Arizona.
Loraine B. Pellegrino, a fake elector from Arizona.
James Renner, a fake elector from Michigan.
Eileen Rice, a fake elector from Nevada.
Mayra Rodriguez, a fake elector from Michigan.
Mike Roman, a Trump attorney from Wisconsin who allegedly took part in the efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election.
Rose Rook, a fake elector from Michigan.
Kelly Ruh, a fake elector from Wisconsin.
Greg Safsten, a fake elector from Arizona.
David Shafer, a fake elector from Georgia.
Marian Sheridan, a fake elector from Michigan.
Ray Stallings Smith III, an attorney for Trump who allegedly tried to overturn the 2020 presidential election results in Georgia.
Robert F. Spindell Jr., a fake elector from Wisconsin.
Shawn Still, a fake elector from Georgia.
Ken Thompson, a fake elector from Michigan.
Pam Travis, a fake elector from Wisconsin.
James Troupis, an alleged architect of the fake electors plot.
Kent Vanderwood, a fake elector from Michigan.
Kelli Ward, a fake elector from Arizona.
Michael Ward, a fake elector from Arizona.
C.B. Yadav, a fake elector from Georgia.

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

Concerns over fairness, access rise as states compete for slice of \$50 billion rural health fund

BY: SARAH JANE TRIBBLE, KFF HEALTH NEWS AND ARIELLE ZIONTS, KFF HEALTH NEWS

RAPID CITY — Echo Kopplin wants South Dakota's leaders to know that money from a new \$50 billion federal rural health fund should help residents with limited transportation options.

Kopplin, a physician assistant who works with seniors, low-income people, and mental health patients in the rural Black Hills, shared her thoughts at a meeting hosted by state officials.

South Dakota's leaders did a "good job of diving in" and asking questions to get "deeper at the root of the problem," she said.

Kopplin later told KFF Health News how one of her rural patients recently missed two appointments because of a broken-down car and no access to public transportation.

Nationwide, health care workers like Kopplin and thousands of others — from patient advocates to technology executives — flocked to town halls or online portals during the seven weeks state leaders had to craft and submit their applications for the Rural Health Transformation Program to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. That deadline was Nov. 5.

"We will give \$50 billion away by the end of the year," CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz said Nov. 6 at a Milken Institute event in Washington. He said all 50 states had submitted applications.

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The program will “allow us to right-size the health care system,” Oz said, adding that innovations from the rural work “will spill over to suburban and urban America as well.”

Among applications and summaries publicly shared by states, themes include workforce development, telehealth, and access to healthy food. In Kansas, leaders want to build a “Food is Medicine” program. Wyoming officials propose a new program called “BearCare,” a state-sponsored health insurance plan that patients could use only after medical emergencies.

But many health policy experts and Democrats are raising alarms that the Republican-backed program will become a “slush fund.” Critics worry it will fail to reach the small-town patients they say need it most, especially as states face nearly a trillion dollars in Medicaid spending reductions over the next decade. Medicaid, a joint federal-state program, serves nearly 1 in 4 rural Americans.

“The status quo is tremendous distress in rural communities,” said Heather Howard, a professor of the practice at Princeton University and director of the university’s State Health and Value Strategies program, which is tracking the rural health fund. The new funding won’t be enough to offset the Medicaid losses, she said.

Congressional Republicans added the five-year, \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program as a last-minute sweetener to President Donald Trump’s massive tax-and-spending legislation. The move helped win support for the One Big Beautiful Bill Act from conservative holdouts who worried that the Medicaid cuts in the bill would harm rural hospitals in their states.

In Montana, which hosted an online public forum before submitting its application, a nonprofit director pitched youth peer support as a way of battling high suicide rates. A registered nurse asked state leaders to “think maybe even bigger” and consider statewide universal health care.

And in Georgia, a technology-focused chain of primary care clinics that serves seniors proposed expanding its operations into that state in its online public comment. A rural grant writer asked for “safe and stable housing.”

The law says half of the \$50 billion will be divided equally among all states with an approved application. The rest will be doled out according to a points-based system. Of the second half, \$12.5 billion will be allotted based on each state’s rurality. The remaining \$12.5 billion will go to states that score well on initiatives and policies that, in part, mirror the Trump administration’s “Make America Healthy Again” objectives.

Top Senate Democrats have raised alarms about the rural health program. They include Ron Wyden of Oregon and Tina Smith of Minnesota, who called on a federal watchdog agency to investigate the fairness and implementation of the fund. Taylor Harvey, a Wyden aide, said the Government Accountability Office has confirmed it will investigate.

According to the federal statute, no less than a quarter of states with an approved application may share the second half of the funding each fiscal year, CMS spokesperson Catherine Howden said. The agency plans to publish summaries of approved state projects, according to CMS guidance.

A handful of conservative-leaning states — including Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma — have already instituted regulatory and legislative initiatives, such as prohibiting “non-nutritious” foods in benefit programs, that garner additional points in the program application process.

Michael Chameides, a county supervisor in rural New York, said he fears the money could “be used in ways that would hurt certain states or reward certain states.” Chameides is also the communications and policy director with the Rural Democracy Initiative, a national advocacy organization that released a rural action report last month.

Edwin Park, a research professor at Georgetown University’s Center for Children and Families, said federal lawmakers gave Oz and his agency “really excessive discretion” when awarding the money.

Federal administrators have added rules that aren’t within the statute that created the program, Park said. For example, its application guidelines say states cannot use more than 15% of their funding to pay providers for patient care — payments that are expected to take a hit due to the Medicaid cuts.

Georgetown’s health policy experts and Democrats aren’t the only ones with concerns. Some Republicans and small hospitals in Ohio worry the money will go to large health systems instead of smaller, independent

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hospitals that serve people within their rural communities.

CMS' Oz repeated the idea of getting "big hospitals to adopt smaller institutions" at the Washington gathering after applications were filed. He used similar language at a rural health summit hosted by South Dakota-based Sanford Health. "How do we get big hospitals to adopt smaller hospitals? Not to take them over, but to keep them viable by giving them good telehealth services, specialty support, radiology support," he said at the October event.

Sanford owns or manages dozens of hospitals and hundreds of clinics and long-term care centers, as well as a health insurance company. The system reported about \$81 million in operating income during the first six months of fiscal year 2025, according to a recent bond rating report.

Last year, Sanford opened a "command center" for its systemwide telehealth initiative. It launched a telehealth expansion in 2021 and offers virtual care for 78 medical specialties, Sanford President and CEO Bill Gassen said.

"We've tried to imagine, what if that number doubles?" Gassen said. The startup costs for telehealth are high, he said, and the rural fund could be a unique opportunity "for us to make virtual care available to more patients, to more communities, to more hospitals and health systems across the country."

Gassen, who is set to chair the American Hospital Association in 2027, said Sanford leaders have met with state and federal officials, including Oz, whom he's known for years, and Chris Klomp, a top deputy at CMS and a senior adviser to Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

The word "telehealth" appears 36 times in the rural health program's 124-page application guidelines. But Don Robbins Jr., chief executive of a small hospital on the Illinois-Kentucky border, chuckled at the idea of using the funding for that purpose.

Robbins, whose 25-bed Massac Memorial Hospital averages five to seven patients in its beds each day, said his hospital does not regularly offer telehealth. Even if it did, he said, patients living more than a mile outside of town couldn't use it because they don't have a good internet connection.

The small hospital reported a \$31,314 loss in September, Robbins said. "I think if we get anything out of it," Robbins said of the rural health program, "we'll be lucky."

Kopplin, the physician assistant who attended the South Dakota meeting, is cautiously optimistic about the rural health fund. She views it as a wonderful chance for states to test out ideas and learn from what works and what doesn't.

But "in a lot of ways this bill is going to be a band-aid approach" for rural health, she said. "It's not really going to fix the problem.

Sarah Jane Tribble, senior correspondent, is the lead reporter on the rural health desk of KFF Health News. She created the organization's first narrative podcast, "Where It Hurts," about the closure of a rural Kansas hospital. An Emmy winner, she has received honors for her work from the National Press Club, the National Institute for Health Care Management, and the Association of Health Care Journalists. Before joining KFF Health News, she covered the health care industry in Cleveland for NPR and PBS, and spent more than a decade as a reporter for major newspapers from the Carolinas to California.

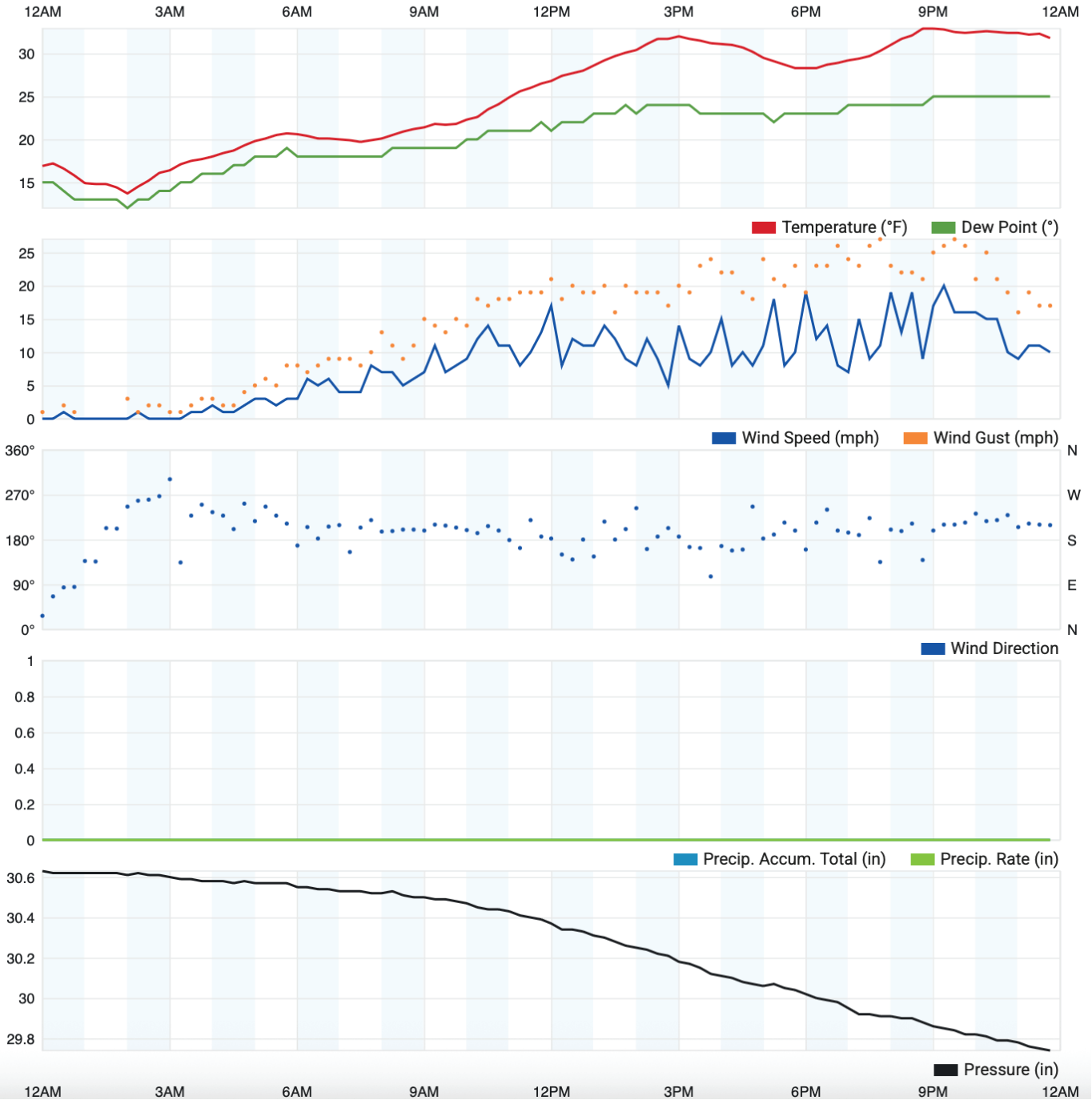
Arielle Zionts is the rural health care correspondent for KFF, primarily covering South Dakota, where she is based, and its neighboring states and tribal nations. Arielle previously worked at South Dakota Public Broadcasting, reporting on business and economic development. Before that, she was the criminal justice reporter at the Rapid City Journal and a general assignment reporter at Nogales International, on the Arizona-Mexico border. She graduated from Pitzer College in Claremont, California.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

November 10, 2025



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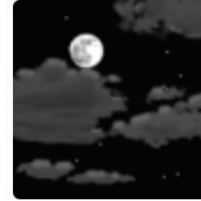
Veterans Day

Tonight

Wednesday

Wednesday
Night

Thursday



High: 54 °F

Low: 28 °F

High: 50 °F

Low: 28 °F

High: 53 °F

Sunny

Mostly Clear

Mostly Sunny

Partly Cloudy

Sunny

Veterans Day Forecast



Highs: 49-60°F

Lows: 26-33°F

Wind gusts of 25-35 mph,
highest over Sisseton Hills

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD



Clouds will be on the decrease this morning with overall sunny skies expected for the rest of this Veterans Day. Temperatures will run about 10 to 15 degrees above average.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 33 °F at 8:47 PM

Low Temp: 14 °F at 1:57 AM

Wind: 29 mph at 7:37 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 70 in 1912

Record Low: -8 in 1966

Average High: 45

Average Low: 21

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.33

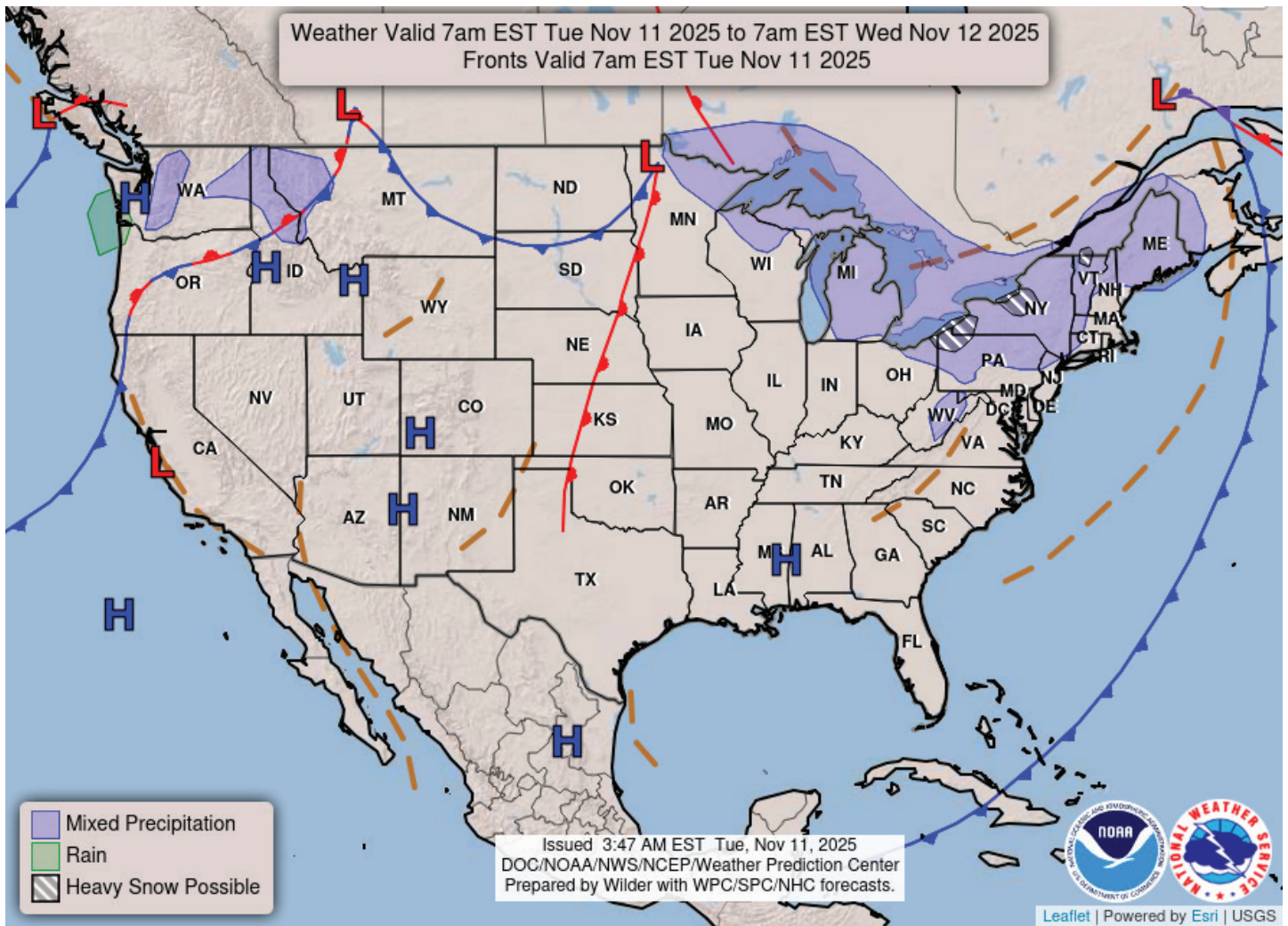
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.80

Precip Year to Date: 23.51

Sunset Tonight: 5:08 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:26 am



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Today in Weather History

November 11th, 1982: Wet snow and winds gusting to over 50 mph snapped almost a thousand power lines and poles. Snowfall amounts were 4 to 6 inches but ranged to nearly a foot or more in Brookings County. A wind gust of 75 mph was recorded in McCook County. Several semi-trucks jackknifed on ice-covered roads, and numerous other automobile accidents were reported due to the snow and strong winds.

November 11th, 2000: Heavy snow of 6 to 14 inches fell across central and northeast South Dakota and west-central Minnesota on November 11th and 12th, causing driving difficulties throughout the region. Many vehicles became stuck in the snow or slid into ditches. There were also several accidents, and many events were canceled. Some snowfall amounts include 14.0 inches in Miller; 13.8 inches near Mellette; 12.5 inches in Highmore; 11.5 inches near Iona; 11 inches in Wilmot; 10 inches in Aberdeen, near Bryant, and Artichoke Lake MN; 9.5 inches in Clark; and 9.0 inches in Clear Lake, near Onida, and Webster.

1911 - The central U.S. experienced perhaps its most dramatic cold wave of record. During the early morning temperatures across the Central Plains ranged from 68 degrees at Kansas City to 4 above North Platte NE. In Kansas City, the temperature warmed to a record 76 degrees by late morning before the arctic front moved in from the northwest. Skies become overcast, winds shifted to the northwest, and the mercury began to plummet. By early afternoon it was cold enough to snow, and by midnight the temperature had dipped to a record cold reading of 11 degrees above zero. Oklahoma City also established a record high of 83 degrees and record low of 17 degrees that same day. In southeastern Kansas, the temperature at Independence plunged from 83 degrees to 33 degrees in just one hour. The arctic cold front produced severe thunderstorms and tornadoes in the Mississippi Valley, a blizzard in the Ohio Va

1940: An Armistice Day storm raged across the Great Lakes Region and the Upper Midwest. A blizzard left 49 dead in Minnesota, and gales on Lake Michigan caused shipwrecks resulting in 59 deaths. Up to seventeen inches of snow fell in Iowa, and at Duluth MN, the barometric pressure reached 28.66 inches. The blizzard claimed a total of 154 lives and killed thousands of cattle in Iowa. Huge snowdrifts isolated whole towns.

1955 - An early arctic outbreak set many November temperature records across Oregon and Washington. The severe cold damaged shrubs and fruit trees. Readings plunged to near zero in western Washington, and dipped to 19 degrees below zero in the eastern part of the state. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A deepening low pressure system brought heavy snow to the east central U.S. The Veteran's Day storm produced up to 17 inches of snow in the Washington D.C. area snarling traffic and closing schools and airports. Afternoon thunderstorms produced five inches of snow in three hours. Gale force winds lashed the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast. Norfolk VA reported their earliest measurable snow in 99 years of records. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure brought snow to parts of the Rocky Mountain Region. Totals in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado ranged up to 10 inches at Summitville. Evening thunderstorms produced large hail in central Oklahoma and north central Texas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Veteran's Day was an unseasonably warm one across much of the nation east of the Rockies. Temperatures warmed into the 70s and 80s from the Southern and Central Plains to the southern half of the Atlantic coast. Thirty-four cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Saint Louis MO with a reading of 85 degrees. Calico AR and Gilbert AR reported record highs of 87 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)



Daily Devotion

Sharing the Good News

All who receive Jesus as Savior are redeemed and forgiven.

Acts 9:1-19

When people receive exciting news, what's the natural thing to do—keep it under wraps or tell others who can share in their joy? The second option, of course. That's the reason Paul told others about salvation; it was good news he simply couldn't keep to himself.

God saved Paul on the road to Damascus, and the apostle dedicated the rest of his life to spreading the good news of the gospel. Yes, he did so because he was thankful and felt devoted to the Lord. But there was more to the apostle's motivation—he also felt compelled to offer hope to a world in need (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

Paul's message was that God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world as a human being. Through His death on the cross, Jesus redeemed mankind, and all who receive Him as their Savior will be forgiven.

Paul realized the gospel had to be shared, but not just with those around him—he had to tell everyone! Some would accept the truth, while others would reject it. But Paul wasn't responsible for their reaction. His task was simply to tell about Jesus.

Do you feel the same joy and gratitude that Paul felt? Pray that God would give you the courage and wisdom to share His good news with others.

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

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Upcoming Groton Events

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.07.25

16 21 23 48 70 5

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$900,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 18 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.10.25

6 14 17 26 28 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$6,800,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 33 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.10.25

11 17 32 39 44 13

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 48 Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.08.25

19 20 26 33 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$79,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 48 Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.10.25

26 39 43 47 66 19

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 17 Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.10.25

6 28 44 48 58 23

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$512,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 17 Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Arctic air hits much of the US, bringing snow to some areas and very chilly temperatures to Florida

By SAFIYAH RIDDLE and MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

Some of this autumn's coldest weather yet is bearing down on the United States, enveloping the eastern two-thirds of the country in Arctic air on Monday and affecting millions of people.

National Weather Service forecasters said the weather could bring record low temperatures in the U.S. Southeast, including all of Florida, where parts of the state were near 80 degrees (27 C) just a day ago.

The cold air brought gusty wind and red flag warnings in the Great Plains on Monday, and forecasters said the Great Lakes and Appalachian Mountain regions could see 4 inches (10 centimeters) to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of snow.

Around Lake Erie, forecasters warned of possible lake-effect snow, where copious amounts can fall in relatively narrow bands, drastically increasing snowfall near the water while leaving other nearby areas untouched.

Cold weather warnings were issued for Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky, with freezing temperatures predicted for a large swath farther south, from Texas and Oklahoma to Alabama and Georgia.

The wintry weather contributed to flight delays across the country, including four-hour wait times at airports like the busy Chicago O'Hare International Airport. The cold front compounded the impacts of Federal Aviation Administration's order to cancel thousands of flights in response to the federal budget shutdown that has forced air traffic controllers to work unpaid for over a month. Some have stopped showing up for work, citing the added stress and need to take second jobs.

Chill could cause falling iguanas in Florida

In Florida, forecasters said wind chills could dip to the 30s (minus 1 C). Whenever it gets that cold in the Sunshine State, many look to the trees: Iguanas, an invasive reptile species, have previously gone into a sort of suspended animation and fallen to the ground when temperatures dip below 40 degrees (4 C). They usually wake up with the sun's warmth — although it is unclear whether any of the reptiles will tumble from the treetops this time.

Across the south, many local governments opened heated shelters for residents struggling to cope with the cold.

Those resources are invaluable in St. Louis, Missouri, where some people are still waiting for essential repairs on their houses after a powerful EF3 tornado ripped through the region in May. City officials announced Monday that emergency shelters would be open for homeless people as well as those who still dealing with the aftermath.

Hazardous conditions for road travel

In Tennessee, temperatures dropped to 30 (minus 1 C) into Sunday morning, and areas with higher elevation in the eastern part of the state reported that 3 inches (7.6 centimeters) of new snow had fallen by 9 a.m., causing some school closures. Snowy roads led to a crash involving multiple vehicles and about an hourlong shutdown on westbound Interstate 40 in Putnam County, east of Nashville, the county sheriff's office announced.

Further north, as temperatures dropped across the nation's midsection, meteorologists warned of hazardous travel conditions through winter weather advisories for Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin. Snow fell Sunday in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where meteorologists warned of low visibility and up to a foot (30 centimeters) of snow by Monday.

In Indiana, weather experts predicted up to 11 inches (28 centimeters) of snow and "slippery surfaces" for road travel. Up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) of snow were predicted in parts of Wisconsin.

"Patchy blowing snow" and wind chills hovering near freezing were expected in portions of Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota. Some areas got measurable fluff a day earlier, including 4 inches (10 centimeters) of snow in parts of the Midwest.

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meters) of snow in southwest Minnesota and more than 5 inches (13 centimeters) in northern Iowa.

Gardeners, the growing season has now ended

Weather experts issued special guidance for gardeners in the Midwest and northeast, saying the freeze warning means the growing season has ended.

"Take steps now to protect tender plants from the cold," warned meteorologists in Arkansas.

Growers of peppers, eggplants, squash and leafy greens in north Florida were harvesting as much as they could on Monday and preparing irrigation lines to make sure they don't freeze up and crack.

South Florida, where most of the state's winter fruits and vegetables are grown, was expected to be spared any freeze based on the current forecast. Citrus, Florida's best-known crop, also was expected to dodge a hit since citrus trees typically sustain damage only when the thermometer drops below 28 degrees (minus 2.2 C).

"The freezing temperatures are likely to miss our major growing regions for fruits and vegetables," said Christina Morton, a spokeswoman for the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association.

The cold snap may have a sweet side: As long as temperatures stay above freezing, some Florida crops such as strawberries and blueberries could benefit because cool weather enhances their taste and quality, Morton said.

A suicide bomber targets an Islamabad court, killing 12 people and wounding 27, minister says

By MUNIR AHMED and ISHTIAQ MAHSUD Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A suicide bomber struck outside the gates of a district court in Islamabad on Tuesday, detonating his explosives next to a police car and killing 12 people, Pakistan's interior minister said. The attack was the latest in an uptick of violence across the country.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion, which also wounded at least 27 people, but Pakistan has struggled over the past months with a resurgent Pakistani Taliban.

The blast, which was heard miles away, came at a time when the area is typically crowded with hundreds of visitors attending court hearings. Earlier reports by Pakistani state-run media and two security officials said a car bomb had caused the explosion.

The attacker tried to "enter the court premises but, failing to do so, targeted a police vehicle," Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi told reporters.

He refrained from blaming any militant group but added that authorities are "looking into all aspects" of the attack. Naqvi said police investigators also confirmed the blast was caused by a suicide bomber.

According to media reports, the casualties were mostly passersby or those who had arrived for court appointments. Islamabad police did not immediately issue statements about the attack but said they were still investigating.

Overnight attack at an army-run college

In an earlier development, Pakistani security forces said they foiled an attempt by militants to take cadets hostage at an army-run college overnight, when a suicide car bomber and five other attackers targeted the facility in a northwestern province.

The authorities blamed the Pakistani Taliban, which is separate from but allied with Afghanistan's Taliban, but the group denied involvement in that attack on Monday evening.

The attack started when a bomber tried to storm the cadet college in Wana, a city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province near the Afghan border. The area had until recent years served as a base for the Pakistani Taliban, al-Qaida and other foreign militants.

According to Alamgir Mahsud, the local police chief, two of the militants were quickly killed by troops while three militants managed to enter the compound before being cornered in an administrative block. The army's commandoes were among the forces conducting a clearance operation and an intermittent exchange of fire went on into Tuesday, Mahsud said.

The administrative block is away from the building housing hundreds of cadets and other staff.

The Pakistani Taliban, or TTP, have become emboldened since the Taliban seized power in Kabul in 2021, and many of the group's leaders and fighters are believed to have taken refuge in Afghanistan.

Pakistan has seen a surge in militant attacks in recent years. The deadliest assault on a school occurred in 2014 when Taliban gunmen killed 154 people, mostly children, at an army-run school in Peshawar. According to the military, the assailants wanted to repeat Monday what happened during the 2014 attack in Peshawar.

Peace talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan stall

Tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan have risen in recent months.

Kabul has blamed Islamabad for drone strikes on Oct. 9 that killed several people in the Afghan capital and vowed retaliation. The ensuing cross-border fighting killed dozens of soldiers, civilians and militants before Qatar brokered a ceasefire on Oct. 19, which remains in place.

Since then, two rounds of peace talks have been held in Istanbul — the latest on Thursday — but ended without agreement after Kabul refused to provide a written assurance that the TTP and other militant groups would not use Afghan territory against Pakistan.

An earlier, brief ceasefire between Pakistan and the TTP, brokered by Kabul in 2022, collapsed later after the group accused Islamabad of violating it.

A deadly car explosion in New Delhi is being investigated under an anti-terrorism law

By SHEIKH SAALIQ and RAJESH ROY Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian police were investigating a deadly car explosion in New Delhi under an anti-terrorism law, officials said Tuesday, as forensic experts worked to determine the cause of the blast.

The explosion occurred near the historic Red Fort late Monday, killing at least eight people and injuring several others.

Senior police officials told The Associated Press that a case was registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, India's main anti-terrorism law, which allows broader powers to investigating agencies to detain suspects. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a scheduled visit to Bhutan on Tuesday, said investigators would "get to the bottom of this conspiracy."

"The conspirators won't be spared and all those responsible will be brought to justice," Modi said.

Police said the explosion was believed to have originated from a Hyundai i20 car that had stopped at a traffic signal. Nearby vehicles were badly damaged, and photos showed shattered windows, twisted metal and flames engulfing several cars.

Police were attempting to trace the car's owner. There was no immediate information about the occupants, who were believed to have been killed.

No arrests had been made Tuesday but investigators were "probing all possible angles, including a terror attack, an accidental blast or any kind of failure in car," Delhi police spokesman Sanjay Tyagi told the AP.

"Teams are working on leads available so far. Final shape of the investigation will be decided after the forensic team gives a final report on use of any explosives," he said.

Senior police officials said they also were probing possible links to the recovery of arms and material used to make explosives in a separate incident in neighboring Haryana state on Monday.

Police recovered 360 kilograms (793 pounds) of ammonium nitrate, a chemical used to make explosives, and an assault rifle and a pistol in Faridabad city, which borders the Indian capital. The recovery was made before the car explosion.

Home Minister Amit Shah said Monday that "all angles" were being investigated and that security agencies would reach a conclusion soon. He said footage from cameras in the area would play a key role in the investigation.

Major train stations, including in Mumbai and in Uttar Pradesh state, which borders New Delhi, were put on security alert. The security force responsible for guarding key installations in the capital, including New

Delhi's international airport, metro system and major government buildings, said its personnel had also been placed on security alert.

A former imperial palace, the Red Fort is a sprawling Mughal-era complex and a major tourist attraction in the Old Delhi section of the city. Located about 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) from Parliament, the 17th-century monument is a symbolic location where Indian prime ministers deliver Independence Day speeches on Aug. 15 each year.

The area around Red Fort is typically crowded, serving as a main route to the bustling bazaars of the old city.

Trump threatens to sue BBC over edited speech that sparked resignations by news bosses

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened legal action against the BBC over the way a speech he made was edited in a documentary aired by Britain's national broadcaster.

BBC chairman Samir Shah on Monday apologized for the "error of judgment," which triggered the resignations of the BBC's top executive and its head of news.

Director-General Tim Davie and news chief Deborah Turness quit Sunday over accusations of bias and misleading editing of a speech Trump delivered on Jan. 6, 2021, before a crowd of his supporters stormed the Capitol in Washington.

The hourlong documentary — titled "Trump: A Second Chance?" — was broadcast as part of the BBC's "Panorama" series days before the 2024 U.S. presidential election. It spliced together three quotes from two sections of the 2021 speech, delivered almost an hour apart, into what appeared to be one quote in which Trump urged supporters to march with him and "fight like hell." Among the parts cut out was a section where Trump said he wanted supporters to demonstrate peacefully.

Shah said the broadcaster accepted "that the way the speech was edited did give the impression of a direct call for violent action."

A letter from Trump attorney Alejandro Brito demands the BBC "retract the false, defamatory, disparaging, and inflammatory statements," apologize and "appropriately compensate President Trump for the harm caused," or face legal action for \$1 billion in damages.

The BBC said it would review the letter "and respond directly in due course."

Top executives quit

Trump had earlier welcomed the resignations of the two BBC executives. He 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!"

In a resignation letter to staff, Davie said: "There have been some mistakes made and as director-general I have to take ultimate responsibility."

Turness said the controversy was damaging the BBC, and she quit "because the buck stops with me." She defended the organization's journalists against allegations of bias.

"Our journalists are hardworking people who strive for impartiality, and I will stand by their journalism," she said Monday. "There is no institutional bias. Mistakes are made, but there's no institutional bias."

Trump speech edited

Pressure on the broadcaster's top executives has been growing since the right-leaning Daily 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 "Panorama" episode showed an edited clip from the January 2021 speech in which Trump claimed the 2020 presidential election had been rigged. Trump is shown saying: "We're going to walk down to the

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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: "I'll be there with you, we're going to walk down, we're going to walk down. Anyone you want, but I think right here, 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."

Trump used the "fight like hell" phrase toward the end of the 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.

In a letter to Parliament's Culture, Media and Sport Committee, Shah said the purpose of editing Trump's words had been "to convey the message of the speech" so that viewers could understand how it had been received by Trump's supporters and what was happening on the ground.

He said the program had not attracted "significant audience feedback" when it first aired but had drawn more than 500 complaints since Prescott's dossier was made public.

Shah acknowledged in a BBC interview that "it would have been better to have acted earlier. But we didn't."

A national institution

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 who watch live TV or any BBC content.

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.

Governments of both left and right have long been accused of meddling with the broadcaster, which is overseen by a board that includes both BBC nominees and government appointees.

Some defenders of the BBC allege that members of the board appointed under previous Conservative governments have been undermining the corporation from within.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's spokesman, Tom Wells, said the center-left Labour Party government supports "a strong, independent BBC" and doesn't think the broadcaster is biased.

"But it is important that the BBC acts to maintain trust and corrects mistakes quickly when they occur," he said.

The Supreme Court is expected to say whether full SNAP food payments can resume

By GEOFF MULVIHILL and MARGERY BECK Associated Press

It's up to the U.S. Supreme Court and Congress to decide when full payments will resume under the SNAP food aid program that helps 1 in 8 Americans buy groceries as the financial pressures mount on families in some states.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule Tuesday on a request from President Donald Trump's administration to keep blocking states from providing full benefits, arguing the money might be needed elsewhere.

The seesawing rulings so far have created a situation where beneficiaries in some states, including Hawaii and New Jersey, have received their full monthly allocations and those in others, such as Nebraska and

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West Virginia, have seen nothing.

The legal wrangling could be made moot if the U.S. House adopts and Trump signs legislation to end the federal government shutdown quickly.

SNAP has been the center of an intense fight in court

The Trump administration chose to cut off funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program after October due to the shutdown. That decision sparked lawsuits and a string of swift and contradictory judicial rulings that deal with government power — and impact the food access for 42 million Americans.

The administration went along with a pair of rulings from Oct. 31 from judges who said the government must provide at least partial funding for SNAP. It eventually said that recipients would get up to 65% of their regular benefits. But it balked last week when one of the judges said that it must fund the program fully for November, even if it means digging into funds the government said need to be maintained in case of emergencies elsewhere.

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to pause that order.

An appeals court said Monday that full funding should resume — and that requirement is set to kick in Tuesday night unless the top court takes action again.

It's also a point in Congressional talks about reopening government

The U.S. Senate on Monday passed legislation to reopen the federal government with a plan that would include replenishing SNAP funds.

Speaker Mike Johnson told members of the House to return to Washington to consider the deal a small group of Senate Democrats made with Republicans.

Trump has not said whether he would sign it if it reaches his desk, but told reporters at the White House on Sunday that it "looks like we're getting close to the shutdown ending."

If the deal is finalized, it's not clear how quickly SNAP benefits might start flowing.

Still, the Trump administration said in a filing Monday with the Supreme Court that it shouldn't be up to the courts. "The answer to this crisis is not for federal courts to reallocate resources without lawful authority," Solicitor General D. John Sauer said in the papers. "The only way to end this crisis — which the Executive is adamant to end — is for Congress to reopen the government."

The impact is urgent for beneficiaries

The cascading legal rulings — plus the varying responses of each state to the shutoff — means people who rely on SNAP are in vastly different situations.

Some have all their benefits, some have none. In states including North Carolina and Texas, beneficiaries have received partial amounts.

In Pennsylvania, full benefits went out to some people on Friday. But Jim Malliard, 41, of Franklin, said he had not received anything by Monday.

Malliard is a full-time caretaker for his wife, who is blind and had a series of strokes earlier this year, and his teenage daughter, who suffered severe medical complications from surgery last year.

That stress has only been compounded by the pause in the \$350 a month he receives in SNAP for himself, his wife and daughter. He has yet to receive any SNAP payment for November, and he's down to \$10 in his account and is relying on what's left in the pantry — mostly rice and ramen.

"It's kind of been a lot of late nights, making sure I had everything down to the penny to make sure I was right," Malliard said. "To say anxiety has been my issue for the past two weeks is putting it mildly."

Air travelers face frustration as FAA's further drop in flights takes effect

By RIO YAMAT and JOSH FUNK Associated Press

Air travelers could face more frustration as busy U.S. airports need to meet a higher Federal Aviation Administration target for reducing flights Tuesday after already canceling thousands to scale back demands on the nation's aviation system during the government shutdown.

The FAA ordered domestic airlines last week to drop 4% of their flights at 40 major U.S. airports, say-

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ing absences and signs of stress among traffic controllers made it imperative to act in the name of public safety. After already canceling more than 7,900 since Friday, the goal for cutting flights is set to rise to 6% on Tuesday and again to 10% on Friday.

But it was unclear exactly how many additional flights would need to be canceled Tuesday. The average cancellation rate over the last few days already exceeded the FAA's requirement, according to aviation analytics company Cirium. The FAA also expanded its flight restrictions Monday, barring business jets and many private flights from using a dozen airports already under commercial flight limits.

However, controller shortages continued to lead to flight delays, including one of about five hours for arriving flights Monday evening at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, where wintry weather added to staffing-related disruptions earlier in the day. The FAA warned that staffing at over a dozen towers and control centers could delay planes departing for Phoenix, San Diego, the New York area and Houston, among other cities.

Freezing weather in parts of the country on Tuesday could cause further delays and cancellations.

The Senate passed legislation Monday to reopen the government, but the bill still needs to clear the House and final passage could be days away. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy made clear last week that flight cuts will remain until the FAA sees staffing levels stabilize at its air traffic control facilities.

Many planes also aren't where they're supposed to be, which could slow the airlines' return to normal operations even after the FAA lifts the order, said Mike Taylor, who leads research on airports and airlines at J.D. Power.

Todd Walker said he missed his mom's 80th birthday when his flight was canceled over the weekend.

"All of this has real negative consequences for millions of Americans, and it's 100% unnecessary and avoidable," he said.

The FAA had come under criticism after its original order only applied to a very small subsection of private planes. But some want to see even more done.

Patriotic Millionaires, a group of wealthy Americans pushing for more progressive taxes, is calling for all private jets to be grounded during the shutdown.

"Rich people are taking their joyrides while average Americans don't make it to grandma's bedside in time," said Erica Payne, its founder and president.

She added that none of its members that still fly private have reported cancellations or delays since the FAA's order took effect.

Tuesday marks the second missed payday for controllers. Some have started calling out of work, citing stress and the need to take on second jobs.

It's unclear how quickly controllers might be paid once the shutdown ends — it took more than two months to receive full back pay after the 35-day shutdown that ended in 2019, said Nick Daniels, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

President Donald Trump took to social media on Monday to pressure controllers to "get back to work, NOW!!!" He called for a \$10,000 bonus for those who've stayed on the job and suggested docking pay for those who haven't.

Daniels said the shutdown has made controllers' demanding jobs even more stressful, leading to fatigue and increased risks. He said the number who are retiring or quitting is "growing" by the day.

Senate approves bill to end the shutdown, sending it to the House

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, LISA MASCARO and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate passed legislation Monday to reopen the government, bringing the longest shutdown in history closer to an end as a small group of Democrats ratified a deal with Republicans despite searing criticism from within their party.

The 41-day shutdown could last a few more days as members of the House, which has been on recess since mid-September, return to Washington to vote on the legislation. President Donald Trump has signaled support for the bill, saying Monday that "we're going to be opening up our country very quickly."

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The final Senate vote, 60-40, broke a grueling stalemate that lasted more than six weeks as Democrats demanded that Republicans negotiate with them to extend health care tax credits that expire Jan. 1. The Republicans never did, and five moderate Democrats eventually switched their votes as federal food aid was delayed, airport delays worsened and hundreds of thousands of federal workers continued to go unpaid.

House Speaker Mike Johnson urged lawmakers to start returning to Washington "right now" given shutdown-related travel delays, but an official notice issued after the Senate vote said the earliest the House will vote is Wednesday afternoon.

"It appears our long national nightmare is finally coming to an end," said Johnson, who has kept the House out of session since mid-September, when the House passed a bill to continue government funding.

How the stalemate ended

After weeks of negotiations, A group of three former governors — New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire Sen. Maggie Hassan and Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine — agreed to vote to advance three bipartisan annual spending bills and extend the rest of government funding until late January. Republicans promised to hold a vote to extend the health care subsidies by mid-December, but there was no guarantee of success.

Shaheen said Monday that "this was the option on the table" after Republicans had refused to budge.

"We had reached a point where I think a number of us believed that the shutdown had been very effective in raising the concern about health care," she said, and the promise for a future vote "gives us an opportunity to continue to address that going forward."

The legislation includes a reversal of the mass firings of federal workers by the Trump administration since the shutdown began on Oct. 1. It also protects federal workers against further layoffs through January and guarantees they are paid once the shutdown is over.

In addition to Shaheen, King and Hassan, Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, home to tens of thousands of federal workers, also voted Sunday in favor of moving forward on the agreement. Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat, Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman and Nevada Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen also voted yes. All other Democrats, including Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York, voted against it.

The moderates had expected a larger number of Democrats to vote with them as 10 to 12 Democratic senators had been part of the negotiations. But in the end, only five 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.

Many Democrats call the vote a "mistake"

Schumer, who received blowback from his party in March when he voted to keep the government open, said he could not "in good faith" support it after meeting with his caucus for more than two hours on Sunday.

"We will not give up the fight," Schumer said, adding that Democrats have now "sounded the alarm" on health care.

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 voters who overwhelmingly supported Democrats in last week's elections were urging them to "hold firm."

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.

Others gave Schumer a nod of support. House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries had criticized Schumer in March after his vote to keep the government open. But he praised the Senate Democratic leader on Monday and expressed support for his leadership throughout the shutdown.

"The American people know we are on the right side of this fight," Jeffries said Monday, pointing to Tuesday's election results.

Health care debate ahead

It's unclear whether the two parties would be able to find any common ground on the health care sub-

sidies before a promised December vote in the Senate. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., has said he will not commit to bringing it up in his chamber.

On Monday, Johnson said House Republicans have always been open to voting to reform what he called the "unaffordable care act" but again did not say if they would vote on the subsidies.

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. Some argue that the tax dollars for the plans should be routed through individuals.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Susan Collins said Monday that she's supportive of extending the tax credits with changes, like new income caps. Some Democrats have signaled they could be open to that idea.

"We do need to act by the end of the year, and that is exactly what the majority leader has promised," Collins said.

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.

In a possible preview, the Senate voted 47-53 along party lines Monday not to extend the subsidies for a year. Majority Republicans allowed the vote as part of a separate deal with Democrats to speed up votes and send the legislation to the House.

Shutdown to leave mark on US economy from lost paychecks, canceled flights

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The longest federal government shutdown in U.S. history appears to be nearing an end, but not without leaving a mark on an already-struggling economy.

About 1.25 million federal workers haven't been paid since Oct. 1. Thousands of flights have been canceled, a trend that is expected to continue this week even as Congress moves toward reopening the government. Government contract awards have slowed and some food aid recipients have seen their benefits interrupted.

Most of the lost economic activity will be recovered when the government reopens, as federal workers will receive back pay. But some canceled flights won't be retaken, missed restaurant meals won't be made up, and some postponed purchases will end up not happening at all.

"Short-lived shutdowns are usually invisible in the data, but this one will leave a lasting mark," Gregory Daco, chief economist at accounting giant EY said, "both because of its record length and the growing disruptions to welfare programs and travel."

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that a six-week shutdown will reduce growth in this year's fourth quarter by about 1.5 percentage points. That would cut growth by half from the third quarter. The reopening should boost first-quarter growth next year by 2.2 percentage points, the CBO projected, but about \$11 billion in economic activity will be permanently lost.

The previous longest government shutdown, in 2018-2019, lasted 35 days but only partially shut the government because many agencies had been fully funded. It only nicked the economy by about 0.02% of GDP, the CBO said then.

The current shutdown is adding to the economy's existing challenges, which include sluggish hiring, stubbornly elevated inflation, and President Donald Trump's tariffs, which have caused uncertainty for many businesses. Still, few economists foresee a recession.

About 650,000 federal workers didn't work during the shutdown, which will likely boost the unemployment rate by about 0.4 percentage points in October, or to 4.7% from 4.3% in August, when the last report was released. Those workers would all then be counted as employed once the government reopens.

Here are the ways the government closure is weighing on the economy:

Missed paychecks

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All told, federal workers will have missed about \$16 billion in wages by mid-November, the CBO estimates. That has meant less spending at stores, restaurants, and likely reduced holiday travel. Large purchases will probably be postponed, slowing the broader economy.

Trump had threatened during the shutdown to not provide back pay but the deal struck in Congress would replace those lost wages once the government reopens.

The shutdown has added to the Washington, D.C. area's economic woes, where the unemployment rate was already 6% before the shutdown, after Trump's cuts to the federal workforce this spring caused job losses. While the Washington, D.C. area — including the nearby suburbs in Virginia and Maryland — have the highest concentration of federal workers, most live and work outside of the nation's capital.

Federal workers make up about 5.5% of Maryland's workforce, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center. But they also comprise 2.9% of New Mexico's workers, 2.6% of Oklahoma's, and 3.8% of Alaska's.

Then there are the federal contractors. Bernard Yaros, an economist at Oxford Economics, estimates they could total as many as 5.2 million, and they are not guaranteed back pay once the shutdown ends.

Flight disruptions

Airlines scrapped more than 2,000 flights by Monday evening after canceling 5,500 since Friday on orders from the Federal Aviation Administration, which is seeking to reduce the burden on overworked air traffic controllers, who have now missed two paychecks.

Even before the flight cancellations, Tourism Economics, an economic consulting firm, estimated that the shutdown would reduce travel spending by \$63 million a day, which means a six-week standoff would cost the travel industry \$2.6 billion.

The canceled flights also mean less business for hotels, restaurants, and taxi drivers. And federal employees have already pulled the plug on upcoming trips, according to Tourism Economics, which may not be able to be rescheduled even when the government does reopen.

Consumer sentiment

The shutdown has worsened Americans' outlook on the broader economy. Declining consumer sentiment can over time reduce spending and slow growth, though in recent years Americans have kept shopping even when their outlooks turned grim.

Consumer sentiment dropped to a three-year low and close to the lowest point ever recorded in a survey by the University of Michigan, reported Friday, with pessimism over personal finances and anticipated business conditions weighing on Americans.

The November survey showed the index of consumer sentiment at 50.4, down a startling 6.2% from last month and a plunge of nearly 30% from a year ago.

Federal spending

While the shutdown hasn't cut off all federal government spending, it has reduced purchases of equipment and has cut off the issuance of new contracts.

Yaros estimates that about \$800 million in new contracts were at risk of not being awarded each day of the shutdown.

"The federal award spigot has all but turned off at the Department of Defense, NASA, and the Department of Homeland Security," Yaros wrote.

SNAP benefits

The shutdown delayed the payment of \$8 billion in monthly SNAP food aid to 42 million recipients in November, creating a significant financial disruption for many households that likely reduced spending. Some states have managed to pay full benefits for this month, though the Trump administration is still fighting over the issue in court.

The deal currently under consideration in Congress to reopen the government includes full funding of SNAP benefits.

Interest rate cuts

The government shutdown cut off the flow of economic data on unemployment, inflation, and retail spending that the Federal Reserve depends on to monitor the economy's health. Even as the government reopens, some of that data will still be delayed. As a result, the Fed may not deliver a third interest rate

cut at its December meeting, which was widely expected before the shutdown.

"What do you do if you're driving in the fog? You slow down," Fed Chair Jerome Powell said at a news conference late last month.

Powell said the Fed's interest-rate setting committee is deeply divided over whether to reduce its key rate, partly because the economy's health is unusually cloudy right now. The government has missed two monthly jobs reports and the October inflation data, scheduled to be published Thursday, will likely never be issued.

Powell said a rate cut in December was not a "foregone conclusion" and added that the lack of data could contribute to a decision by the Fed to skip a rate cut at its next meeting December 9-10. Fewer rate cuts could discourage borrowing and spending and weigh on the economy in the coming months.

'While Trump threatens controllers, US flight cancellations will drag on even after shutdown ends

By RIO YAMAT and JOSH FUNK Associated Press

Air travelers should expect worsening cancellations and delays this week even if the government shutdown ends, as the Federal Aviation Administration rolls out deeper cuts to flights at 40 major U.S. airports, officials said Monday.

The fourth day of the flight restrictions saw airlines scrap over 2,300 flights Monday and more than 1,000 flights set for takeoff Tuesday. Unpaid for more than a month, some air traffic controllers have begun calling out of work, citing stress and the need to take on second jobs.

President Donald Trump took to social media on Monday to pressure controllers to "get back to work, NOW!!!" He called for a \$10,000 bonus for those who've stayed on the job and suggested docking pay for those who haven't.

Rep. Rick Larsen, the top Democrat on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Sen. Tammy Duckworth, ranking member of the Senate's Aviation Subcommittee, condemned the president's remarks, saying controllers deserve appreciation and support — not attacks.

The head of the controllers union says its members are being used as a "political pawn" in the shutdown fight.

Meanwhile, the Senate passed legislation Monday to reopen the government, though the bill also needs to clear the House and final passage could be days away. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy made clear last week that flight cuts will remain in place until the FAA sees staffing levels stabilize at its air traffic control facilities.

And because the flight disruptions are widespread and ongoing, many planes aren't where they're supposed to be, which could also slow the airlines' return to normal operations even after the FAA lifts the order, said Mike Taylor, who leads research on airports and airlines at J.D. Power.

"If you think about it, there's all these aircraft that didn't fly where they were supposed to on a normal route," Taylor said, noting airlines will need to track down all their planes, figure out where each needs to be, and find pilots and cabin crew for those flights.

Since Friday, airlines have canceled about 8,000 flights under orders to drop 4% of flights at 40 of the nation's busiest airports. That will rise to 6% on Tuesday and 10% by week's end, the FAA says.

One in 10 flights nationwide were scratched Sunday — the fourth worst day for cancellations in almost two years, according aviation analytics firm Cirium.

Controller shortages also led to five-hour delays Monday evening at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, where wintry weather added to the disruptions earlier in the day, and the FAA warned that staffing at over a dozen towers and control centers could cause delays in cities including Philadelphia, Nashville and Atlanta.

That leaves travelers growing angry.

"All of this has real negative consequences for millions of Americans, and it's 100% unnecessary and avoidable," said Todd Walker, who missed his mom's 80th birthday when his flight was canceled over the

weekend.

The FAA also expanded flight restrictions Monday, barring business jets and many private flights from using a dozen airports already under commercial flight limits.

Airports nationwide have seen intermittent delays since the shutdown began because the FAA slows air traffic when it's short on controllers to ensure flights remain safe.

The shutdown has made controllers' demanding jobs even more stressful, leading to fatigue and increased risks, said Nick Daniels, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. He said the number who are retiring or quitting is "growing" by the day.

During the six weekends since the shutdown began, an average of 30 air traffic control facilities had staffing issues. That's almost four times the number on weekends this year before the shutdown, according to an Associated Press analysis of operations plans sent through the Air Traffic Control System Command Center system.

Tuesday will be the second missed payday for controllers. It's unclear how quickly they might be paid once the shutdown ends — it took more than two months to receive full back pay after the 35-day shutdown that ended in 2019, Daniels said.

The latest shutdown and money worries have become regular "dinnertime conversations" for Amy Lark and her husband, both Washington, D.C., area air traffic controllers.

"Yesterday, my kids asked me how long we could stay in our house," Lark said. Still, she said controllers remain "100% committed."

Thailand threatens to suspend truce with Cambodia after a land mine injures troops

By JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand threatened Monday to suspend a U.S.-brokered ceasefire with Cambodia after a land mine explosion along their volatile border injured four Thai soldiers.

Thailand and Cambodia signed the truce agreement last month after territorial disputes between the Southeast Asian neighbors led to five days of combat in late July that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians.

Tensions have simmered and other land mine explosions before and after the clashes have also caused injuries.

The Royal Thai Army said late Monday the explosion earlier in the day injured four soldiers. A sergeant lost his right foot after stepping on a land mine while on patrol along the border in Sisaket province, while the other three suffered minor injuries from shrapnel or the impact of the blast.

It also said Thai troops regularly patrol the area and accused Cambodia of laying new land mines in violation of the truce.

The Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied the allegations, saying most mines along the border are old mines that have not been cleared. "Cambodia remains committed to implementing the Joint Declaration, which was signed amidst much applause from the international community," it said.

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said Monday's land mine explosion showed that "the hostility towards our national security has not decreased as we thought it would," adding that all actions to be carried out under the truce agreement will be halted until Thailand's demands are met. He did not elaborate on Thailand's demands.

Under the terms of the agreement, Thailand is to release 18 Cambodian soldiers held prisoner and both sides are to begin removing heavy weapons and land mines from the border area.

Thai Defense Minister Natthaphon Narkphanit said Thailand will postpone the release of the captured Cambodian soldiers, initially scheduled for later this week.

The two sides said there has been some progress on arms removal, but Thailand accuses Cambodia of obstructing the mine clearance process. Cambodia says it's committed to all terms in the agreement, including demining, and urged Thailand to release its soldiers as soon as possible.

The ceasefire was initially mediated by Malaysia, and U.S. President Donald Trump later threatened to

withhold trade privileges unless both Cambodia and Thailand agreed on a truce. The deal was signed during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in October.

Trump administration renews Supreme Court appeal to keep full SNAP payments frozen

By DAVID A. LIEB and GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

President Donald Trump's administration returned to the Supreme Court on Monday in a push to keep full payments in the SNAP federal food aid program frozen while the government is shut down, even as some families struggled to put food on the table.

The request is the latest in a flurry of legal activity over how the program that helps 42 million Americans buy groceries should proceed during the historic U.S. government shutdown. Lower courts have ruled that the government must keep full payments flowing, but the Trump administration is asking the Supreme Court to keep them frozen for now.

The high court is expected to rule Tuesday.

The seesawing rulings so far have created a situation where beneficiaries in some states, including Hawaii and New Jersey, have received their full monthly allocations and those in others, such as Nebraska and West Virginia, have seen nothing.

Brandi Johnson, 48, of St. Louis, said she's struggling to make the \$20 she has left in her SNAP account stretch. Johnson said she has been skipping meals the past two weeks to make sure her three teenage children have something to eat. She is also helping care for her infant granddaughter, who has food allergies, and her 80-year-old mother.

She said food pantries have offered little help in recent days. Many require patrons to live in a certain ZIP code or are dedicated to helping the elderly first.

"I think about it 24 hours a day, seven days a week, literally," Johnson said. "Because you've got to figure out how you're going to eat."

Millions receive aid while others wait

The Trump administration argued that lower court orders requiring the full funding of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program wrongly affect ongoing negotiations in Congress about ending the shutdown. Supreme Court Solicitor General D. John Sauer called the funding lapse tragic, but said judges shouldn't be deciding how to handle it.

The Senate Monday passed a compromise funding package that would end the government shutdown and refill SNAP funds. It now goes to the House for consideration.

Trump's administration initially said SNAP benefits would not be available in November because of the shutdown. After some states and nonprofit groups sued, judges in Massachusetts and Rhode Island 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, Rhode Island-based 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 at least a dozen states — all with Democratic governors — received the full amount to buy groceries before Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson put McConnell's order on hold Friday night, pending further deliberation by an appeals court.

Delays cause complications for some beneficiaries

Millions more people still have not received SNAP payments for November, because their states were waiting on guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers SNAP. Several states have made partial payments, including Texas, where officials said money was going on cards for some beneficiaries Monday.

"Continued delays deepen suffering for children, seniors, and working families, and force nonprofits to

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shoulder an even heavier burden," Diane Yentel, President and CEO, National Council of Nonprofits, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, said in a statement Monday. "If basic decency and humanity don't compel the administration to assure food security for all Americans, then multiple federal court judges finding its actions unlawful must."

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.

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

New York Attorney General Letitia James said Monday that some cardholders have been turned away by stores concerned that they won't be reimbursed — something she called to stop.

New Jersey Attorney General Matt Platkin said Trump was fighting "for the right to starve Americans." "It's the most heinous thing I've ever seen in public life," he said.

The latest rulings keep payments on hold, at least for now

States administering SNAP payments continue to face uncertainty over whether they can — and should — provide full monthly benefits during the ongoing legal battles.

The Trump administration over the weekend demanded that states "undo" full benefits that were paid during a one-day window after a federal judge ordered full funding and before a Supreme Court justice paused that order.

A federal appeals court in Boston left the full benefits order in place late Sunday, though the Supreme Court order ensures the government won't have to pay out for at least 48 hours.

"The record here shows that the government sat on its hands for nearly a month, unprepared to make partial payments, while people who rely on SNAP received no benefits a week into November and counting," Judge Julie Rikleman of the U.S. 1st Circuit Court of Appeals wrote.

U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani, presiding over a case filed in Boston by Democratic state officials, on Monday paused the USDA's request from Saturday that states "immediately undo any steps taken to issue full SNAP benefits."

In a hearing later that Monday, Talwani said that communication to states was confusing, especially because the threat came just a day after USDA sent letters to states saying SNAP would be paid in full.

Federal government lawyer Tyler Becker said the order was only intended for states to receive the full amount of SNAP benefits, and "had nothing to do with beneficiaries."

Talwani said she would issue a full order soon.

MLB, sportsbooks cap bets on individual pitches in response to pitch rigging scandal

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

Major League Baseball said its authorized gaming operators will cap bets on individual pitches at \$200 and exclude them from parlays, a day after two Cleveland Guardians were indicted and accused of rigging pitches at the behest of gamblers.

MLB said Monday the limits were agreed to by sportsbook operators representing more than 98% of the U.S. betting market. The league said in a statement that pitch-level bets on outcomes of pitch velocity and of balls and strikes "present heightened integrity risks because they focus on one-off events that can be determined by a single player and can be inconsequential to the outcome of the game."

"The risk on these pitch-level markets will be significantly mitigated by this new action targeted at the incentive to engage in misconduct," the league said. "The creation of a strict bet limit on this type of bet, and the ban on parlaying them, reduces the payout for these markets and the ability to circumvent the new limit."

MLB said the agreement included Bally's, Bet365, BetMGM, Bet99, Betr, Caesars, Circa, DraftKings, 888,

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FanDuel, Gamewise, Hard Rock, Intralot, Jack Entertainment, Mojo, Northstar Gaming, Oaklawn, Penn, Pointsbet, Potawatomi, Rush Steet and Underdog.

Cleveland pitchers Emmanuel Clase and Luis Ortiz were indicted Sunday in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn on charges they took bribes from sports bettors to throw certain types of pitches. They were charged with wire fraud conspiracy, honest services wire fraud conspiracy, conspiracy to influence sporting contests by bribery and money laundering conspiracy. The indictment says they helped two unnamed gamblers in the Dominican Republic win at least \$460,000 on bets placed on the speed and outcome of certain pitches, including some that landed in the dirt.

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." 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 U.S. Supreme Court in 2018 ruled the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992 was unconstitutional, allowing states to legalize sports betting.

Ortiz appeared Monday in federal court in Boston. U.S. Magistrate Judge Donald L. Cabell granted Ortiz his release on the condition he surrender his passport, restrict his travel to the Northeast U.S. and post a \$500,000 bond, \$50,000 of it secured. Ortiz was ordered to avoid contact with anyone who could be viewed as a victim, witness or co-defendant.

Last month, more than 30 people, including Portland Trail Blazers head coach and Basketball Hall of Famer Chauncey Billups and Miami Heat guard Terry Rozier, were arrested in a takedown of two sprawling gambling operations that authorities said rigged poker games backed by Mafia families and leaked inside information about NBA athletes.

Billups' attorney, Chris Heywood, issued a statement denying the allegations. Rozier's lawyer, Jim Trusty, said in a statement his client is "not a gambler" and "looks forward to winning this fight."

No. 1 Houston leapfrogs Purdue in AP Top 25 despite fewer first-place votes; Arizona up to No. 5

By JOHN MARSHALL AP Basketball Writer

The first regular-season AP Top 25 is typically an overhaul from the preseason poll as voters get a better sense how good teams might actually be.

This season certainly is no different.

Houston was No. 1 in the poll released Monday, swapping spots with Purdue by earning three more points overall. The Cougars received 18 first-place votes from a 61-person media panel and Purdue had 36, with four other teams also getting at least one.

UConn, Duke, and Arizona round out the top five in a chaotic poll that saw only four teams hold their positions from the preseason poll, yet no one moved in or out of the poll.

Houston, which lost to Florida in last spring's national championship game, is No. 1 for the first time since a three-week stint in 2024.

The Boilermakers were ranked No. 1 in the preseason poll for the first time in program history and opened the season with a pair of wins. Purdue had a hard time shaking Oakland in an 87-77 win Friday and some Top 25 voters dropped the Boilermakers out of the top five on their ballots.

"Yeah, I mean, we just beat Oakland by 10 points. Credit to them, they played a great game," Purdue guard Fletcher Loyer said. "But if we're supposed to be the No. 1 team in the country, we've got to be better than that, and it starts at the defensive end."

Houston had no trouble in its first two games, blowing out Lehigh and Towson by an average of 18 points.

Rising and falling

Arizona moved up eight places from No. 13 after an impressive win over reigning champion and then-No. 3 Florida in Las Vegas. No. 8 Alabama moved up seven places following Saturday's 103-96 win over then-No. 5 St. John's at Madison Square Garden.

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No. 18 North Carolina also climbed seven spots after beating then-No. 19 Kansas and No. 17 Michigan State gained five places with its 69-66 win over then-No. 14 Arkansas.

The losses by Florida, St. John's and Kansas sent all three tumbling. The Gators lost seven places (to No. 10), the Red Storm dropped eight (No. 13) and the Jayhawks fell six (No. 25).

Conference watch

The Southeastern Conference, Big Ten and Big 12 each had six ranked teams to make up 72% of the field. The Atlantic Coast Conference and Big East were next with three each, while the West Coast Conference had one with No. 19 Gonzaga. The Big 12 and SEC each have three top-10 teams.

Watch list

Indiana coach Darian DeVries has a history of producing quick turnarounds at previous stops and is hoping to pull another one off in his first season in Bloomington. The Hoosiers looked good in the first week of the season, blowing out Alabama A&M and Marquette to inch closer to being ranked. Indiana has two games that won't exactly move the needle — against Milwaukee and Incarnate Word — but could find itself ranked if the early-season jumbling continues.

Arctic air hits much of the US, bringing snow to some areas and very chilly temperatures to Florida

By SAFIYAH RIDDLE and MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

Some of this autumn's coldest weather yet is bearing down on the United States, enveloping the eastern two-thirds of the country in Arctic air on Monday and affecting millions of people.

National Weather Service forecasters said the weather could bring record low temperatures in the U.S. Southeast, including all of Florida, where parts of the state were near 80 degrees (27 C) just a day ago.

The cold air brought gusty wind and red flag warnings in the Great Plains on Monday, and forecasters said the Great Lakes and Appalachian Mountain regions could see 4 inches (10 centimeters) to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of snow.

Around Lake Erie, forecasters warned of possible lake-effect snow, where copious amounts can fall in relatively narrow bands, drastically increasing snowfall near the water while leaving other nearby areas untouched.

Cold weather warnings were issued for Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky, with freezing temperatures predicted for a large swath farther south, from Texas and Oklahoma to Alabama and Georgia.

The wintry weather contributed to flight delays across the country, including four-hour wait times at airports like the busy Chicago O'Hare International Airport. The cold front compounded the impacts of Federal Aviation Administration's order to cancel thousands of flights in response to the federal budget shutdown that has forced air traffic controllers to work unpaid for over a month. Some have stopped showing up for work, citing the added stress and need to take second jobs.

Chill could cause falling iguanas in Florida

In Florida, forecasters said wind chills could dip to the 30s (minus 1 C). Whenever it gets that cold in the Sunshine State, many look to the trees: Iguanas, an invasive reptile species, have previously gone into a sort of suspended animation and fallen to the ground when temperatures dip below 40 degrees (4 C). They usually wake up with the sun's warmth — although it is unclear whether any of the reptiles will tumble from the treetops this time.

Across the south, many local governments opened heated shelters for residents struggling to cope with the cold.

Those resources are invaluable in St. Louis, Missouri, where some people are still waiting for essential repairs on their houses after a powerful EF3 tornado ripped through the region in May. City officials announced Monday that emergency shelters would be open for homeless people as well as those who still dealing with the aftermath.

Hazardous conditions for road travel

In Tennessee, temperatures dropped to 30 (minus 1 C) into Sunday morning, and areas with higher el-

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evation in the eastern part of the state reported that 3 inches (7.6 centimeters) of new snow had fallen by 9 a.m., causing some school closures. Snowy roads led to a crash involving multiple vehicles and about an hourlong shutdown on westbound Interstate 40 in Putnam County, east of Nashville, the county sheriff's office announced.

Further north, as temperatures dropped across the nation's midsection, meteorologists warned of hazardous travel conditions through winter weather advisories for Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin. Snow fell Sunday in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where meteorologists warned of low visibility and up to a foot (30 centimeters) of snow by Monday.

In Indiana, weather experts predicted up to 11 inches (28 centimeters) of snow and "slippery surfaces" for road travel. Up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) of snow were predicted in parts of Wisconsin.

"Patchy blowing snow" and wind chills hovering near freezing were expected in portions of Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota. Some areas got measurable fluff a day earlier, including 4 inches (10 centimeters) of snow in southwest Minnesota and more than 5 inches (13 centimeters) in northern Iowa.

Gardeners, the growing season has now ended

Weather experts issued special guidance for gardeners in the Midwest and northeast, saying the freeze warning means the growing season has ended.

"Take steps now to protect tender plants from the cold," warned meteorologists in Arkansas.

Growers of peppers, eggplants, squash and leafy greens in north Florida were harvesting as much as they could on Monday and preparing irrigation lines to make sure they don't freeze up and crack.

South Florida, where most of the state's winter fruits and vegetables are grown, was expected to be spared any freeze based on the current forecast. Citrus, Florida's best-known crop, also was expected to dodge a hit since citrus trees typically sustain damage only when the thermometer drops below 28 degrees (minus 2.2 C).

"The freezing temperatures are likely to miss our major growing regions for fruits and vegetables," said Christina Morton, a spokeswoman for the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association.

The cold snap may have a sweet side: As long as temperatures stay above freezing, some Florida crops such as strawberries and blueberries could benefit because cool weather enhances their taste and quality, Morton said.

Rallies for Nvidia and Big Tech help Wall Street nearly erase last week's loss

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Big Tech and other superstars of the U.S. stock market got back to rallying on Monday, and Wall Street recovered most of its loss from last week.

The S&P 500 climbed 1.5% and clawed back nearly all its drop from last week, which was its first weekly loss in four. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 381 points, or 0.8%, and the Nasdaq composite jumped 2.3% for its best day since May.

Nvidia was by far the strongest force lifting the market and leaped 5.8%. It was a powerful rebound after Nvidia and other winners of the frenzy around artificial-intelligence technology led last week's drop. Critics say their stock prices shot too high and too fast in the AI mania, drawing comparisons to the 2000 dot-com bubble that ultimately burst.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., which makes chips for Nvidia and other companies, saw its stock that trades in United States rise 3.1% after reporting that its revenue climbed nearly 17% in October from a year earlier. While such growth is strong compared with other companies, it's a slowdown from TSMC's earlier performance.

Another AI darling, Palantir Technologies, jumped 8.8% for the biggest gain in the S&P 500. That helped it recover some of its loss since it delivered a profit report last week that topped analysts' expectations.

Drops for several health insurers helped keep the market's gains in check. They fell as uncertainty remains about whether Washington will extend expiring health care tax credits, a sticking point on Capitol

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Hill that's created the longest-ever shutdown for the U.S. government.

That's even as the Senate took the first steps on Sunday to end the shutdown.

President Donald Trump suggested in a social media post over the weekend that cash being sent to "money sucking" insurance companies should instead go directly to people so they can buy their own health insurance.

Humana fell 5.4%, Elevance Health sank 4.4% and Centene dropped 8.8%.

Elsewhere on Wall Street, Berkshire Hathaway slipped 0.4% as its CEO, famed investor Warren Buffett, warned shareholders that many other companies will fare better in the decades ahead because of Berkshire Hathaway's massive size. Buffett, 95, is set to step down in January.

Tyson Foods climbed 2.3% after the seller of chicken, beef and pork reported a stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected.

Roughly four out of every five companies in the S&P 500 that have so far reported their results for the summer have also topped analysts' profit expectations, according to FactSet. Companies usually beat analysts' estimates each quarter, but the pressure was high this time around because they needed to justify the big moves upward for their stock prices since April.

Delivering bigger profits is one of the easier ways companies can quiet criticism that their stock prices have become too expensive.

Companies have also generally been giving strong forecasts for upcoming results, according to Bank of America strategist Savita Subramanian. That has analysts' expectations for earnings in 2026 nearly all the way back to where they were before Trump shocked financial markets in April with his "Liberation Day" announcement of worldwide tariffs.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 103.63 points to 6,832.43. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 381.53 to 47,368.63, and the Nasdaq composite rallied 522.64 to 23,527.17.

In stock markets abroad, indexes rallied across much of Europe and Asia.

South Korea's Kospi jumped 3% for one of the bigger gains. Chip company SK Hynix, which is cooperating with Nvidia on artificial intelligence, leaped 4.5%. Its bigger rival, Samsung Electronics, climbed 2.8%.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury held at 4.11%, where it was late Friday.

Canada loses measles elimination status after ongoing outbreaks

By DEVI SHASTRI AP Health Writer

Canada is no longer measles-free because of ongoing outbreaks, international health experts said Monday, as childhood vaccination rates fall and the highly contagious virus spreads across North and South America.

The loss of the country's measles elimination status comes more than a year after the highly contagious virus started spreading.

Canada has logged 5,138 measles cases this year and two deaths. Both were babies who were exposed to the measles virus in the womb and born prematurely.

Measles elimination is a symbolic designation, but it represents a hard-won battle against the infectious disease. It is earned when a country shows it stopped continuous spread of the virus within local communities, though occasional cases might still pop up from travel.

Measles typically begins with a high fever followed by a telltale rash that starts on the face and neck. Most people recover, but it's one of the leading causes of death among young children, according to the World Health Organization. Serious complications, including blindness and swelling of the brain, are more common in young children and adults over age 30.

It is prevented by a vaccine administered routinely and safely to children around the world.

"It's a deeply disheartening development. It's a deeply worrisome development. And, frankly, it's an embarrassing development," said Jennifer Nuzzo, a Brown University infectious disease expert. "No country with the amount of resources of Canada — or other countries in North America even — should lose their measles elimination status."

Vaccination campaigns led to elimination

Canada eliminated measles in 1998, followed by the United States two years later. After hugely successful

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vaccination campaigns, the Americas became the first region in the world to be free of measles in 2016. Health officials estimate the measles vaccine prevented 6.2 million deaths in the Americas between 2000 and 2023.

But vaccination rates have since slipped below the 95% coverage rate needed to stop outbreaks. Large outbreaks in Venezuela and Brazil in 2018 and 2019 cost the region its elimination status. It was reclaimed in 2024, but ends again with Canada's loss.

Experts from the Pan American Health Organization, an independent health agency, made the determination after analyzing data on Canada's outbreaks that showed the virus has spread continuously for a year.

It has never been easy to stop measles from circulating in local communities, Dr. Jarbas Barbosa, director of the Pan American Health Organization, said in a briefing Monday.

"As a region, we have eliminated measles twice," Barbosa said. "We can do it a third time."

In a statement, Canadian health officials said they were working with government and community partners to improve vaccination coverage, share data and provide evidence-based guidance.

The virus is one of the most contagious known to medicine. One infected person can spread it to up to 9 out of 10 unprotected people they come into close contact with. Health experts say, by far, the best prevention against measles is the vaccine, which provides 97% protection after two doses.

Barbosa's organization has confirmed nearly 12,600 cases this year across 10 countries, a 30-fold increase from 2024. The vast majority are in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, but Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Belize also have active outbreaks.

In 2024, the region had a 79% vaccination rate, an increase from years past but still too low, he said.

United States could be next to lose status

The U.S. eliminated measles in 2000. That status is at risk even though the large outbreak that killed three and sickened nearly 900 across Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma earlier this year is over.

Current outbreaks in the U.S. include 34 cases in South Carolina and one hitting towns on the Arizona-Utah border that has sickened more than 150 since mid-August.

A major question now is if either are linked to the Texas outbreak. To lose elimination status, health data must show a continuous chain of measles spread for one year.

International health officials have recommended the U.S. "enhance case investigation protocols," because closing data gaps is key to stopping the virus from taking hold again, said Dr. Daniel Salas, who leads immunization efforts at the Pan American Health Organization.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed 1,681 cases and 44 outbreaks this year, making it the worst year for measles in the U.S. in more than three decades. Only nine states haven't confirmed cases, according to the CDC.

A large outbreak also continues in Chihuahua, Mexico, where health officials have confirmed 4,430 cases as of last week and 21 deaths, according to state health data.

Mexican and U.S. officials have said the genetic strains of measles spreading in Canada match those in the Texas and Chihuahua outbreaks. All those outbreaks affected certain Mennonite Christian communities who trace their migration over generations from Canada to Mexico to Seminole, Texas.

In August, officials said Mennonite communities in Belize, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay had outbreaks of the same type of measles virus.

Mennonite churches do not formally discourage vaccination, though more conservative Mennonite communities historically have low vaccination rates and a distrust of government.

It's tempting to look at the outbreaks in a vacuum, Nuzzo said. But many are likely linked, she said, not just by sick people traveling but also by anti-vaccine disinformation.

"It's not a religious prohibition in most of these cases," she said. "It is just people being, perhaps, distrustful of authorities, but also preyed upon by these anti-vaccine influencers who profit off of the fears that some people may have."

Deployment of West Virginia National Guard members in nation's capital can continue, judge rules

By JOHN RABY Associated Press

A judge on Monday allowed the continued deployment of more than 300 West Virginia National Guard members to patrol the streets of Washington, D.C., as part of President Donald Trump's push to send the military into Democratic-run cities.

Kanawha County Circuit Judge Richard D. Lindsay made the ruling after hearing arguments in a lawsuit by a civic organization that argued Republican Gov. Patrick Morrisey exceeded his authority when he authorized the Guard's deployment in August.

"The question before this court is whether or not state law allows West Virginia to do this," Lindsay said. "The court has found that."

The judge added: "This court believes that the federal law allows for the request made by the president to the governor."

West Virginia is among several states that sent National Guard members to the nation's capital. While the state National Guard has said its deployment could last until the end of November, it is consulting with the governor's office and others on the possibility of extending the stay.

Formal orders were issued last week extending the deployment of the District of Columbia's National Guard in the city through the end of February.

"We are pleased with the judge's decision," Jace Goins, the state's chief deputy attorney general, said outside the court in Charleston. "The National Guard are going nowhere. They're staying in D.C. They're not going to be redeployed to West Virginia."

"The judge made the determination that the governor made a lawful decision deploying the National Guard to D.C. by a lawful request of the president."

The West Virginia Citizen Action Group, which filed the lawsuit, argued that under state law the governor could deploy the National Guard out of state only for certain purposes, such as responding to a natural disaster or another state's emergency request.

The civic group claimed that it was harmed by the deployment by being forced to refocus its resources away from government accountability and transparency. The state attorney general's office sought to reject the case, saying the group has not been harmed and lacked standing to challenge Morrisey's decision.

"It was a simple issue of a broad, lawful request by the president and a lawful deployment by the governor. That's all," Goins said.

Aubrey Sparks, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union's West Virginia chapter, said she didn't believe it was the correct decision.

"I think that West Virginia law is clear," Sparks said. "I think what the state was permitted to do here is to skirt past West Virginia law simply because Trump asked them to. And that's not how the law works. We remain deeply concerned about it."

Trump issued an executive order in August declaring a crime emergency in the nation's capital, although the Department of Justice itself says violent crime there is at a 30-year low.

Within a month, more than 2,300 Guard troops from eight states and the District of Columbia were patrolling under the Army secretary's command. Trump also deployed hundreds of federal agents to assist them.

Separately, a federal judge heard arguments Oct. 24 on District of Columbia Attorney General Brian Schwab's request for an order that would remove National Guard members from Washington streets. U.S. District Judge Jia Cobb, an appointee of former President Joe Biden, did not rule from the bench.

After mistaken deportation, US asks judge to let it send Kilmar Abrego Garcia to Liberia

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) — U.S. government attorneys say they have cleared all the hurdles needed to send Kilmar Abrego Garcia to Liberia and are asking a federal judge to dissolve an order blocking his deportation.

Abrego Garcia's mistaken deportation to his home country of El Salvador earlier this year has helped galvanize opposition to President Donald Trump's immigration policies. His attorneys claim the administration is now manipulating the immigration system in order to punish him for successfully challenging that deportation.

A motion from the government filed in U.S. District Court in Maryland late on Friday says officials have received assurances from Liberia that Abrego Garcia would not face persecution or torture there. Further, it says an immigration officer heard Abrego Garcia's claims that he feared deportation to the West African nation, but ruled against him.

His attorneys argue in a separate Friday filing that Abrego Garcia has already designated Costa Rica as a country where he is willing to be deported. They claim the government now must send him there. The fact that officials continue to pursue deportation to other countries is evidence that the process is retaliatory and violates due process protections, they argue.

Abrego Garcia has an American wife and child and has lived in Maryland for years, but he immigrated to the U.S. illegally from El Salvador as a teenager. In 2019, an immigration judge granted him protection from being deported back to his home country, finding he faced danger there. But in March, he was deported to El Salvador anyway in what a government attorney later said was an administrative error. Facing pressure from the courts, the administration brought him back to the U.S. in June but has since been pursuing his deportation to a third country.

Much of Abrego Garcia's argument against his deportation to Liberia hinges on due process claims. The government tries to tear down those claims, arguing that his due process rights are not the same as a U.S. citizen's. Because he entered the country illegally, he should be treated the same as someone who just crossed the border, they argue.

Meanwhile, his attorneys argue that "aliens who have established connections in this country' have greater due process rights than 'an alien at the threshold of initial entry,'" citing a 2020 U.S. Supreme Court case.

As part of his due process rights, his attorneys also say he is entitled to have an immigration judge review the immigration officer's determination that Abrego Garcia is unlikely to be persecuted or tortured in Liberia. They argue the officer should have considered the fact that Liberia could re-deport Abrego Garcia to El Salvador. And they say the Liberian government has only agreed to accept him on a temporary basis.

Government attorneys say they have assurances from Liberia that the Secretary of State deems sufficient. The court cannot second-guess that conclusion because that would mean intervening in foreign diplomacy, the domain of the executive branch, they argue.

"This Court should therefore dissolve its preliminary injunction and permit Petitioner to be removed to Liberia," they state.

Separately, Abrego Garcia faces human smuggling charges in federal court in Tennessee. He has pleaded not guilty and asked the judge to dismiss the case, claiming the charges are the result of "selective or vindictive prosecution." A hearing on that motion is set for December 8.

The FDA removes a long-standing warning from hormone-based menopause drugs

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hormone-based drugs used to treat hot flashes and other menopause symptoms will no longer carry a bold warning label about stroke, heart attack, dementia and other serious risks, the Food and Drug Administration announced Monday.

U.S. health officials said they will remove the boxed warning from more than 20 pills, patches and creams

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containing hormones like estrogen and progestin, which are approved to ease disruptive symptoms like night sweats.

The change has been supported by some doctors — including FDA Commissioner Marty Makary, who has called the current label outdated and unnecessary. But some doctors worried that the process which led to the decision was flawed.

Health officials explained the move by pointing to studies suggesting hormone therapy has few risks when started before age 60 and within 10 years of menopause symptoms.

“We’re challenging outdated thinking and recommitting to evidence-based medicine that empowers rather than restricts,” Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said in introducing the update.

The 22-year-old FDA warning advised doctors that hormone therapy increases the risk of blood clots, heart problems and other health issues, citing data from an influential study published more than 20 years ago.

Many doctors — and pharmaceutical companies — have called for removing or revising the label, which they say discourages prescriptions and scares off women who could benefit.

Dr. Steven Fleischman, president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, said the warnings have created a lot of hesitancy among patients.

“I can spend 30 minutes counseling someone about hormone-replacement therapy— tell them everything — but when they fill the prescription and see that warning they just get scared,” Fleischman said.

Other experts have opposed making changes to the label without a careful, transparent process. They say the FDA should have convened its independent advisers to publicly consider any revisions.

Debate over the health benefits of hormone therapy continues

Medical guidelines generally recommend the drugs for a limited duration in younger women going through menopause who don’t have complicating risks, such as breast cancer. FDA’s updated prescribing information mostly matches that approach.

But Makary and some other doctors have suggested that hormone therapy’s benefits can go far beyond managing uncomfortable mid-life symptoms. Before becoming FDA commissioner, Makary dedicated a chapter of his most recent book to extolling the overall benefits of hormone therapy and criticizing doctors unwilling to prescribe it.

On Monday he reiterated that viewpoint, citing figures suggesting hormone-therapy reduces heart disease, Alzheimer’s and other age-related conditions.

“With few exceptions, there may be no other medication in the modern era that can improve the health outcomes of women at a population level more than hormone replacement therapy,” Makary told reporters.

The veracity of those benefits remains the subject of ongoing research and debate— including among the experts whose work led to the original warning.

Dr. JoAnn Manson of Harvard Medical School said the evidence for overall health benefits is not “as conclusive or definitive” as what Makary described. Still, removing the warning is a good step because it could lead to physicians and patients making more personalized decisions, she said.

“The black box is really one size fits all. It scares everyone away,” Manson said. “Without the black box warning there may be more focus on the actual findings, how they differ by age and underlying health factors.”

Hormone therapy was once the norm for American women

In the 1990s, more than 1 in 4 U.S. women took estrogen alone or in combination with progestin on the assumption that — in addition to treating menopause — it would reduce rates of heart disease, dementia and other issues.

But a landmark study of more than 26,000 women challenged that idea, linking two different types of hormone pills to higher rates of stroke, blood clots, breast cancer and other serious risks. After the initial findings were published in 2002, prescriptions plummeted among women of all age groups, including younger menopausal women.

Since then, all estrogen drugs have carried the FDA’s boxed warning — the most serious type.

“That study was misrepresented and created a fear machine that lingers to this day,” Makary said.

Continuing analysis has shown a more nuanced picture of the risks.

A new analysis of the 2002 data published in September found that women in their 50s taking estrogen-based drugs faced no increased risk of heart problems, whereas women in their 70s did. The data was unclear for women in their 60s, and the authors advised caution.

Additionally, many newer forms of the drugs have been introduced since the early 2000s, including vaginal creams and tablets that deliver lower hormone doses than pills, patches and other drugs that circulate throughout the bloodstream.

The original language contained in the boxed warning will still be available to prescribers, but it will appear lower down on the label. The drugs will retain a boxed warning that women who have not had a hysterectomy should receive a combination of estrogen-progestin due to risks of cancer in the lining of the uterus.

FDA sidestepped its usual public process in reviewing warning

Rather than convening one of FDA's standing advisory committees on women's health or drug safety, Makary earlier this year invited a dozen doctors and researchers who overwhelmingly supported the health benefits of hormone-replacement drugs.

Many of the panelists at the July meeting consult for drugmakers or prescribe the medications in their private practices. Two of the experts also spoke at Monday's FDA news conference.

Asked Monday why the FDA didn't convene a formal advisory panel on the issue, Makary said such meetings are "bureaucratic, long, often conflicted and very expensive."

Diana Zuckerman of the nonprofit National Center for Health Research, which analyzes medical research, accused Makary of undermining the FDA's credibility by announcing the change "rather than having scientists scrutinize the research at an FDA scientific meeting."

Former French President Sarkozy released from prison pending appeal in conspiracy case

By NICOLAS VAUX-MONTAGNY and SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's former President Nicolas Sarkozy was freed from prison Monday after a Paris appeals court granted him release under judicial supervision, less than three weeks after he began serving a five-year sentence for criminal conspiracy in a scheme to finance his 2007 election campaign with funds from Libya.

Sarkozy, 70, left La Santé prison by car and later quickly stepped into his home in western Paris. The brief scene was in contrast to his very public incarceration 20 days earlier, when he walked down the alley near his house hand-in-hand with his wife and former supermodel Carla Bruni-Sarkozy as he waved to supporters.

The former president, who denies wrongdoing, is banned from leaving the French territory and from being in touch with key people including co-defendants and witnesses in the case, the court said.

An appeals trial is expected to take place later, possibly in the spring.

Sarkozy became the first former French head of state in modern times to be sent behind bars after his conviction on Sept. 25. He was jailed on Oct. 21 pending appeal but immediately filed for early release.

"I will now prepare for the appeal trial. My energy is focused on the only goal of proving my innocence," Sarkozy said in a statement posted on his social media. "The truth will prevail."

Sarkozy describes prison as "an nightmare"

During Monday's hearing examining his request, Sarkozy, speaking from the prison via video conference, argued he has always met all justice requirements.

"I had never imagined I would experience prison at 70. This ordeal was imposed on me, and I lived through it. It's hard, very hard," he said.

Sarkozy also paid tribute to prison staff who he said helped him through "this nightmare." His wife and two of his sons attended the hearing at the Paris courthouse.

Monday's proceedings didn't involve the motives for the sentencing.

Still, Sarkozy told the court he never asked Libya's longtime ruler Moammar Gadhafi for any financing. "I will never admit something I didn't do," he said.

French law provides that release should be the general rule pending appeal, while detention should be reserved for those considered dangerous or at risk of fleeing to another country, or to protect evidence or prevent pressure on witnesses.

Sarkozy's lawyer, Christophe Ingrain, praised "normal implementation of law" in a brief statement. "The next step is the appeal trial," he said.

Banned from meeting justice minister

In a rare decision, the court specifically banned Sarkozy from being in touch with Justice Minister Gérald Darmanin.

Darmanin, a former conservative who once considered Sarkozy as his mentor before rejoining President Emmanuel Macron's centrist party in 2017, paid him a visit in prison last month. Some French magistrates criticized the move as undermining the independence of judges.

Sarkozy, who governed from 2007 to 2012, faces separate proceedings, including a Nov. 26 ruling by France's highest court over illegal financing of his failed 2012 reelection bid, and an ongoing investigation into alleged witness tampering in the Libya case.

In 2023, he was found guilty of corruption and influence peddling for trying to bribe a magistrate in exchange for information about a legal case in which he was implicated. France's highest court, the Court of Cassation, later upheld the verdict.

Supreme Court rejects call to overturn its decision legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a call to overturn its landmark decision that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide.

The justices, without comment, turned away an appeal from Kim Davis, the former Kentucky court clerk who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples after the high court's 2015 ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

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

Her lawyers repeatedly invoked the words of Justice Clarence Thomas, who alone among the nine justices has called for erasing the same-sex marriage ruling.

Thomas was among four dissenting justices in 2015. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito are the other dissenters who are on the court today.

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

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

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

Human Rights Campaign president Kelley Robinson praised the justices' decision not to intervene. "The Supreme Court made clear today that refusing to respect the constitutional rights of others does not come without consequences," Robinson said in a statement.

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

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

licenses.

Davis lost a reelection bid in 2018.

Trump pardons Rudy Giuliani and others who backed efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has pardoned his former personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, his onetime chief of staff Mark Meadows and others accused of backing the Republican's efforts to overturn the 2020 election.

The "full, complete, and unconditional" pardon for dozens of Trump allies are largely symbolic. It applies only to federal crimes, and none of the people named in the proclamation were ever charged federally over the bid to subvert the election won by Democrat Joe Biden. It doesn't affect state charges, though state prosecutions stemming from the 2020 election have hit a dead end or are just limping along.

The move, however, underscores Trump's continued efforts to promote the idea that the 2020 election was stolen from him even though courts around the country and Trump's own attorney general at the time found no evidence of fraud that could have affected the outcome. Reviews, recounts and audits of the election in the battleground states where Trump contested his loss also affirmed Biden's victory.

Trump's recent action follows the sweeping pardons of the hundreds of Trump supporters charged in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol, including those convicted of attacking law enforcement.

Ed Martin, the Department of Justice's point-man on pardons and a former lawyer for Jan. 6 defendants, linked his announcement of the pardons to a post on X that read "No MAGA left behind."

Dozens of Trump allies received pardons

Among those also pardoned were Sidney Powell, an attorney who promoted baseless conspiracy theories about a stolen election, John Eastman, another lawyer who pushed a plan to keep Trump in power, and Jeffrey Clark, a former Justice Department official who championed Trump's efforts to challenge his election loss.

Also named were Republicans who acted as fake electors for Trump and were charged in state cases accusing them of submitting false certificates that confirmed they were legitimate electors despite Biden's victory in those states.

The proclamation explicitly says the pardon does not apply to the president himself, who has continued to repeat the lie that the 2020 election was stolen from him, used that falsehood to argue for sweeping changes in the way the country votes and demanded his Department of Justice investigate the vote count that led to his loss.

The pardon described efforts to prosecute the Trump allies as "a grave national injustice perpetrated on the American people" and said the pardons were designed to continue "the process of national reconciliation." Giuliani and others have denied any wrongdoing, arguing they were simply challenging an election they believed was tainted by fraud.

"These great Americans were persecuted and put through hell by the Biden Administration for challenging an election, which is the cornerstone of democracy," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in an emailed statement.

Those pardoned were not prosecuted by the Biden administration, however. They were charged only by state prosecutors who operate separately from the Justice Department.

An Associated Press investigation after the 2020 election found 475 cases of potential voter fraud across the six battleground states, far too few to change the outcome.

Impact of the pardons is limited

Giuliani, a former New York City mayor, was one of the most vocal supporters of Trump's unsubstantiated claims of large-scale voter fraud after the 2020 election. He also is an example of the limited impact of the pardons.

Giuliani has been disbarred in Washington, D.C., and New York over his advocacy of Trump's bogus

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election claims and lost a \$148 million defamation case brought by two former Georgia election workers whose lives were upended by conspiracy theories he pushed. Since pardons only absolve people from legal responsibility for federal crimes, they're unlikely to ease Giuliani's legal woes.

Ted Goodman, a spokesperson for Giuliani, said the former mayor "never sought a pardon but is deeply grateful for President Trump's decision."

"Mayor Rudy Giuliani stands by his work following the 2020 presidential election, when he responded to the legitimate concerns of thousands of everyday Americans," Goodman said in an emailed statement.

While the pardons may have no immediate legal impact, experts warned they send a dangerous message for future elections.

"It is a complete abdication of the responsibility of the federal government to ensure we don't have future attempts to overturn elections," said Rick Hasen, a UCLA law professor. "Ultimately, the message it sends is 'We'll take care of you when the time comes.'"

Some pardoned were co-conspirators in Trump's federal case

Trump himself was indicted on federal felony charges accusing him of working to overturn his 2020 election defeat, but the case brought by Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith was abandoned in November after Trump's victory over Democrat Kamala Harris because of the department's policy against prosecuting sitting presidents. Giuliani, Powell, Eastman and Clark were alleged co-conspirators in the federal case brought against Trump but were never charged with federal crimes.

Giuliani, Meadows and others named in the proclamation had been charged by prosecutors in Georgia, Arizona, Michigan, Nevada and Wisconsin over the 2020 election, but the cases have repeatedly hit roadblocks or have been dismissed. A judge in September dismissed the Michigan case against 15 Republicans accused of attempting to falsely certify Trump as the winner of the election in that battleground state.

Eastman, a former dean of Chapman University Law School in Southern California, was a close adviser to Trump in the wake of the 2020 election and wrote a memo laying out steps Vice President Mike Pence could take to stop the counting of electoral votes while presiding over Congress' joint session on Jan. 6 to keep Trump in office.

Clark, who is now overseeing a federal regulatory office, also is facing possible disbarment in Washington over his advocacy of Trump's claims. Clark clashed with Justice Department superiors over a letter he drafted after the 2020 election that said the department was investigating "various irregularities" and had identified "significant concerns" that may have affected the election in Georgia and other states.

Clark said in a social media post Monday that he "did nothing wrong" and "shouldn't have had to battle this witch hunt for 4+ years."

Air pollution levels surge in India's capital, sparking rare protests

By RISHI LEKHI Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — A thick layer of smog enveloped India's capital Monday, filling the air with an acrid smell as pollution levels surged and worsening a public health crisis that has prompted its residents to take the streets to protest and demand government action.

By Monday morning, New Delhi's air quality index stood at 344, a level considered "severe" and dangerous to breathe, according to the World Health Organization's recommended exposure limits.

Late Sunday, hundreds of people, including parents and environmental activists, gathered at New Delhi's India Gate in a rare protest, urging authorities to act. Many wore masks and carried placards, with one reading: "I miss breathing."

"I am here just as a citizen who cares and who is worried about the state of situation that we are in with respect to the lack of clean air to breathe," said protester Meghna, who only gave her first name.

Police later confiscated placards and banners and asked protesters to disperse, saying they did not have permission to demonstrate.

Worsening air quality in the capital has sparked outrage from residents suffering from headaches and persistent coughs. Frustration is mounting toward politicians accused of trading blame instead of enforcing

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policies to combat what has become an annual health emergency.

Home to more than 30 million people, New Delhi and its surrounding region routinely rank among the world's most polluted cities. India has six of the 10 most polluted cities globally, and New Delhi remains the most polluted capital, according to a report from Switzerland-based air quality monitoring database IQAir earlier this year.

Air quality in the city worsens further each winter as farmers burn crop residue in nearby states and cooler temperatures trap the smoke, which mixes with vehicle and industrial emissions. Toxic particles linger because Delhi's winters are often dry and windless, sometimes pushing pollution levels to 20 times the World Health Organization's safe limit.

Authorities have temporarily banned construction, restricted diesel generators and even tried using cloud seeding to promote rain, but critics say only long-term measures to cut emissions can bring real relief.

What's in the legislation to end the federal government shutdown

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — A legislative package to end the government shutdown appears on track Monday after a handful of Senate Democrats joined with Republicans to break the impasse in what has become a deepening disruption of federal programs and services, the longest in history.

What's in and out of the bipartisan deal drew sharp criticism and leaves few senators fully satisfied. The legislation provides funding to reopen the government, including for SNAP food aid and other programs, while also ensuring backpay for furloughed federal workers the Trump administration had left in doubt.

But notably lacking is any clear resolution to expiring health care subsidies that Democrats have been fighting for as millions of Americans stare down rising insurance premiums. That debate was pushed off for a vote next month, weeks before the subsidies are set to expire.

President Donald Trump noted the deal as he arrived at the White House after watching the Washington Commanders' game on Sunday evening against the Detroit Lions, on the 40th day of the funding lapse. "It looks like we're getting close to the shutdown ending," he said.

The Senate could wrap up passage as soon as Monday. The bill cleared a procedural hurdle, 60-40, late Sunday, with eight Democrats joining most Republicans. In a rare dissent, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York voted against because it failed to fully address the health care funds.

It would next go to the House, where lawmakers have been away since September but were being told to prepare to return to Washington this week. Then, it's to Trump's desk for his signature.

Here's a look at the deal as it's moving through Congress:

Funding to reopen the government, for now

Included is funding to keep much of the federal government running for the next couple of months, to Jan. 30, with a stopgap measure. It largely funds government operations at their current rates.

Yet in a breakthrough for what's considered a more normal appropriations process, the package also includes several bills to fully fund other government operations including agricultural programs and military construction along with veterans' affairs for the full fiscal year, through September 2026.

Additionally, the package ensures states would be reimbursed for money they spent to keep the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, and the Women, Infants and Children program, or WIC, running during the shutdown.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, the chair of the Appropriations Committee, said she was "relieved."

"This shutdown has gone on far too long," she said. "And I also think it's highly significant that we'll have three yearlong appropriations bills attached. Veterans Day is coming very soon, and it would be wonderful if we get the full-year Veterans Affairs bill signed into law."

Health care funding still up for debate

The Democrats failed to secure their main demand during the shutdown, which was an extension of the health care subsidies that many of the 24 million people who buy insurance through the Affordable Care Act rely on to help defray costs.

Instead, the package guarantees a vote on the issue in December — which was not enough for most of the Democrats, who rejected the deal and voted against it.

“The American people want us to stand and fight for health care,” said Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.

Federal workers get a reprieve

The package seeks to roll back some of the Trump administration’s shutdown-related hits to the federal workforce. Employees have faced repeated threats of firings and mass layoffs this year.

The stopgap measure reinstates federal workers who had received reductions in force, or layoff, notices and protects against such future actions.

It also would provide back pay for federal workers who were furloughed or working without pay during the shutdown — something that’s traditionally provided but that the Trump administration had threatened was not guaranteed.

Getting the bill to the president’s desk

Political and procedural hurdles remain as Congress, which is controlled by Republicans, slogs through more voting and the shutdown entered its 41st day Monday.

Senators hope to skip past a series of steps that could drag voting out all week if the dissenters put up a prolonged fight.

One Republican, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, voted against advancing the package Sunday, and he is said to have concerns over a hemp industry provision. And three ultra-conservative GOP senators held up voting for more than two hours as they demanded consideration of their ideas. It is unclear if any of them plans to stage further protests.

Democrats, who have fought for the past month in their hopes of preserving the health care subsidies, also could delay final passage, and their next steps are uncertain.

And the package faces fresh scrutiny once it goes to the House, where Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana holds a slim GOP majority and would likely need almost all Republicans to support the bill in the face of objections from Democrats who are holding out for the health care funds.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York said the party will fight the bill, forcing the Republicans in the House to pass it largely on their own.

“We will not support spending legislation advanced by Senate Republicans that fails to extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits” Jeffries said. “Donald Trump and the Republican Party own the toxic mess they have created.”

Zelenskyy seeks Patriot systems from US to counter Russia’s power grid attacks

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday he wants to order 25 Patriot air defense systems from the United States, as Ukraine desperately tries to fend off relentless Russian aerial attacks that have brought rolling blackouts across Ukraine on the brink of winter.

Zelenskyy acknowledged that the Patriot systems are expensive and that such a large batch could take years to manufacture. But he said European countries could give their Patriots to Ukraine and await replacements, stressing that “we would not like to wait.”

Combined missile and drone strikes on the power grid have coincided with Ukraine’s frantic efforts to hold back a Russian battlefield push aimed at capturing the eastern stronghold of Pokrovsk. Meanwhile, international peace efforts appear to have dissipated, nearly four years after Russia invaded its neighbor.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine recently received more Patriot systems from Germany. It is not known how many Patriot systems are in Ukraine. But on the whole air defenses remain stretched thin across wide expanses of Ukrainian territory, and the threat to the provision of heating and running water in the bitter winter is acute.

NATO is coordinating regular deliveries of large weapons packages to Ukraine. European allies and Canada are buying much of the equipment from the United States. The Trump administration is not giving any

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arms to Ukraine, unlike the previous Biden administration.

Russia's attacks on energy infrastructure have grown more effective. It launches hundreds of drones, some equipped with cameras to improve targeting, that overwhelm Ukraine's air defenses, especially in regions where protection is weaker. Also, this year it is striking region by region, hitting local switchyards and substations, instead of taking aim at the centralized national grid.

Ukraine's Energy Ministry said Monday that Russian attacks caused more damage to its power infrastructure, resulting in scheduled blackouts in most of the country's regions. It urged Ukrainians to rationalize their use of electricity, especially during peak consumption hours in the mornings and evenings.

Meanwhile, the two sides were locked in a battle for control of Pokrovsk, in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region where Zelenskyy says Russia has assembled 170,000 troops for a renewed push.

There has been a relative lull in fighting in recent days, according to reports gathered by the Institute for the Study of War. But the Washington-based think tank said it expected Russian forces to quicken the tempo of their attacks in coming days as they move more troops into the city.

Today in History: November 11, World War I armistice signed

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 11, the 315th day of 2025. There are 50 days left in the year. Today is Veterans Day.

Today in history:

On Nov. 11, 1918, fighting in World War I ended as the Allies and Germany signed an armistice aboard a railroad car in the Forest of Compiègne (kohm-PYEHN'-yeh) in northern France.

Also on this date:

In 1620, 41 Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower, anchored off Massachusetts, signed the Mayflower Compact, creating a local government for the colony that called for a "civil body politick, for our better ordering and preservation."

In 1921, the remains of an unidentified American service member were interred in a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in a ceremony presided over by President Warren G. Harding.

In 1938, Irish-born cook Mary Mallon, who'd gained notoriety as the disease-carrying "Typhoid Mary" blamed for the deaths of three people, died on North Brother Island in New York's East River at age 69 after 23 years of mandatory quarantine.

In 1966, Gemini 12 blasted off on a four-day mission with astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. aboard; it was the 10th and final crewed flight of NASA's Gemini program.

In 1987, following the failure of two Supreme Court nominations, President Ronald Reagan announced his choice of Judge Anthony M. Kennedy, who went on to win confirmation.

In 2020, Georgia's secretary of state announced an audit of presidential election results that he said would be done with a full hand count of ballots because the margin was so tight; Democratic President-elect Joe Biden led Republican President Donald Trump by about 14,000 votes out of nearly 5 million votes counted in the state. (The audit would affirm Biden's win.)

In 2022, Sam Bankman-Fried's FTX crypto exchange platform filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection amid a collapse of its assets; Bankman-Fried was convicted in November 2023 of seven counts of wire fraud and conspiracy to commit fraud and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Today's Birthdays: Music producer Mutt Lange is 77. Actor Stanley Tucci is 65. Actor Demi Moore is 63. Actor Calista Flockhart is 61. TV personality Carson Kressley is 56. Actor David DeLuise is 54. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio is 51. Musician Jon Batiste is 39. Retired American figure skater Adam Rippon is 36. Actor Tye Sheridan is 29.