

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Tuesday, Nov. 18

Senior Menu: Meat loaf, baked potato, antigua blend, fruited Jello, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.  
School Lunch: Pasta with meat sauce.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.  
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
5th grade GBB practice, 4:15 p.m.

## Wednesday, Nov. 19

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, green beans, pears, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Omelets.  
School Lunch: Soup and sandwich.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.  
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.  
6th grade GBB practice, 6 p.m.



## Thursday, Nov. 20

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potato, 3-bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Biscuits.  
School Lunch: Turkey gravy and mashed potatoes, dressing.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Praise and Thanksgiving, 1:30 p.m. (Program: Sarah, Hostess: Nigeria)  
4th grade GBB practice, 4 p.m.  
3rd grade GBB practice, 5 p.m.  
State Volleyball at Rapid City

## Friday, Nov. 21

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken over biscuits, peas and carrots, pineapple.  
School Breakfast: Doughnuts.  
School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, green beans.  
State Volleyball at Rapid City  
MS GBB at Milbank (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)

## Saturday, Nov. 22

State Volleyball at Rapid City

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

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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.**

## FEMA Resignation

The acting chief of the Federal Emergency Management Agency resigned yesterday after six months in the role, according to the Department of Homeland Security. David Richardson's tenure was marked by scrutiny over FEMA's response to July's deadly floods in central Texas, which killed more than 130 people, including children at an all-girls summer camp.

Richardson drew criticism for having no disaster management experience and for what colleagues described as a lack of accessibility during the Texas floods. A former Marine Corps officer who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, he also served as assistant secretary for the DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office. Richardson had taken over as FEMA's acting head after his predecessor, Cameron Hamilton, was removed following opposition to the Trump administration's plans to restructure the agency and shift more disaster-response duties to states.

Karen Evans, who has served as FEMA chief of staff, will become the new acting administrator Dec. 1.

## Bangladesh Death Verdict

A domestic war crimes court in Bangladesh yesterday sentenced ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her home minister to death for violently suppressing student protests last year.

The UN estimates over 1,400 people were killed and thousands injured—primarily by Bangladeshi security forces—during three weeks of protests. The unrest began after a June 2024 court decision reinstated government job quotas favoring relatives of freedom fighters from the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. Although most quotas were later scrapped, protests expanded to broader grievances over stagnant private-sector jobs, high youth unemployment, and rising inflation. The unrest became the biggest challenge to Hasina's government since she secured a fourth consecutive term in January 2024, which the main opposition party boycotted over concerns about a rigged electoral process.

Hasina, whose father was Bangladesh's assassinated founding president, has reportedly been living in exile in New Delhi with her home minister since August 2024. India has so far declined Bangladesh's extradition request.

## Game of Pheromones

Parasitic ant queens can manipulate a colony into killing its queen using chemical warfare, new research reveals. The move allows the invading queen to take control and trick workers into raising her offspring until they die.

Ants have been known to commit matricide, killing their queen (and biological mother), including in cases when a queen is no longer fertile. There have also been documented cases of regicide, when an invading queen kills another by beheading her or biting her throat. However, yesterday's study is the first to detail how a newly mated *Lasius orientalis* queen can trick *Lasius flavus* worker ants into doing the dirty work. The invading queen sprayed the host queen with a liquid from her abdomen—believed to be formic acid—masking the host queen's scent and causing her daughters to see her as an intruder. The worker ants then descended on their queen-mother, killing her en masse.

## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Metropolitan Museum of Art announces "Costume Art" as inaugural exhibition in Costume Institute's nearly 12,000-square-foot Condé M. Nast Galleries, opening May 2026; Met Gala dress code announcement expected in early 2026.

Post Malone, Lil Jon, and Jack White to headline NFL Thanksgiving halftime shows. | Influencer-turned-

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boxer Jake Paul to fight former heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua in professional match streamed on Netflix Dec. 19.

Tom Cruise and Dolly Parton among lifetime achievement honorees at Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Governors Awards.

## Science & Technology

Jeff Bezos launches startup focused on AI applications in engineering and manufacturing; he will serve as co-CEO alongside former Google scientist.

Report reveals National Institutes of Health funding cuts affected over 74,000 participants across 383 clinical trials from late February to mid-August; cuts disproportionately impacted infectious disease studies.

Scientists build digital copy of mouse brain cortex with supercomputer, enabling them to simulate neurological diseases and test treatments virtually.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower (S&P 500 -0.9%, Dow -1.2%, Nasdaq -0.8%) as tech slumps weigh on markets; investors look ahead to delayed September jobs report, set for Thursday release.

Novo Nordisk cuts direct-to-consumer prices for weight-loss drugs Wegovy and Ozempic to \$349 per month for existing cash-paying patients on most doses; offers limited-time \$199 monthly price to new cash-paying patients on lower doses.

Ford partners with Amazon to sell certified used vehicles on the retail giant's auto marketplace, becoming second brand name to do so after Hyundai; initial rollout is in Los Angeles, Seattle, and Dallas.

## Politics & World Affairs

US House expected to vote today on whether to compel the Justice Department to release files related to late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. | UN Security Council approves US plan authorizing international stabilization force in Gaza.

Federal agents say they have detained over 130 people in Charlotte, North Carolina, since Friday as part of an ongoing immigration crackdown; roughly 200 agents are due to be redeployed to New Orleans this upcoming weekend.

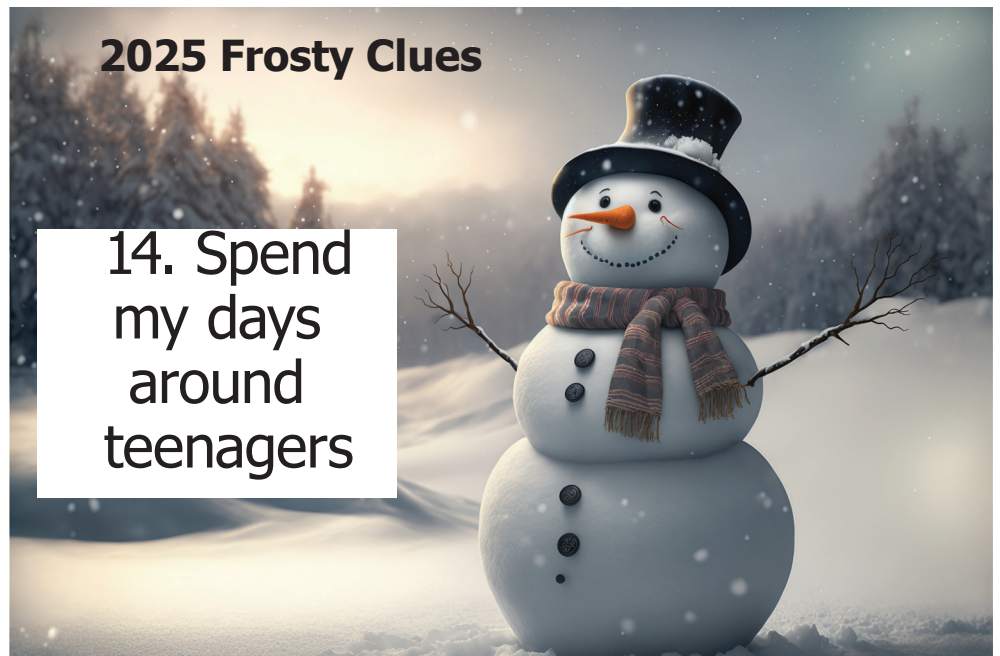
Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk calls explosion on railway track 60 miles from Warsaw an "act of sabotage"; investigators have not publicly identified a suspect or motive behind the attack, which has disrupted aid delivery to Ukraine.

## 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

14. Spend my days around teenagers



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## Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

November 18, 2025 – 7:00pm  
City Hall – 120 N Main Street

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1  
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
3. Airport Discussion
4. Open Sealed Bids for City Roof Repair Project
5. Approval of Kolker Second Subdivision Plat
6. October Finance Report
7. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 792 – 2026 Appropriations
8. Minutes
9. Bills
10. Holiday Lighting Contest – December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - \$100, \$75, & \$50 Utility Bill Credits to Be Given Away
11. Announcement: City Offices Closed on November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, for Thanksgiving
12. Reminder: 2026 Dog Licenses are Due by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025
13. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
14. First Reading of Ordinance No. 793 – 2026 Salaries
15. Adjournment

## Remainder of SNAP Payments to be Issued this Week

PIERRE - The South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) will be issuing the remainder of November SNAP benefits this week.

DSS began work processing cases over the weekend. Benefits will be loaded overnight and are expected to be available on Tuesday to the approximately 37,000 SNAP eligible households in South Dakota.

About \$8 million in partial benefits were issued last week in accord with guidance from the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). DSS is issuing the rest of the November benefits following the end of the federal shutdown. The two payments issued will equal the full November benefit amount for which a household has qualified.

December SNAP benefits are expected to be issued on schedule on December 10.

SNAP recipients can check their balances through the SNAP app or portal. Any updates will be posted on DSS's website at [dss.sd.gov](http://dss.sd.gov) and shared through its social media channels.

## Name Released in Lawrence County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash  
Where: US Highway 85, mile marker 46, Spearfish, SD  
When: 9:01 a.m., Thursday, November 13, 2025

Driver 1: Eddie Lee Galloway, 82-year-old male from Oracle, AZ, fatal injuries  
Vehicle 1: 2001 Toyota Tacoma pulling a Subaru Impreza  
Seat belt Used: No

Lawrence County, S.D.- An Arizona man died in a single vehicle crash Thursday morning on US Highway 85 in Spearfish, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Eddie Lee Galloway, the driver of a 2001 Toyota Tacoma, was traveling northbound on US Highway 85 in a construction zone. The vehicle was equipped with a tow dolly and was pulling a Subaru Impreza. The driver lost control of the vehicle and crossed over into the median, striking a windrow of dirt near the shoulder. The vehicles overturned and separated. Galloway, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was ejected from the Toyota.

Galloway was transported to Spearfish Monument Health Hospital where he died from his injuries.

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.

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BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA  
GENERAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025, 8:45 A.M.  
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
  - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes.*
4. Second Reading/Possible Adoption
  - a. Amended Ordinance #302 – Wind Energy Systems (WES)
5. First Reading of following Ordinances:
  - a. Ord. #312 – Rezone for Tim & Judy Siedschlag/Gerald & Kathy Goldade
  - b. Ord. #313 – Rezone for Sub Thirty Ventures, LLC – Brett Deibert/Brock Ball
  - c. Ord. #314 – Rezone for Michael Carrels
  - d. Ord. #315 – Rezone for Vision Quest Real Estate, LLC/Brad Meehan
  - e. Ord. #316 – Rezone for Sea Atwood
  - f. Ord. #317 – Rezone for Paul Larson
6. Scott Meints, Emergency Management Director
  - a. Discuss McPherson County Emergency Management
7. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent
  - a. R-O-W for Northern Electric
  - b. R-O-W for Midcontinent Communications
  - c. R-O-W for Northern Valley Communications (NVC)
  - d. Department Update
8. Approve & Authorize Chairman to sign the following:
  - a. Lease Option Renewal for Fairgrounds Hay Land
  - b. Ground Lease for Wireless Tower at Fairgrounds
  - c. Hub City Radio Contract for 2026 BCF
  - d. All Season Motorsport Contract for 2026 & 2027 BCF
  - e. Final Documents for CDBG YMCA Grant
9. Consent Calendar
  - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes for November 4, 2025
  - b. Claims/Payroll
  - c. HR Report
  - d. Landfill Tonnage Report for October
  - e. Travel Requests
  - f. Auditor's Report of Accounts for Sept. 2025
10. Other Business
11. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
12. Adjourn

You can join the Brown County Commission Meeting via **your computer, tablet, or smartphone** at <https://meet.goto.com/BrCoCommission>  
**You can also dial in using your phone.** United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3311](tel:+18722403311) - Access Code: 601-168-909 #  
Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>

Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at [Commission Meetings | Brown County](#)

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## Groton Legion Turkey Party

Photos Courtesy Bruce Babcock



Cake walk players are ready for another game while Emerlee Jones and Carly Gilbert prepare to start.



Groton Legion Auxiliary members L-R Mendy Jones, Dacy Kampa, and Rita Kampa help serve supper.



Groton Legion Commander Bruce Babcock, helps the steady flow of attendees sign in and purchase raffle tickets.



Groton Legion members Ben Smith and Ron Falk run the games at the podium.

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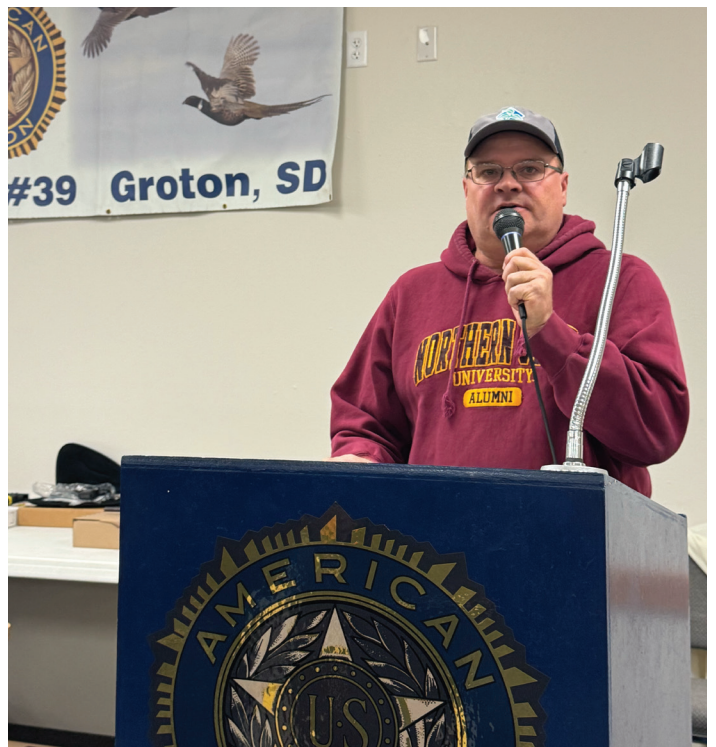
**Brenda McCarthy and David Pigors run the "Chuck-a-luck" game.**



**Legion members Scott Cooper and Brent Wienk manage the adult and children's favorite "horse races!"**



**Large crowd in the rear Legion Hall.**



**Ever popular Delbert Hinkelman called the paddle wheel winners.**

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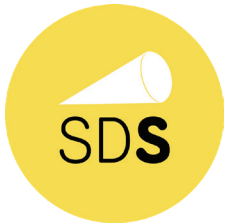
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**Groton Legion Auxiliary members ran bingo L-R Samantha Oswald, Jan Siegel, and Melissa Gilbert.**



**The Groton American Legion annual "Turkey Party" was very popular last Saturday evening. Pictured is the packed Auxiliary bingo.**



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **Sanford Health plans to build Rapid City medical center with \$300 million gift**

**BY: SETH TUPPER**

Sanford Health announced Monday that it will use a \$300 million gift from its namesake philanthropist, Denny Sanford, to build a medical center in Rapid City.

Bill Gassen, president and CEO of Sanford Health, announced the gift during a Rapid City event that drew numerous local and state dignitaries.

"This philanthropic investment will strengthen health care in this community and across the entire region," Gassen said.

The move will increase competition between Sanford Health and Monument Health. Monument is a regional system that operates a hospital in Rapid City, plus additional facilities there and in 13 other communities in western South Dakota and eastern Wyoming.

The 89-year-old Denny Sanford made his fortune as the owner of First Premier Bank and Premier Bankcard. The speakers at Sanford Health's Monday announcement included Miles Beacom, CEO of Premier Bankcard.

"Competition is always great," Beacom said. "The level of service to the patients is going to skyrocket. And that's what people want to see in Rapid City and the region: Continue to improve and challenge each other."

Monument Health President and CEO Paulette Davidson responded to South Dakota Searchlight with a written statement calling Sanford's planned facility in Rapid City "a new hospital." Davidson said Monument has been a "consistent and supportive" presence in the Black Hills for 45 years and will "remain here for generations to come."

"Monument Health is proud to reaffirm our commitment to the region," Davidson's statement said. "As we navigate this new era, our hope is that any new health systems will join our decades-long effort to deliver high-quality care to everyone, and have a positive impact on our communities. Above all, at Monument Health, we will continue to make a difference, every day."

The Sanford Black Hills Medical Center campus will be a 480,000-square-foot facility with 168 inpatient beds in southwest Rapid City, adjacent to the Black Hills Orthopedic and Spine Center. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2027 with completion anticipated by 2030. The campus will include an emergency department, intensive care unit, oncology center, women's health services with a labor and delivery unit, and children's services.

Denny Sanford has now given nearly \$2 billion to Sioux Falls-based Sanford Health since 2004, helping it grow into the largest rural health system in the United States. The system has 55,000 employees and serves over 2 million patients and nearly 425,000 health plan members across the upper Midwest. The system also includes 56 hospitals, 288 clinic locations, 147 senior care communities, 4,000 physicians and providers, and nearly 1,500 active clinical trials and studies.

The construction of a medical center in Rapid City continues an expansion into the community that Sanford Health has been accelerating since last year, when the health system partnered with the Black Hills Orthopedic and Spine Center, Black Hills Surgical Hospital, Black Hills Urgent Care, and Black Hills Surgery Center of Wyoming. Recently, Black Hills Plastic Surgery and Creekside Medical Clinic, both in Rapid City, joined Sanford Health.

Sanford Health said it intends to spend an additional \$10 million in South Dakota's Black Hills region over the next decade, including programming to foster students' interest in health care professions and scholarships to grow the area's health care workforce.

*South Dakota Searchlight's Makenzie Huber contributed to this report.*

*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.*

## Another death under investigation in state prison system

**BY: SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF**

South Dakota is conducting its seventh investigation into a state prison inmate death since February. Timothy Tyree, 46, was found unresponsive Monday in his bed at the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, according to the state Department of Corrections. He was transported to a hospital, where he died. The department said its inspector general and the state Division of Criminal Investigation are investigating. State Attorney General Marty Jackley, who oversees the DCI, described the death as a suspected drug overdose and said an autopsy has been ordered. Among the seven prison death investigations since February, two cases have so far resulted in criminal charges for people who allegedly supplied drugs. Those cases are scheduled for trial in January.

"These suspected drug overdose deaths are becoming too common within our prison system," Jackley said in a news release. "The DCI and Department of Corrections Office of the Inspector General will do a thorough investigation of this death. If criminal charges are warranted, we will announce them at the proper time."

In May, the Department of Corrections said it busted a drug smuggling ring in prison facilities.

## 130 South Dakota-based National Guard soldiers are deploying to Germany

**BY: JOSHUA HAIAR**

The South Dakota National Guard announced Monday that about 130 Mitchell-based soldiers have been activated for overseas service in Germany.

The 665th Support Maintenance Company will deploy to Grafenwöhr Training Area, the U.S. Army's largest permanent training site in Europe.

"This mobilization demonstrates our unwavering commitment to operational readiness and mission success," said Maj. Gen. Mark Morrell, the South Dakota National Guard's adjutant general, in a news release.

The company will ensure equipment used by the U.S. and allies is mission-ready, including weapon systems, communication systems, electronic systems, generators and vehicles.

Capt. Kasey Lanning is the commander of the company.

"The opportunity to work with equipment that we rarely see in South Dakota and to learn from our NATO partners will enhance our skills and knowledge immeasurably," Lanning said in the news release.

Gov. Larry Rhoden visited with the soldiers and their families in Mitchell on Saturday to wish them farewell and thank them for their service.

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

## Judge cites 'profound investigative missteps' in court case against James Comey

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY

WASHINGTON — Former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey has been granted access to all grand jury materials in his case after a federal judge found “profound investigative missteps” that could result in the dismissal of Comey’s indictment.

Eastern District of Virginia Federal Magistrate Judge William Fitzpatrick wrote Monday that issues with evidence, testimony and statements to the grand jury outweigh the usual heavily guarded secrecy of proceedings.

The government filed a motion for an emergency stay hours after the order.

In the 24-page order, Fitzpatrick delivered a scathing account of the government’s mishandling, and possibly illegal access to, evidence presented to grand jurors, including a potential Fourth Amendment violation.

Additionally, the single person to testify before the grand jury was an FBI agent who knew that the evidence he reviewed may have been attorney-client privileged or confidential information, according to the order.

Fitzpatrick also found that the entirety of the grand jury proceedings was not provided to the court, and that two statements to jurors by interim U.S. Attorney Lindsey Halligan “could reasonably form the basis for the defense to challenge whether the grand jury proceedings were infected with constitutional error.”

“(A)s the Court has found, these materials are essential if Mr. Comey is to fully and fairly defend himself in the face of the irregularities that have characterized this investigation from its inception,” Fitzpatrick wrote.

Fitzpatrick concluded “the record points to a disturbing pattern of profound investigative missteps, missteps that led an FBI agent and a prosecutor to potentially undermine the integrity of the grand jury proceeding.”

The order stemmed from Comey’s motion to access the grand jury proceedings.

District Judge Michael S. Nachmanoff, a President Joe Biden appointee who is overseeing the Comey case, ordered the materials be turned over, but the process was halted when the government challenged the order.

Nachmanoff then remanded the case to Fitzpatrick, who in 2022 was selected on merit by a panel of U.S. District judges in the Eastern District of Virginia to hold the magistrate position for eight years.

A federal grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia, indicted Comey in September on one charge of making false statements to Congress during testimony in 2020 and another of obstructing a proceeding of Congress.

Prosecutors had sought an additional charge of making false statements, but the grand jury returned only the two charges.

Trump, who publicly urged U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi to prosecute Comey, ousted the then-U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Erik S. Siebert.

Trump replaced the office’s top prosecutor with former personal lawyer Lindsey Halligan, who swiftly obtained an indictment.

Comey pleaded not guilty on Oct. 8.

Comey’s legal team is simultaneously fighting Halligan’s appointment as unlawful.

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

## Trump in about-face urges US House Republicans to vote to release Epstein files

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Sunday night abruptly changed his tune, telling House Republicans to vote on a bill to compel the Department of Justice to release all files related to its investigation into sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, who died in jail in 2019 awaiting federal trial.

In a post on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump wrote "House Republicans should vote to release the Epstein files, because we have nothing to hide, and it's time to move on from this Democrat Hoax perpetrated by Radical Left Lunatics in order to deflect from the Great Success of the Republican Party, including our recent Victory on the Democrat 'Shutdown.'"

Trump continued in his signature style of arbitrary capital letters: "The Department of Justice has already turned over tens of thousands of pages to the Public on "Epstein," are looking at various Democrat operatives (Bill Clinton, Reid Hoffman, Larry Summers, etc.) and their relationship to Epstein, and the House Oversight Committee can have whatever they are legally entitled to, I DON'T CARE!"

The House is expected to vote Tuesday after a bipartisan discharge petition garnered 218 signatures last week, forcing House Speaker Mike Johnson, of Louisiana, to bring a bill to the floor that would compel the DOJ to release Epstein investigation materials.

It's unclear whether Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., would bring the legislation to a floor vote in the GOP-controlled chamber.

Kentucky's Thomas Massie co-sponsored the petition with Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif. Three other House Republicans, Georgia's Marjorie Taylor Greene, South Carolina's Nancy Mace and Colorado's Lauren Boebert, joined all Democrats in signing.

The House's newest Democrat, Arizona's Adelita Grijalva, became the 218th signature after she was sworn in Wednesday by Johnson, following weeks in which the chamber was out of session. Johnson refused to swear in Grijalva until after the government shutdown, breaking a precedent of swearing in new members when the chamber is out.

Johnson has not been in favor of a vote, and rather has pointed to the ongoing House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's investigation into the Epstein documents.

Committee Republicans released more than 20,000 pages of Epstein's emails on Wednesday, many of which contained Trump's name.

The committee, led by Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., revealed the massive trove of emails from Epstein's estate after the panel's Democrats released a selection of the correspondence that included the allegation that Trump "knew about the girls because he asked Ghislaine to stop."

Epstein was referring to Ghislaine Maxwell, his co-conspirator, who would later be convicted on federal sex trafficking charges.

### Emails and subpoenas

Trump denies any involvement with Epstein's alleged crimes, and has said that he kicked Epstein out of his private Florida club, Mar-a-Lago, because Epstein had poached young female staffers from the club. Epstein was convicted in Florida of soliciting minors for sex in 2008.

Trump had a well-documented friendship with Epstein, who surrounded himself with the rich and powerful. Committee Republicans did not respond to States Newsroom's request for comment Wednesday on how long the committee has had possession of the emails and their timing of the data dump.

The committee has subpoenaed several people in relation to the probe, including Maxwell, several former U.S. attorneys general and former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Trump dispatched Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, who is also the president's former personal defense attorney, to interview Maxwell in a Florida prison in July.

According to transcripts, Maxwell told Blanche that she "never witnessed the president in any inappropriate setting in any way. The president was never inappropriate with anybody. In the times that I was with

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him, he was a gentleman in all respects.”

Soon after, Maxwell was moved to a minimum-security prison in Texas, and House Democrats claimed this month that a whistleblower revealed the convicted sex offender was being “pampered” by the warden. House Democrats also claimed the whistleblower revealed Maxwell was preparing a commutation application to Trump for release from her 20-year sentence.

## FBI memo

The FBI issued a July memo stating the Department of Justice would not be releasing any further information on the government’s sex trafficking investigation into Epstein.

The announcement sparked a firestorm of demands over the summer to release all investigative material, even among Trump’s supporters in Congress and far-right media influencers, including Megyn Kelly and the late Charlie Kirk.

Trump promised on the campaign trail to release the files.

Since the FBI memo, a magnifying glass has been fixed on Trump’s past relationship with Epstein.

The president sued The Wall Street Journal for reporting on a 50th birthday card Trump allegedly gave to Epstein. The card featured a cryptic message and a doodle of a naked woman with Trump’s apparent signature mimicking pubic hair. Trump denies that he created and signed the birthday doodle.

The Journal also reported that Attorney General Pam Bondi briefed the president in May that his name appeared in the Epstein case files. The context in which his name appeared is unclear.

Trump has denied all reports.

A series in the Miami Herald in 2018 by journalist Julie K. Brown drew wide attention to Epstein’s crimes and Trump’s appointment in 2017 of former Miami federal prosecutor Alex Acosta, who cut a deal in 2008 to end a federal investigation into Epstein, as the secretary of Labor.

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

## Trump administration’s FAA chief clears normal operations in the skies post-shutdown

BY: JACOB FISCHLER

The Federal Aviation Administration early Monday lifted an order that airlines cut domestic flights to 40 major U.S. airports, as air traffic control staffing levels improve following the six-week government shutdown.

The move came just before the busiest travel week of the year, though it was unclear how long it would take for airlines to resume normal operations.

The FAA’s safety team recommended ending the restrictions after seeing only one staffing trigger affect travel Sunday, according to an agency press release. There were 81 staffing triggers on Nov. 8, a few days before the end of the longest shutdown in U.S. history.

“I want to thank the FAA’s dedicated safety team for keeping our skies secure during the longest government shutdown in our nation’s history and the country’s patience for putting safety first,” Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said in the release. “Thanks to President Trump’s leadership, controllers have returned to their posts and normal operations can resume.”

The government reopened after a 43-day shutdown on Nov. 12.

Air traffic controllers were required to work without pay during the shutdown, leaving many to pursue second jobs and the workforce overstressed. The order to reduce flights, peaking at 6% at major airports, was meant to reduce that stress.

The banners at the tops of major U.S. airline websites warning of canceled flights disappeared by Monday morning.

One carrier, Southwest, replaced it with a message that its normal schedule would resume Monday.

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"Good news, the US government shutdown has ended," the message read. "Our full schedule resumes on Nov 17. Book your next trip with confidence today."

*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.*

## Shutdown ends, but more federal chaos looms for states

**Many questions remain for states already wading through seismic federal changes**

**BY: KEVIN HARDY**

Though Congress ended the record-setting federal government shutdown, many questions remain for states that were already wading through seismic federal changes.

One major uncertainty: whether and how states will be reimbursed for the costs they incurred, as they have been in previous shutdowns. And for the longer term, the shutdown offered a glimpse into the funding challenges facing states. They'll have to rely more on their own money and staff to keep federal programs going even at a time when many face their own budget problems.

That's a top concern for the federal food stamp program, known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. Amid conflicting federal guidance during the shutdown, states reacted in different ways: Some issued partial benefit payments, others sent aid to food banks to keep people from going hungry.

But even after the government reopening restores SNAP aid, other challenges loom. The major tax and spending law enacted this summer tied SNAP funding to state error rates, which measure the accuracy of benefit payments. Advocates fear the shutdown will increase error rates because of conflicting federal guidance.

"States are really worried," said Crystal FitzSimons, president of the Food Research & Action Center, a nonprofit working to address poverty-related hunger.

And states have been rushing to inform rural residents, veterans and older adults that they will soon be forced to meet work requirements or lose SNAP benefits. It's just the first in a wave of cutbacks to the nation's largest food assistance program required under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that President Donald Trump signed in July.

FitzSimons said the shutdown highlighted the importance of SNAP and how "untenable" many of the upcoming changes will prove for states. For now, states are working to get benefits to people immediately, and then will focus more on questions of reimbursement and ongoing changes to SNAP.

"The hope is that states will be able to move quickly and then turn their attention to all the changes," she said.

While public attention has centered on the shutdown chaos in recent weeks, more fundamental changes are occurring outside the spotlight, said Eric Schnurer, founder and president of Public Works, a consulting firm specializing in government performance and efficiency.

"The ground is shifting under their [states'] feet even as this goes on," he said. "Even if the Trump administration and his policies were to pass on in another three years, there are serious structural changes in the relationship between state and federal government."

Since taking office, the Trump administration has stripped states and cities of billions of dollars that Congress approved for education, infrastructure and energy projects. And the president's One Big Beautiful Bill Act mandates deep cuts to social service programs, including Medicaid and food stamps.

Under the law, states will be required to pay a greater share of administering SNAP in the coming years. That requirement, along with eligibility changes, could result in millions of Americans losing benefits.

"I think the public in general got a taste of what that might look like over the past month," Schnurer said, referencing the shutdown's first-ever disruption to SNAP benefits.

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## State-federal strain

The legislation to reopen the government approved by Congress and signed by the president this week says that states shall be reimbursed for expenses "that would have been paid" by the federal government during the shutdown.

"So that sounds promising for states," said Marcia Howard, executive director of Federal Funds Information for States, which analyzes how federal policymaking impacts states.

But it's unclear how that language will be interpreted. For example, states that sent money to food banks for emergency food assistance are less likely to be made whole compared with states that sent funds through existing federal programs like SNAP, she said.

California dedicated \$80 million in state funds and deployed the National Guard to food banks across the state. But Virginia launched a temporary state-level version of the federal food stamp program.

Previous administrations have been more flexible with federal funds, making it easier for states to receive funding or reimbursement, Howard said.

"This administration is really more holding states' feet to the fire perhaps than other administrations have. So I think they'll be less permissive in who and how they reimburse," she said.

It could take weeks or months before states know the full fallout from the shutdown, especially with food assistance.

"[States] did such different things, and I think there's going to be a fair bit of back-and-forth: should this be covered? Should this not be covered?" Howard said.

The shutdown and its aftermath underscore the ongoing strain between state and federal governments, said Lisa Parshall, a professor of political science at Daemen University in New York.

Federal uncertainty can cause state leaders to be more cautious about their own budgets — similar to how an economic downturn can decrease consumer spending, she said.

"There's a delay of services, there's a diminishment of capacity and partnership, and those things might be harder to quantify when you're talking about what is the cost of the shutdown," she said. "But I think those are real costs."

And the end of the shutdown does not extinguish those tensions.

"In some ways, even though the shutdown is over, things are not going to go back to 'normal,'" she said.

## More changes coming

Aside from spending cuts and new administrative costs, Trump's July law made major tax code changes poised to cost many states, said William Glasgall, public finance adviser at the Volcker Alliance, a nonprofit that supports public sector workers.

Most states use the federal tax code as a basis for their own income tax structures, so changes at the federal level can trickle down to state tax systems or states can choose a different structure to avoid those changes.

Last month, a Massachusetts budget official said federal tax changes would cost the state \$650 million in revenue this budget year.

So even with the government back open, states have to plan for some level of unpredictability, Glasgall said. And the future of entire agencies like the Department of Education remain up in the air, he noted.

"So there's still a lot of uncertainty, even with this bill," he said.

On Wednesday, state budget analysts briefed Maryland lawmakers on the \$1.4 billion budget gap they could face as they head into the 2026 legislative session.

That figure does not include the fallout from the federal government shutdown, which may not be known for months, according to Maryland Matters.

In late October, Democratic Gov. Wes Moore declared an emergency and directed \$10 million in state funds toward food banks and pantries. Earlier this month, he announced \$62 million in state funds would be deployed directly to SNAP recipients.

Rhyan Lake, a Moore spokesperson, told Stateline that Maryland expects the federal government to

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reimburse the state for its SNAP expenditures during the shutdown.

But lawmakers are still gearing up for a hit from major federal changes.

In addition to cuts from Trump's domestic tax and spending law, Maryland has lost about 15,000 federal jobs, budget officials said. But many federal workers who took buyouts were paid through September. And the shutdown caused a pause in federal employment data, potentially concealing the true impact.

State Sen. James Rosapepe, Democratic chair of the joint Spending Affordability Committee, said he's worried the state has only seen the beginning of its federally induced fiscal challenges. He also noted that this week's shutdown-ending legislation only assures the government remains open through January, meaning another shutdown could be just a couple months away.

"We're less than a year into the administration, and the effects of things they've already done don't seem to have flowed through yet to the data that we have, which leads me to believe that the worst is yet to come," he said.

*Stateline reporter Kevin Hardy can be reached at [khardy@stateline.org](mailto:khardy@stateline.org).*

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

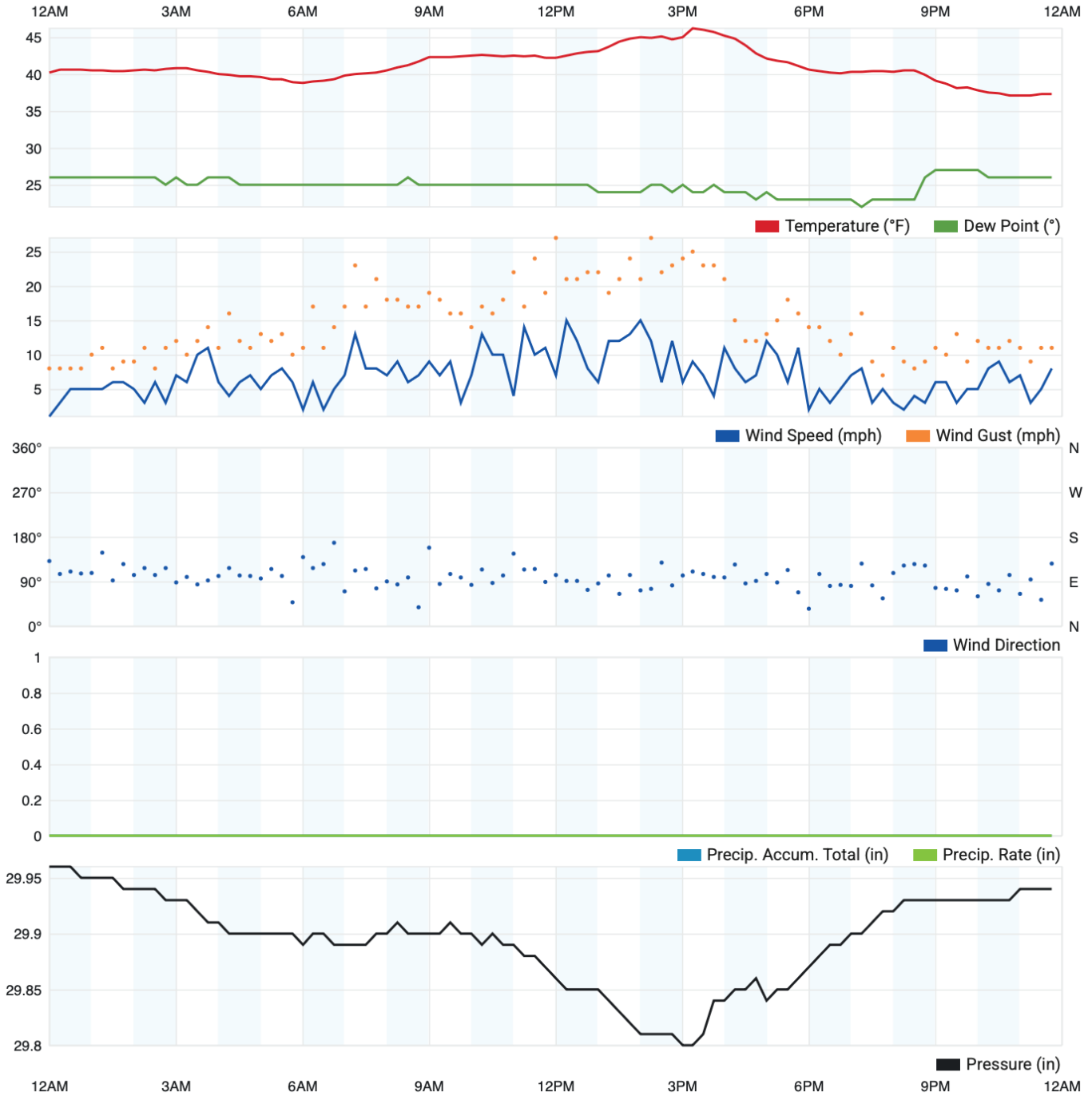
*Kevin Hardy covers business, labor and rural issues for Stateline from the Midwest.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

November 17, 2025



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Today



High: 46 °F

Decreasing  
Clouds

Tonight



Low: 33 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Wednesday



High: 49 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Wednesday  
Night



Low: 31 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Thursday



High: 47 °F

Mostly Sunny



## Work Week Outlook

Tuesday



Highs: 39-46°  
Lows: 29-34°

Wednesday



Highs: 47-58°  
Lows: 29-36°

Clouds clearing

Thursday



Highs: 43-47°  
Lows: 22-27°

Dry

Friday



Highs: 42-53°  
Lows: 27-32°

Dry

November 18, 2025 3:23 AM

Once the rain and show showers move out early this morning, the rest of the work week is expected to be mainly dry with above average temperatures in the 40s and 50s. Roads may be slick this morning, particularly around the Sisseton Hills and Prairie Coteau.

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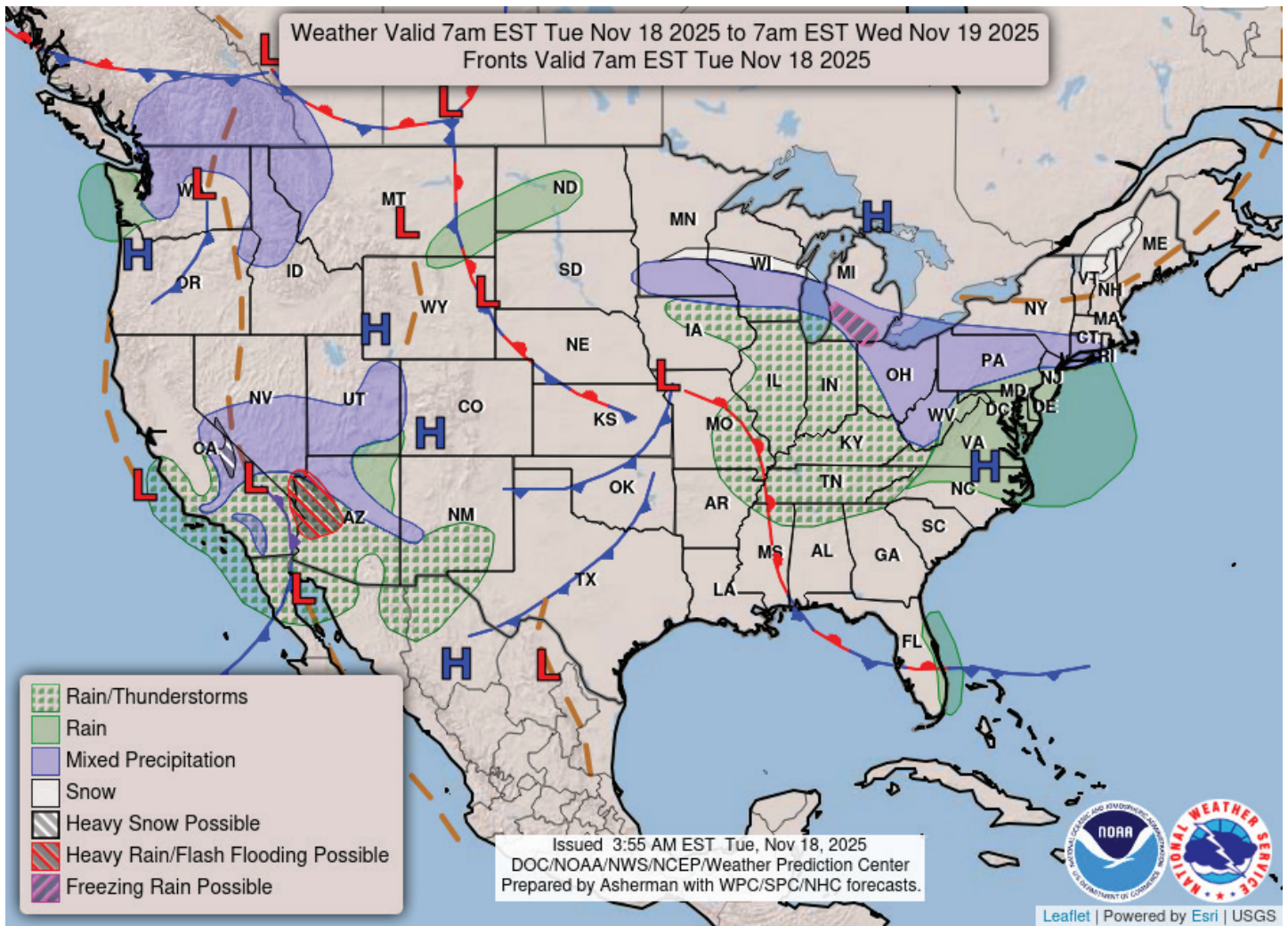
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 47 °F at 3:25 PM**  
**Low Temp: 37 °F at 10:43 PM**  
**Wind: 27 mph at 2:14 PM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 71 in 1908  
Record Low: -8 in 1959  
Average High: 41  
Average Low: 18  
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.49  
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00  
Average Precip to date: 20.96  
Precip Year to Date: 23.51  
Sunset Tonight: 4:59 pm  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:37 am



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## Today in Weather History

November 18, 1985: Snowfall of 3-8 inches fell over western, central and northern South Dakota, with the most significant amount of 8 inches at Huron in Beadle County and White River in Mellette County. Strong winds exceeding 40 mph over the area produced near-blizzard conditions at times, with considerable blowing and drifting snow. Additional storm total snowfall amounts included; 6.0 inches in Murdo; 5.5 inches at Gettysburg, 5.0 inches near Stephan, in Eureka, and 12SSW of Harrold; and 4.0 inches in McLaughlin.

November 18, 1992: Three to eleven inches of snow fell in the northeast third of South Dakota and into west central Minnesota from the 18th into the 19th. Storm total snowfall amounts included; 11.0 inches in Browns Valley and near Bryant, 9 inches near Sisseton, Summit and Wheaton MN, 8 inches near Victor and Wilmot, 7.9 inches at Artichoke Lake MN, and 7.0 inches in Clear Lake.

1421: The notorious St. Elizabeth's flood occurred during the night of November 18, to November 19 in what is now known as the Netherlands. A strong storm on the North Sea coast caused several dikes to break allowing the lower lands to flood. Some villages around Dordrecht were lost, causing an estimated 6,000 casualties.

1929: A magnitude 7.2 earthquake off the coast of the Grand Banks, Newfoundland caused a submarine landslide that triggered a tsunami that killed people on the Burin Peninsula of Newfoundland. The under-sea landslide damaged several miles of transatlantic telegraph cables, resulting in much of the \$400,000 in damage. South Carolina and Portugal felt this tsunami.

## How Grace Changes Everything

**We can do nothing to earn God's forgiveness—we just need to accept it.**

### 1 Timothy 1:12-17: The Lord's Grace to Paul

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Think about the life of Saul of Tarsus before He was known as the apostle Paul. He persecuted anyone claiming to follow Jesus. He played a significant role in the unspeakable violence aimed at Christians and, in his own words, was the "chief" of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15 KJV). Nothing he did deserved God's love or forgiveness.

Divine grace—God's unmerited favor—led the Almighty to reach down, forgive Saul, and change the trajectory of his life. God lovingly transformed him into a man who dedicated himself to sharing the gospel message. The apostle's life beautifully illustrates the power of God's goodness.

No matter how many good deeds we perform, we are unable to earn our way into heaven. Salvation is possible only because of Jesus Christ; the One who made it possible for us to be free from sin deserves all credit for our redemption. He blesses us according to His goodness, apart from anything we've done.

There is no transgression too great for Jesus to forgive. We can add nothing to His all-sufficient act of atonement—all we're able to do is receive this free gift. If we trust in Christ as Savior, God will save us, making us His children forever.

*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: 11.14.25

1 8 11 12 57 7

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$50,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 59 Mins 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.17.25

2 20 28 36 46 2

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$7,300,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 14 Mins 49 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.17.25

8 12 16 24 37 8

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 29 Mins 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.15.25

6 8 16 23 26

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$88,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 29 Mins 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.17.25

11 18 23 59 69 5

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 58 Mins 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.17.25

7 33 50 57 66 23

Power Play: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$593,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 58 Mins 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### **Buchanan's 24 help South Dakota State take down Peru State 94-46**

By The Associated Press undefined  
BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Trey Buchanan had 24 points in South Dakota State's 94-46 win over Peru State on Monday.

Buchanan shot 8 of 11 from the field, including 5 for 7 from 3-point range, and went 3 for 3 from the line for the Jackrabbits (3-2). Damon Wilkinson scored 14 points while going 5 of 7 and 4 of 4 from the free-throw line and added eight rebounds. Alec Squires shot 5 of 5 from the field and 3 of 3 from the free-throw line to finish with 13 points, while adding eight rebounds.

Ashton Lovette finished with 10 points for the Bobcats. Ty Griggs added nine points for Peru State. Luke Lee finished with six points and two steals.

### **Poland suggests Russia is behind railway blast on Ukraine delivery line**

By CLAUDIA CIOBANU Associated Press  
WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Evidence suggests that Russian secret services appear to have ordered the blowing up of a railway line in Poland over the weekend that is on a crucial route that delivers aid to Ukraine, a government spokesman said on Tuesday.

"Everything indicates" that the rail incident was "initiated by the Russian secret services," Jacek Dobrzyński, the spokesman for Poland's secret services minister, said on Tuesday morning, according to the Polish Press Agency, or PAP.

In what Prime Minister Donald Tusk called an "unprecedented act of sabotage," a segment of a rail line linking Poland's capital, Warsaw, to the border with Ukraine was blown up over the weekend. Another segment further south was also damaged in what officials say was likely sabotage as well.

That rail line is being used to transport aid to Ukraine, Polish officials said.

Dobrzyński was speaking to the media after a meeting of the governmental National Security Committee, which took place Tuesday morning with the participation of military commanders, heads of the intelligence services and a representative of the president. Army patrols have been sent to check the safety of railways and other key infrastructure in the east of the country, the defense minister said.

Polish prosecutors have initiated an investigation into "acts of sabotage of a terrorist nature" directed against railway infrastructure and committed for the benefit of foreign intelligence.

"These actions brought about an immediate danger of a land traffic disaster, threatening the lives and health of many people and property on a large scale," prosecutors said in a statement.

Defense Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz told Radio Zet on Tuesday that authorities were investigating the planned use of a camera found near the damaged tracks on the Warsaw-Lublin route.

In the first incident, an explosion damaged the tracks near the village of Mika, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) southeast of Warsaw and, in a separate incident, power lines were destroyed in the area of Puławy, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Lublin. Trains carrying passengers were forced to stop at both locations, but no one was hurt.

"The explosion was most likely intended to blow up the train," Tusk said on Monday in reference to the Mika incident.

The damage caused at both locations has been repaired.

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## Poland suggests Russia is behind railway blast on Ukraine delivery line

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The damage caused at both locations has been repaired.

## House expected to vote on bill forcing release of Jeffrey Epstein files

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House is expected to vote Tuesday on legislation to force the Justice Department to publicly release its files on the late financier Jeffrey Epstein, the culmination of a monthslong effort that has overcome opposition from President Donald Trump and Republican leadership.

When a small bipartisan group of House lawmakers introduced a petition in July to maneuver around House Speaker Mike Johnson's control of which bills see the House floor, it appeared a longshot effort, especially as Trump urged his supporters to dismiss the matter as a "hoax." But both Trump and Johnson failed in their efforts to prevent the vote.

Now the president has bowed to the growing momentum behind the bill and even said Republicans should vote for it. His blessing all but ensures that the House will pass the bill with an overwhelming margin, putting further pressure on the Senate to take it up.

Trump on Monday said he would sign the bill if it passes both chambers of Congress, adding, "Let the Senate look at it."

Tuesday's vote also provides a further boost to the demands that the Justice Department release its case files on Epstein, a well-connected financier who killed himself in a Manhattan jail while awaiting trial in 2019 on charges he sexually abused and trafficked underage girls.

A separate investigation conducted by the House Oversight Committee has released thousands of pages of emails and other documents from Epstein's estate, showing his connections to global leaders, Wall

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Street powerbrokers, influential political figures and Trump himself.

Trump's reversal on the Epstein files

Trump has said he cut ties with Epstein years ago, but tried for months to move past the demands for disclosure. On Monday, he told reporters that Epstein was connected to more Democrats and that he didn't want the Epstein files to "detract from the great success of the Republican Party."

Still, many in the Republican base have continued to demand the release of the files. Adding to that pressure, several survivors of Epstein's abuse will appear on Capitol Hill Tuesday morning to push for release of the files. They also met with Johnson and rallied outside the Capitol in September, but have had to wait two months for the vote.

That's because Johnson kept the House closed for legislative business for nearly two months and also refused to swear-in Democratic Rep. Adelita Grijalva of Arizona during the government shutdown. After winning a special election on Sept. 23, Grijalva had pledged to provide the crucial 218th vote to the petition for the Epstein files bill. But only after she was sworn into office last week could she sign her name to the discharge petition to give it majority support in the 435-member House.

It quickly became apparent the bill would pass, and both Johnson and Trump began to fold. Trump on Sunday said Republicans should vote for the bill.

Rep. Thomas Massie, the Kentucky Republican who sponsored the bill alongside Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna, said Trump "got tired of me winning. He wanted to join."

How Johnson is handling the bill

Rather than waiting until next week for the discharge position to officially take effect, Johnson is moving to hold the vote this week. He indicated the legislation will be brought to the House floor under a procedure that requires a two-thirds majority.

"I think it's going to be an important vote to continue to show the transparency that we've delivered," House Republican leader Steve Scalise, R-La., said Monday night.

House Democrats celebrated the vote as a rare win for the minority.

"It's a complete and total surrender, because as Democrats we made clear from the very beginning, the survivors and the American people deserve full and complete transparency as it relates to the lives that were ruined by Jeffrey Epstein," said House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries.

What will the Senate do?

Still, it's not clear how the Senate will handle the bill.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., has previously been circumspect when asked about the legislation and instead said he trusted the Justice Department to release information on the Epstein investigation.

But what the Justice Department has released so far under Trump was mostly already public. The bill would go further, forcing the release within 30 days of all files and communications related to Epstein, as well as any information about the investigation into his death in federal prison. Information about Epstein's victims or continuing federal investigations would be allowed to be redacted, but not information due to "embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity, including to any government official, public figure, or foreign dignitary."

Johnson also suggested that he would like to see the Senate amend the bill to protect the information of "victims and whistleblowers."

But Massie said the Senate should take into account the public clamor that forced both Trump and Johnson to back down.

"If it's anything but a genuine effort to make it better and stronger, it'll backfire on the senators if they muck it up," Massie said.

## One of 25 abducted Nigerian girls escapes captivity

KEBBI, Nigeria (AP) — One of 25 schoolgirls abducted from a school dormitory in northwestern Nigeria's Kebbi state has escaped captivity and returned home, the school principal told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

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The girls were abducted when gunmen attacked a high school in northwestern Nigeria before dawn on Monday, taking the 25 girls and killing a staff member at the school.

The student who escaped fled forests and arrived home late Monday, hours after the kidnapping at the Government Girls Comprehensive Secondary School, said Musa Rabi Magaji, the school principal.

One other student, who was not among the 25 confirmed abducted, also escaped in the minutes that followed the attack, the principal told the AP.

"One is part of the 25 abducted (and) the other one returned earlier," Magaji said. "They are safe and sound."

Mass school kidnappings have been rampant in northern Nigeria, where dozens of armed gangs of mostly nomadic herders and, more recently, jihadis, operate. Schools are often targeted by the gangs to gain more attention, analysts have said.

No group has taken responsibility for the incident but analysts and locals say it could be one of several gangs that often target schools, travelers and remote villagers in kidnappings for ransoms.

Authorities have said they include mostly former herders who have taken up arms against farming communities after clashes between them over increasingly strained resources.

Analysts and residents blame the insecurity on rampant corruption that limits weapons supplies to security forces, the failure to prosecute attackers, and porous borders that ensure steady weapons supplies to gangs.

## Netanyahu applauds UN adoption of Trump's Gaza plan and Hamas rejects it

By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday applauded the United Nations' approval of the Trump administration's blueprint to secure and govern Gaza, while Hamas rejected the plan as a foreign instrument of control.

The resolution that passed the U.N. Security Council on Monday authorizes an international stabilization force to provide security in war-devastated Gaza, approves a transitional authority called the Board of Peace to be overseen by President Donald Trump and envisions a possible future path to an independent Palestinian state.

"We believe that President Trump's plan will lead to peace and prosperity because it insists upon full demilitarization, disarmament and the deradicalization of Gaza," Netanyahu's office wrote on X Tuesday.

The resolution provides a wide mandate for the international force, including overseeing the borders, providing security and demilitarizing Gaza. Authorization for the board and force expire at the end of 2027.

Hamas rejects plan

The U.S. plan calls for the stabilization force to ensure "the permanent decommissioning of weapons from non-state armed groups." It authorizes the force "to use all necessary measures to carry out its mandate" in compliance with international law, which is U.N. language for the use of military force.

Hamas said Monday that the force's mandate including disarmament "strips it of its neutrality, and turns it into a party to the conflict in favor of the occupation." It said the resolution did not "meet the level of our Palestinian people's political and humanitarian demands and rights." Hamas demanded that any international force be under U.N. supervision, deploy only at Gaza's borders to monitor the ceasefire and operate exclusively with Palestinian institutions.

Palestinian Authority welcomes resolution after statehood is included

The Palestinian Authority welcomed the resolution and said it was ready to immediately implement it on the ground. It said it would cooperate with the U.S., the U.N., and other Arab and European states.

Palestinians largely view the PA, which governs semiautonomous zones in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, as weak and corrupt. The authority's security coordination with Israel is extremely unpopular, and many Palestinians see it as a subcontractor of the occupation.

The U.N. vote came about following nearly two weeks of negotiations, when Arab nations and the Pales-

tinians pressed the United States to strengthen language about Palestinian self-determination. The proposal still gives no timeline or guarantee for an independent state, only saying it's possible after advances in the reconstruction of Gaza and reforms of the Palestinian Authority.

The U.S. revised the resolution to say that after those steps, "the conditions may finally be in place for a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood."

"The United States will establish a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians to agree on a political horizon for peaceful and prosperous coexistence," it adds.

Resolution gains support from Muslim-majority and Arab countries

A key to the resolution's adoption was support from Arab and other Muslim nations that had been critical for the ceasefire and potentially could contribute to the international force. The U.S. mission to the United Nations distributed a joint statement Friday with Qatar, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Jordan and Turkey calling for "swift adoption" of the U.S. proposal.

Both Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, and Turkey said they would work toward a two-state solution, which Netanyahu has opposed.

Turkish officials have previously said Turkey is ready to contribute to an international force in Gaza despite Israeli opposition to a Turkish presence.

The vote shores up hopes that Gaza's fragile ceasefire will be maintained following a war set off by Hamas' surprise attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, which killed about 1,200 people. Israel's offensive has killed over 69,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants but says the majority are women and children.

U.K. Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper said Tuesday that the international community needed to "work together to take forward the 20 point plan and to turn it into a just and lasting peace." Cooper called for "urgent action to open all the crossings, lift restrictions and flood Gaza with aid."

What else the US proposal says

Trump said the members of the Board of Peace will be named in the coming weeks, along with "many more exciting announcements."

The plan calls for the stabilization troops to secure Gaza border areas, along with a Palestinian police force that they have trained and vetted. The force will coordinate with other countries to secure the flow of humanitarian assistance, and should closely consult and cooperate with neighboring Egypt and Israel.

As the international force establishes control, the resolution says Israeli forces will withdraw from Gaza "based on standards, milestones, and time frames linked to demilitarization." These must be agreed to by the stabilization force, Israeli forces, the U.S. and the guarantors of the ceasefire, it says.

## **In the violence plaguing Nigeria, many say everyone — Christian or Muslim — is a potential victim**

By CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

LIGARI, Nigeria (AP) — The villagers in northwestern Nigeria were settling in for church service when motorcycle-riding gunmen invaded, shooting at random and seizing at least 62 people, including the pastor and several children.

They were marched into the nearby bush, then forced to walk for two days to a forest hideout. There, they said, they were held for nearly a month while relatives and other villagers sold anything they could — farmland, livestock, motorcycles — to raise the ransom demanded for their release.

They got little food and sleep, were told to renounce Christianity, and saw two fellow hostages killed, four of the villagers who were eventually freed told The Associated Press in interviews at their church in the Ligari community, in Nigeria's Kaduna state.

"I told my people even if they see my dead body, they should not deny Jesus and they should remain strong," said the Rev. Micah Bulus, resident pastor of Kauna Baptist Church.

Since the attack last November, the community has experienced more violence, like much of the conflict-

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battered north. On Monday, gunmen abducted 25 schoolgirls and killed at least one staff member at a boarding school in Kebbi, another northwestern state.

In Ligari, villagers say nearly every household has seen a relative, friend or neighbor killed or abducted. It's part of the longstanding security crisis in Nigeria — a place now singled out by U.S. President Donald Trump for "the killing of Christians" by "radical Islamists."

Victims and church leaders echo Trump's claims that Christians are persecuted. They say they've long been attacked, kidnapped or killed because of their faith.

But many insist the reality isn't as simple as Trump's narrative, which casts Christianity as facing an "existential threat" in Nigeria. Experts and residents say some attacks target Christians, but most emphasize that in the widespread violence that has long plagued the West African nation, everyone is a potential victim, regardless of background or belief.

"They don't ask you whether you are a Muslim or a Christian," 32-year-old Abdulmalik Saidu said of the gunmen regularly stalking his northwestern state, Zamfara. "All they want is just money from you. (Even) if you have money, sometimes they will kill you."

Saidu, a Muslim, said his brother was shot dead during a kidnapping operation along a major highway, and the family never recovered his body, for fear of attacks. In Kaduna, an imam told AP that he's lost a grandson, cousin and brother, and his family has been displaced twice due to violence. Other religious leaders say mosques have been destroyed, people have fled, and desperate Muslims — like their Christian neighbors — have been forced to sell goods and belongings for ransom.

"The kind of pain we've gone through for the past years — this issue affects both faiths," said the imam, Idris Ishaq.

## 'A war against Nigeria'

Nigeria's population of 220 million is split almost evenly between Christians, who live predominantly in the south, and Muslims, mostly in the north — where attacks have long been concentrated and where levels of illiteracy, poverty and hunger are among the country's highest. Nationwide, Muslims constitute a slight majority.

Experts and data from two nonpartisan sources — the U.S.-based Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project and Council on Foreign Relations — show Christians are often targets in a small percentage of overall attacks that appear to be motivated by religion, in some northern states.

But the numbers and analysts also indicate that across the north, most victims of overall violence are Muslims.

Analysts and residents blame the killings on rampant corruption that limits weapons supplies to security forces, the failure to prosecute attackers, and porous borders that ensure steady weapons supplies to gangs.

"These attacks are indiscriminate: They attack state institutions, they target Nigerians in their places of worship, they target Nigerians in civilian locations," said Bulama Bukarti, a Nigerian conflict researcher and human rights lawyer. "In essence, it is a war against Nigeria."

In the northeast, Boko Haram jihadi extremists and, more recently, an Islamic State-backed breakaway faction have since 2009 waged an insurgency to enforce their brutal interpretation of Shariah law. In 2014, Boko Haram kidnapped 276 schoolgirls — mostly Christian, but some Muslim — from a school in Chibok, in Borno state. The unprecedented attack marked a new era of fear across Nigeria. Mass abductions, particularly of students, have been on the rise since.

In the northwest and central regions, rogue gangs attack villages, travelers and farming communities comprised mostly of Christians. The gangs aren't connected to Boko Haram and generally aren't motivated by religion. The ransoms they demand can reach thousands of dollars.

The Ligari community, with the church where 62 were kidnapped, is less than 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Kaduna's capital. But its rocky road, vast forest, and lack of security posts mean villagers get little security intervention.

"My wife has been kidnapped twice, and I have been kidnapped once," said Micah Musa, a farmer who complained that officers never came to the family's aid. "Everything I had has been destroyed."

Analysts say numbers can't tell the whole story

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Trump named Nigeria a “country of particular concern” – a U.S. declaration for nations it says fail to act on religious freedom violations — and this month told defense officials to begin preparing for military action here. On Monday, the State Department reiterated to AP that the U.S. “stands ready, willing, and able to act” in Nigeria.

Trump’s declaration followed a campaign by Republican lawmakers who say 100,000 Christians have been killed in Nigeria — a figure also cited by TV talk-show host Bill Maher. The number now echoes among Nigeria’s Christian communities, but experts say it’s likely inflated.

The ACLED — which uses local news reports for its data — says 52,915 civilians have been killed in Nigeria through targeted political violence since 2009, with both Christian and Muslim victims.

“It is important to note that while attacks against Christians are both real and deeply concerning, communities across religious lines are affected,” said Ladd Serwat, senior Africa analyst at ACLED.

The Council on Foreign Relations’ Nigeria security tracker, which also uses news reports, shows that more than 100,000 Nigerians have died in armed violence since 2011 — but that figure includes civilians and security forces, which are overstretched and often targeted by gangs.

Analysts say breakdowns by religion simply aren’t possible. Religious identities aren’t always reported, recordkeeping amid violence is difficult, and attack motivations can be unclear.

Like Christians, some Muslims say they’re targeted for their faith. Mosques have been attacked during prayers, and worshippers inside killed or abducted. Experts say that in all cases, religious or economic motives could be at play.

Desperate families strike deals with gangs

Arrests in attacks are rare. The lack of law enforcement has pushed some communities into deals with gangs, allowing them to access their farmlands — a sign of growing desperation.

“The message the government sends is that you can commit heinous crimes and get away with it,” researcher Bukarti said.

In June, gunmen killed at least 150 people in the Yelewata community in north-central Nigeria. Security forces arrived long after the attackers left, villager Titus Tsegba told AP. His wife and four children were among those killed.

After the November church attack in Kaduna, freed hostages said they felt abandoned, with no support from security forces. They noted that despite trekking through nearby communities for two days to the kidnappers’ hideout, they saw no law enforcement presence.

Some deals with gangs have resulted in fewer killings, Kaduna pastor Simon Shuaibu said. But villagers depend on farming, he said, and gangs force them to pay before harvesting or face kidnapping.

Tabitha Danladi, 55, and her husband were kidnapped in June. She was released and told to raise money to free him, she said.

“I’ve sold everything,” said Danladi, who struggles to feed her four children while paying the ransoms. “But we don’t know if he’s still alive.”

To some, Trump’s words bring hope

When Trump threatened military intervention, Nigerian officials largely rejected the notion.

But some see it as a wake-up call for a government they say has ignored them.

“Many Nigerians have reacted to Trump’s statements with, at minimum, anger and frustration at the Nigerian government, if not in some cases an outright embrace of the possibility of a U.S. intervention,” said James Barnett, an Africa researcher with the Washington-based Hudson Institute, a conservative think tank.

In Kaduna, the Rev. John Hayab, a Baptist pastor, said Trump brought needed attention.

“If there’s any voice that can wake them up ... please let that voice be increased,” he said. “We’ve been crying out all these years; actions were not taken.”

## Mayor says federal immigration agents will expand enforcement action in North Carolina to Raleigh

By ERIK VERDUZCO, TIM SULLIVAN and GARY D. ROBERTSON Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Federal immigration authorities will expand their enforcement action in North Carolina to Raleigh as soon as Tuesday, the mayor of the state's capital city said, while Customs and Border Protection agents continue operating in Charlotte following a weekend that saw arrests of more than 130 people in that city.

Mayor Janet Cowell said Monday that she didn't know how large the operation would be or how long agents would be present. Immigration authorities haven't spoken about it. The Democrat said in a statement that crime was lower in Raleigh this year compared to last and that public safety was a priority for her and the city council.

"I ask Raleigh to remember our values and maintain peace and respect through any upcoming challenges," Cowell said in a statement.

U.S. immigration agents arrested more than 130 people over the weekend in a sweep through Charlotte, North Carolina's largest city, a federal official said Monday.

The movements in North Carolina come after the Trump administration launched immigration crackdowns in Los Angeles and Chicago. Both of those are deep blue cities in deep blue states run by nationally prominent officials who make no secret of their anger at the White House. The political reasoning there seemed obvious.

But why North Carolina and why was Charlotte the first target there?

Sure the mayor is a Democrat, as is the governor, but neither is known for wading into national political battles. In a state where divided government has become the norm, Gov. Josh Stein in particular has tried hard to get along with the GOP-controlled state legislature. The state's two U.S. senators are both Republican and President Donald Trump won the state in the last three presidential elections.

The Department of Homeland Security has said it is focusing on North Carolina because of so-called sanctuary policies, which limit cooperation between local authorities and immigration agents.

But maybe focusing on a place where politics is less outwardly bloody was part of the equation.

The White House "can have enough opposition (to its crackdown), but it's a weaker version" than what it faced in places like Chicago, said Rick Su, a professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law who studies local government, immigration and federalism.

"They're not interested in just deporting people. They're interested in the show," he said.

The crackdown

The Trump administration has made Charlotte, a Democratic city of about 950,000 people, its latest focus for an immigration enforcement surge it says will combat crime — despite local opposition and declining crime rates. Residents reported encounters with immigration agents near churches, apartment complexes and stores.

Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement that Border Patrol officers had arrested "over 130 illegal aliens who have all broken" immigration laws. The agency said the records of those arrested included gang membership, aggravated assault, shoplifting and other crimes, but it did not say how many cases had resulted in convictions, how many people had been facing charges or any other details.

The crackdown set off fierce objections from area leaders.

"We've seen masked, heavily armed agents in paramilitary garb driving unmarked cars, targeting American citizens based on their skin color," Stein said in a video statement late Sunday. "This is not making us safer. It's stoking fear and dividing our community."

Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles said Monday she was "deeply concerned" about videos she's seen of the crackdown but also said she appreciates protesters' peacefulness.

"To everyone in Charlotte who is feeling anxious or fearful: You are not alone. Your city stands with you," she said in a statement.

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The debate over crime and immigration

Charlotte and surrounding Mecklenburg County have both found themselves part of America's debates over crime and immigration, two of the most important issues to the White House.

The most prominent was the fatal stabbing this summer of Ukrainian refugee Iryna Zarutka on a Charlotte light-rail train, an attack captured on video. While the suspect was from the U.S., the Trump administration repeatedly highlighted that he had been arrested previously more than a dozen times.

Charlotte, which had a Republican mayor as recently as 2009, is now a city dominated by Democrats, with a growing population brought by a booming economy. The racially diverse city includes more than 150,000 foreign-born residents, officials say.

Lyles easily won a fifth term as mayor earlier this month, defeating her Republican rival by 45 percentage points even as GOP critics blasted city and state leaders for what they call rising incidents of crime. Following the Nov. 4 election, Democrats are poised to hold 10 of the other 11 seats on the city council.

While the Department of Homeland Security has said it is focusing on the state because of sanctuary policies, North Carolina county jails have long honored "detainers," or requests from federal officials to hold an arrested immigrant for a limited time so agents can take custody of them. Nevertheless, some common, noncooperation policies have existed in a handful of places, including Charlotte, where the police do not help with immigration enforcement.

In Mecklenburg County, the jail did not honor detainer requests for several years, until after state law effectively made it mandatory starting last year.

DHS said about 1,400 detainers across North Carolina had not been honored since October 2020, putting the public at risk.

For years, Mecklenburg Sheriff Garry McFadden pushed back against efforts by the Republican-controlled state legislature to force him and a handful of sheriffs from other urban counties to accept ICE detainers.

Republicans ultimately overrode a veto by then-Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper late last year to enact the bill into law.

While McFadden has said his office is complying with the law's requirement, he continued a public feud with ICE leaders in early 2025 that led to a new state law toughening those rules. Stein vetoed that measure, but the veto was overridden.

Republican House Speaker Destin Hall said in a Monday post on X that immigration agents are in Charlotte because of McFadden's past inaction: "They're stepping in to clean up his mess and restore safety to the city."

Last month, McFadden said he'd had a productive meeting with an ICE representative.

"I made it clear that I do not want to stop ICE from doing their job, but I do want them to do it safely, responsibly, and with proper coordination by notifying our agency ahead of time," McFadden said in a statement.

But such talk doesn't calm the political waters.

"Democrats at all levels are choosing to protect criminal illegals over North Carolina citizens," state GOP Chairman Jason Simmons said Monday.

## LA County sheriff investigating new sex battery claim against Sean 'Diddy' Combs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said Monday it's investigating a new sexual battery allegation against hip-hop mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs, who is serving a four-year prison sentence on prostitution-related convictions.

A male music producer and publicist said he was asked to come to a photo shoot in 2020 at a Los Angeles warehouse, where Combs exposed himself while masturbating and told the accuser to assist, according to NBC News, citing a police report. Combs then tossed a dirty shirt at the man, the producer said.

The accuser, whose name is redacted in the police report, said he did not tell anyone for several years

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because he felt embarrassed. He came forward to police in Largo, Florida, this September, shortly after Combs was convicted on other charges.

Combs' lawyer did not immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press seeking comment on the latest allegations.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said it received an official copy of the report from the Florida department on Friday, and will be investigating the allegations.

The report also details an incident from March 2021 in which the accuser claims two men covered his head before Combs came into the room and called him a snitch, according to NBC.

Combs was convicted in July of flying his girlfriends and male sex workers around the country to engage in drug-fueled sexual encounters in multiple places over many years. However, he was acquitted of sex trafficking and racketeering charges that could have put him behind bars for life.

He is set to be released in May 2028, though he can earn reductions in his time behind bars through his participation in substance abuse treatment and other prison programs.

## Federal immigration agents will expand enforcement action in North Carolina to Raleigh, mayor says

By ERIK VERDUZCO, TIM SULLIVAN and GARY D. ROBERTSON Associated Press

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## Poland blames sabotage for railway blast on Ukraine delivery line

By CLAUDIA CIOBANU and EMMA BURROWS Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Monday that an explosion on a section of railway line used for deliveries to Ukraine was an "unprecedented act of sabotage."

A Polish security official told The Associated Press that authorities are investigating whether the blast on Sunday on the line linking Warsaw to southeastern Poland is connected to Russia, Belarus or their proxies.

Tusk has vowed that Poland will catch the perpetrators, "whoever they are."

While visiting the site Monday, the prime minister said the incident had taken place on a line that is vital for delivering aid to Ukraine. Polish officials said they were sure an explosive device had been detonated on a section of track between Warsaw and Lublin and later discovered damage to overhead cables on the same line. Both were likely sabotage, Polish officials said.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said the alliance is in close contact with Polish officials and is awaiting the outcome of the investigation.

Western officials have accused Russia and its proxies of staging dozens of attacks and other incidents across Europe since the invasion of Ukraine three years ago, according to data collected by the AP. Moscow's goal, Western officials say, is to undermine support for Ukraine, spark fear and divide European societies.

The likelihood that the two incidents on the railway line happened "on the order of foreign services" was "very high" said Tomasz Siemoniak, Poland's security services minister.

Investigators probing the two cases of suspected sabotage are investigating whether they were deliberate acts by a hostile state, said the Polish security official, who was speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

"The perpetrators demonstrated high professionalism and expert training," they said.

A train driver on the line between the capital, Warsaw and Lublin in southeastern Poland reported problems with the track around 7:40 a.m. on Sunday. Further inspection determined there was damage to a section of track near the village of Mika, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) southeast of Warsaw, officials said.

"We can say beyond any doubt that an explosive device was detonated, damaging the railway tracks," Polish Interior Minister Marcin Kierwiński said.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the explosion and damage occurred late Saturday or early Sunday. Two passengers and several staff members were on the train, but no injuries were reported, officials said.

Defense Minister Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz said Monday that the army plans to examine 120 kilometers (about 75 miles) of the Warsaw-Lublin-Hrubieszów line, which links the capital to Ukraine by rail and road.

Another train on the Świnoujście-Rzeszów route that travels along the same line was forced to stop Sunday night at Puławy, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Lublin after the overhead electrical cables were damaged, Kierwiński said Monday. Around 60 meters (200 feet) of power lines were damaged, he said. Puławy is situated between Mika and Lublin on the same train line linking Warsaw to the Ukrainian border.

At the time the train stopped, there were 475 passengers on board but no injuries were reported despite the damaged power lines breaking several of the train's windows.

Speaking with Rutte at a press conference in Brussels following the announcement from Poland, Finland's President Alexander Stubb said European nations need to keep "cool heads."

He warned about overreacting to incidents of alleged Russian disruption, warning that, "this is unfortunately the new normal. What Russia is trying to do is to destabilize our societies through information and other campaigns."

In an interview Saturday at a Finnish military base, Stubb said Moscow is conducting "two types of warfare" — a kinetic war in Ukraine and a hybrid war in Europe.

"The line between war and peace has been blurred," Stubb said.

## Off-duty pilot who tried to cut a flight's engines midair won't serve prison time, judge rules

By CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A federal judge on Monday ruled there would be no prison time for a former Alaska Airlines pilot who had taken psychedelic mushrooms days before he tried to cut the engines of a passenger flight in 2023 while riding off-duty in the cockpit.

U.S. District Court Judge Amy Baggio in Portland, Oregon, sentenced Joseph Emerson to time served and three years' supervised release, ending a case that drew attention to the need for cockpit safety and more mental health support for pilots.

Federal prosecutors wanted a year in prison, while his attorneys sought probation.

"Pilots are not perfect. They are human," Baggio said. "They are people and all people need help sometimes."

Emerson hugged his attorneys and tearfully embraced his wife after he was sentenced.

Emerson was subdued by the flight crew after trying to cut the engines of a Horizon Air flight from Everett, Washington, to San Francisco on Oct. 22, 2023, while he was riding in an extra seat in the cockpit. The plane was diverted and landed in Portland with more than 80 people.

Emerson told police he was despondent over a friend's recent death, had taken psychedelic mushrooms about two days earlier, and hadn't slept in over 40 hours. He has said he believed he was dreaming and was trying to wake up by grabbing two red handles that would have activated the fire suppression system and cut fuel to the engines.

He spent 46 days in jail and was released pending trial in December 2023, with requirements that he undergo mental health services, stay off drugs and alcohol, and keep away from aircraft.

Attorney Ethan Levi described his client's actions as "a product of untreated alcohol use disorder." Emerson had been drinking and accepted mushrooms "because of his lower inhibitions," Levi said.

Emerson went to treatment after jail and has been sober since, he added.

Baggio said the case is a cautionary tale. Before she sentenced him, Emerson said he regretted the harm he caused.

"I'm not a victim. I am here as a direct result of my actions," he told the court. "I can tell you that this very tragic event has forced me to grow as an individual."

Loved ones and pilots addressed the judge

Emerson's wife, Sarah Stretch, was among those who spoke on his behalf at the hearing.

"I am so sorry for those that it's impacted as much as it has. But I am extremely proud to be here with this man today, because the growth that he has had from this terrible experience has not only helped him, but benefited all that surround him," she said through tears.

One of the pilots of the 2023 Horizon Air flight, Alan Koziol, said he didn't think Emerson was acting with malice and that he seemed "more like a trapped animal than a man in control of his faculties." Koziol said that while pilots bear "immense responsibility," he also wanted to see the aviation industry become more open to allowing pilots to seek mental health care.

Lyle Prouse, sentenced to 16 months in prison for flying an airliner under the influence of alcohol in 1990, told the judge via videoconference that Emerson was "solidly engaged" in recovering. Prouse said he got sober and was eventually reinstated by the airline and retired as a 747 captain. He was pardoned by then-President Bill Clinton.

"I know Joe like nobody else in this courtroom knows Joe on that level," he said.

Geoffrey Barrow, assistant U.S. attorney in the district of Oregon, said Emerson's actions were serious and that the crew "saved the day by intervening."

"There were 84 people on that plane who could have lost their lives," he said.

Alison Snyder told the court via phone that it was a traumatic experience for her and her husband as passengers.

"Because of Joseph Emerson's actions that day, we will never feel as safe flying as we once did," she said.

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Emerson was already sentenced in state case

Emerson, of Pleasant Hill, California, had pleaded guilty or no-contest to all charges in September as part of agreements with prosecutors.

He was charged in federal court with interfering with a flight crew. A state indictment in Oregon separately charged him with 83 counts of endangering another person and one count of endangering an aircraft.

A state court sentenced him to 50 days in jail, with credit for time served, plus five years of probation, 664 hours of community service — half of which he can serve at his own pilot health nonprofit — and over \$60,000 in restitution, nearly all of it to Alaska Air Group. His sentence included rules over drugs, alcohol and mental health treatment, as well as avoiding aircraft.

His attorneys argued before federal sentencing that the “robust” state prosecution “resulted in substantial punishment.”

Emerson told a state court in September he was grateful the crew restrained him. He said being forced to confront his mental health and alcohol dependence was the greatest gift he ever received.

## UN approves the Trump administration’s plan for the future of Gaza

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Trump administration’s blueprint to secure and govern Gaza won strong approval at the United Nations on Monday, a crucial step that provides international support for U.S. efforts to move the devastated territory toward peace following two years of war.

The U.S. resolution that passed the U.N. Security Council authorizes an international stabilization force to provide security in Gaza, approves a transitional authority to be overseen by President Donald Trump and envisions a possible future path to an independent Palestinian state.

“This will go down as one of the biggest approvals in the History of the United Nations, will lead to further Peace all over the World, and is a moment of true Historic proportion!” Trump posted on social media.

The vote endorses Trump’s 20-point ceasefire plan and builds on the momentum of the fragile ceasefire he helped broker with allies. It marks a key next step for American efforts to outline Gaza’s future after the Israel-Hamas war destroyed much of the territory and killed tens of thousands of people.

The proposal calls for a yet-to-be-established Board of Peace as a transitional authority that Trump would head. It also provides a wide mandate for the international stabilization force, including overseeing the borders, providing security and demilitarizing the territory. Authorization for the board and force expire at the end of 2027.

Arab and other Muslim countries that expressed interest in providing troops for an international force had signaled that U.N. authorization was essential for their participation.

Russia, which had circulated a rival resolution, abstained along with China on the 13-0 vote after fears Moscow might use its veto in the Security Council.

However, Hamas opposed the resolution, saying in a statement that it does not meet the “Palestinian people’s political and humanitarian demands and rights.”

Stronger language on Palestinian state helps get the US plan over the finish line

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Mike Waltz said the resolution “represents another significant step towards a stable Gaza that will be able to prosper and an environment that will allow Israel to live in security.”

It came about following nearly two weeks of negotiations, when Arab nations and the Palestinians pressed the United States to strengthen language about Palestinian self-determination.

But the proposal still gives no timeline or guarantee for an independent state, only saying it’s possible after advances in the reconstruction of Gaza and reforms of the Palestinian Authority, which now governs parts of the West Bank.

The U.S. revised the resolution to say that after those steps, “the conditions may finally be in place for a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood.”

“The United States will establish a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians to agree on a political horizon for peaceful and prosperous coexistence,” it adds.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opposes Palestinian statehood and repeated that position Sunday at a time when his hard-line governing partners have expressed concern about the resolution's endorsement of a "pathway" to Palestinian independence.

Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon told reporters before the vote that Israel was grateful to Trump "for leading peace to the Middle East."

Algeria's U.N. Ambassador Amar Bendjama, the Arab representative on the council, thanked Trump for his instrumental role in bringing about the ceasefire, but said "genuine peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without justice, justice for the Palestinian people."

A key to the resolution's adoption was support from Arab and other Muslim nations that had been critical to the ceasefire and potentially could contribute to the international force. The U.S. mission to the United Nations distributed a joint statement Friday with Qatar, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Jordan and Turkey calling for "swift adoption" of the U.S. proposal.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said Moscow took note of that support but abstained because the resolution did not include a role for the Security Council or emphatically support Palestinian statehood.

The vote shores up hopes that Gaza's fragile ceasefire will be maintained following a war set off by Hamas' surprise attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, which killed about 1,200 people. Israel's offensive has killed over 69,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza health ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants but says the majority are women and children.

What else the US proposal says

Trump said the members of the Board of Peace will be named in the coming weeks, along with "many more exciting announcements."

The U.S. resolution calls for the stabilization force to ensure "the process of demilitarizing the Gaza Strip" and "the permanent decommissioning of weapons from non-state armed groups."

A big question has been how to disarm Hamas, which said Monday that giving the force a role inside Gaza that includes disarmament "strips it of its neutrality, and turns it into a party to the conflict in favor of the occupation."

The resolution authorizes the force "to use all necessary measures to carry out its mandate" in compliance with international law, which is U.N. language for the use of military force.

It says the stabilization troops will help secure border areas, along with a Palestinian police force that they have trained and vetted, and they will coordinate with other countries to secure the flow of humanitarian assistance. It says the force should closely consult and cooperate with neighboring Egypt and Israel.

As the international force establishes control, the resolution says Israeli forces will withdraw from Gaza "based on standards, milestones, and timeframes linked to demilitarization." These must be agreed to by the stabilization force, Israeli forces, the U.S. and the guarantors of the ceasefire, it says.

## Man charged with murder in shooting of Oakland football coach and 'Last Chance U' star John Beam

By TERRY CHEA and JANIE HAR Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — A 27-year-old man was charged Monday with murder in the shooting death of celebrated former football coach John Beam, who died Friday after being shot in the head on the junior college campus in Oakland where he worked.

Cedric Irving Jr. could face 50 years to life if convicted, said Alameda County District Attorney Ursula Jones Dickson at a Monday press conference. Irving also faces enhancement charges alleging he personally fired a gun that caused great bodily injury and that the victim was particularly vulnerable, possibly due to age, according to the charging complaint.

Beam, 66, was a giant in the local community, a father figure who forged deep relationships with his players while fielding a team that regularly competed for championships. The Netflix docuseries "Last Chance U" focused on Beam and the Laney Eagles in its 2020 season. He'd most recently been serving as the school's athletic director after retiring from coaching last year.

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"He really is the best of Oakland — was the best of Oakland," Jones Dickson said. "His spirit is still here."

The district attorney said Irving had no criminal record. He is being held without bail, and is scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday. The Alameda County Public Defender's Office said it has not been appointed to represent Irving and declined comment.

Back-to-back shootings at two schools last week have roiled Oakland, a city of roughly 400,000 across the bay from San Francisco. On Wednesday, a student was shot at Oakland's Skyline High School. The student is in stable condition and two juveniles were in custody.

Jones Dickson said Skyline students were on a field trip at Laney College and had to suffer through two lockdowns in the same week. She said it was time to bring accountability into the debate over gun violence because too many young people were being hurt by easy access to firearms.

"That's unacceptable that we have children in our community who now this is the norm. Two days in a row that they're locked down for gun violence on a campus. I'm not good with that," she said.

Officers arrived at Laney College before noon Thursday to find Beam shot in the head at the athletics field house. He was treated at a hospital, but died the following day from his injuries.

Irving was arrested at a commuter rail station just after 3 a.m. Friday. He was carrying the firearm used to shoot Beam, and he admitted to carrying out the shooting, according to the probable cause document.

Oakland Police Assistant Chief James Beere said the suspect went on campus for a "specific reason" but did not elaborate. "This was a very targeted incident," he said at a Friday news conference.

Beere did not say how the two men knew each other but said Irving was known to hang around the Laney campus. Irving's brother told the San Francisco Chronicle that Irving had lost his job as a security guard after an altercation and was facing eviction at home.

Beam joined Laney College in 2004 as a running backs coach and became head coach in 2012, winning two league titles. According to his biography on the college's website, at least 20 of his players went on to the NFL.

Beam previously worked at Skyline High School, where Irving had played football but after Beam had left for another job.

## **Hundreds of National Guard troops deployed to Portland and Chicago are being sent home**

By JULIE WATSON Associated Press

Hundreds of National Guard troops deployed to Chicago and Portland, Oregon, are being sent home, and those who will remain will continue to stay off the streets amid court battles over their domestic mission by the Trump administration, a defense official said Monday.

The withdrawal of soldiers — sent from California and Texas — is part of a larger change to troop deployments after President Donald Trump began his immigration crackdown in various cities with Democratic leadership. The official was not authorized to publicly discuss the issue and requested anonymity.

U.S. Northern Command said in a statement Sunday it was "shifting and/or rightsizing" units in Portland, Los Angeles and Chicago, although it said there would be a "constant, enduring, and long-term presence in each city."

In the coming days, all 200 California National Guard troops currently deployed to Portland will be sent home, the official said. The military also plans to cut the number of Oregon National Guard troops on deployment there from 200 soldiers to 100, the official said.

About 200 Texas National Guard troops in Chicago also are being sent home and about 200 soldiers will be on standby at Fort Bliss, an Army base that stretches across parts of Texas and New Mexico, the official said.

About 300 Illinois National Guard troops will remain in the Chicago area, also doing training, but they currently are not legally allowed to conduct operations with the Department of Homeland Security, the official said.

The official said the upcoming holiday season may have played a role in the change in deployments.

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Diana Crofts-Pelayo, a spokesperson for California Gov. Gavin Newsom, applauded the return of all California National Guard troops in Oregon, saying Trump "never should have illegally deployed our troops in the first place."

"We're glad they're finally coming home," she wrote in an email. "It's long overdue!"

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek called on the Trump administration to demobilize the remaining 100 troops in her state, as well.

"Members of the Oregon National Guard, who are our friends and neighbors, have been away from their families and jobs for 50 days on an unnecessary deployment," Kotek said in a written statement. "With the holidays approaching, every single member deserves to go home."

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker said the Trump administration doesn't communicate its plans with state leaders and was still threatening to federalize more troops.

"This confirms what we have always known: This is about normalizing military forces in American cities," Pritzker spokesman Matt Hill said in a statement Saturday.

Hill didn't immediately return a message left Monday.

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

U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut in Portland this month issued a permanent injunction blocking Trump from deploying troops in the city, saying he had failed to establish that he was legally entitled to do so. On Sunday, the administration filed an emergency motion seeking to put the ruling on hold while it appeals.

Separately, the Trump administration has stepped up immigration enforcement in Charlotte, North Carolina, expanding an aggressive campaign that's been spearheaded by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

National Guard deployments have been one of the most controversial initiatives of Trump's second term, demonstrating an expanded willingness to use the military to accomplish domestic goals.

Troops, including active-duty Marines, were deployed to Los Angeles during immigration protests earlier this year.

The National Guard was also sent to Washington, D.C., where they were part of a broader federal intervention that Trump claimed was necessary because of crime problems.

The deployments later expanded to Portland and Chicago.

Although they don't play a law enforcement role, members of the National Guard have been tasked with protecting federal facilities, particularly those run by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

About 100 troops who have been in Los Angeles will remain on deployment there, the defense official said.

## Former Bangladesh leader Hasina sentenced to death for crackdown on uprising that ousted her

By JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and one of her close aides were sentenced to death Monday over her crackdown on a student uprising last year that killed hundreds of people and led to the toppling of her 15-year rule.

The International Crimes Tribunal based in Dhaka, the capital, passed sentence on Hasina and former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan for their involvement in the use of deadly force against protesters.

Hasina and Khan, who fled to India last year, were sentenced in absentia. India has so far declined to extradite them, making it unlikely that they would ever be executed or imprisoned.

Hasina, who was convicted on five charges of crimes against humanity, was also sentenced to prison until natural death for making inflammatory remarks and ordering the extermination of student protesters through the use of helicopters, drones, and lethal weapons.

A third suspect, a former police chief, was sentenced to five years in prison after becoming a state witness against Hasina and pleading guilty.

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More than 800 people were killed and about 14,000 were injured in the student-led uprising in July and August of 2024, according to the health adviser to Bangladesh's interim government. However, the United Nations in February estimated as many as 1,400 people were killed.

Hasina's response

Hasina said the charges were unjustified, arguing that she and Khan "acted in good faith and were trying to minimize the loss of life."

"We lost control of the situation, but to characterize what happened as a premeditated assault on citizens is simply to misread the facts," she said Monday in a statement denouncing a verdict she called "biased and politically motivated."

Her Awami League party called for a national shutdown on Tuesday to protest the verdict.

Hasina, 78, cannot appeal the verdict unless she surrenders or is arrested within 30 days of the judgment.

Bangladesh is still grappling with instability after Hasina was ousted on Aug. 5, 2024. Political bickering, the rise of Islamists, and violations of human and political rights have overshadowed aspirations for a more democratic Bangladesh, human rights groups say.

Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus took over as the head of an interim government three days after her fall. He has vowed to punish Hasina and banned the activities of the Awami League ahead of elections set for February.

A three-member tribunal, headed by Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder, announced the ruling in a live broadcast that lasted for several hours.

Some of those in the packed courtroom cheered when Mazumder said Hasina was sentenced to death. He admonished them, telling them to express their feelings outside the courtroom.

Families of some of those killed or injured during the uprising waited for hours outside.

Exile in India

In a media statement Monday, Bangladesh's Ministry of Home Affairs urged India to send both Hasina and Khan back soon, something New Delhi has so far refused to do.

Separately, Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry in a statement said it would be extremely unfriendly and de-meaning to justice for any other country to grant asylum to these individuals convicted of crimes against humanity.

"We urge the Indian government to immediately hand over these two convicts to the Bangladeshi authorities. It is also a legal obligation for India as per the existing extradition treaty between the two countries," it said.

India's foreign ministry in a statement acknowledged the verdict but did not say whether it would hand the pair over to Dhaka.

"As a close neighbor, India remains committed to the best interests of people of Bangladesh, including in peace, democracy, inclusion and stability in that country. We will always engage constructively with all stakeholders to that end," it said.

India's failure to extradite the pair has created some tensions between the neighboring nations.

Yunus and Hasina's archrival hail the verdict

In a statement, Yunus said the verdict offered justice to the thousands who were harmed in the uprising: "No one, regardless of power, is above the law."

Ordering the use of lethal force against young people and children, whose only weapons were their voices, violated laws and the basic bond between government and citizens, Yunus added.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party, or BNP, headed by Hasina's archrival, former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, hailed the verdict.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said in a Facebook post that it wasn't just a judgment on Sheikh Hasina's crimes, but a "burial of all forms of dictatorship on this country's soil."

Arson and bomb attacks

Nearly 50 arson attacks, mostly targeting vehicles, and dozens of crude bombs explosions were reported nationwide over the past week. Two people were killed in the arson attacks, local media reported.

Authorities at the Supreme Court, in a letter to army headquarters on Sunday, requested the deployment

of soldiers around the tribunal premises ahead of the ruling. Paramilitary border guards and police were deployed in Dhaka and many other parts of the country.

Even as judges were still reading out the verdict, police elsewhere in Dhaka charged with batons and used stun grenades to disperse crowds.

Her son Sajeeb Wazed, currently in the United States, said in a message to The Associated Press that the "verdict is a joke and meaningless. My mother is safe in India. The trials were so legally flawed they won't survive any challenge once rule of law returns to Bangladesh."

A few kilometers away from the tribunal, Hasina's opponents gathered outside the home of her father, Bangladesh's independence hero Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, that is now a museum. They brought two excavators to finish the demolition of the building, which was looted and damaged during earlier protests.

By the time evening fell, more than 300 people were still there and burned tires on the streets in Dhanmondi neighborhood while police and soldiers failed to convince them to leave the area.

The uprising began with weeks of student-led protests voicing discontent over a quota system for allocating government jobs that critics said favored those with connections to Hasina's party.

Hundreds of people were killed as security forces cracked down on the demonstrations — violence that only fueled them, even after the quota system was dramatically scaled back.

## Judge scolds Justice Department for 'profound investigative missteps' in Comey case

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department engaged in a "disturbing pattern of profound investigative missteps" in the process of securing an indictment against former FBI Director James Comey, a federal judge ruled Monday in directing prosecutors to provide defense lawyers with all grand jury materials from the case.

Those problems, wrote Magistrate Judge William Fitzpatrick, include "fundamental misstatements of the law" by a prosecutor to the grand jury that indicted Comey in September, the use of potentially privileged communications during the investigation and unexplained irregularities in the transcript of the grand jury proceedings.

"The Court recognizes that the relief sought by the defense is rarely granted," Fitzpatrick wrote. "However, the record points to a disturbing pattern of profound investigative missteps, missteps that led an FBI agent and a prosecutor to potentially undermine the integrity of the grand jury proceeding."

The 24-page opinion is the most blistering assessment yet by a judge of the Justice Department's actions leading up to the Comey indictment. It underscores how procedural missteps and prosecutorial inexperience have combined to imperil the prosecution pushed by President Donald Trump for reasons separate and apart from the substance of the disputed allegations against Comey.

The Comey case and a separate prosecution of New York Attorney General Letitia James have hastened concerns that the Justice Department is being weaponized in pursuit of Trump's political opponents. Both defendants have filed multiple motions to dismiss the cases against them before trial, arguing that the prosecutions are improperly vindictive and that the prosecutor who filed the charges, Lindsey Halligan, was illegally appointed.

A different judge is expected to decide by Thanksgiving on the challenges by Comey and James to Halligan's appointment.

Questions about integrity

Though grand jury proceedings are presumptively secret, Comey's lawyers had sought records from the process out of concern that irregularities may have tainted the case. The sole prosecutor who defense lawyers say presented the case to the grand jury was Halligan, a former White House aide with no prior prosecutorial experience who was appointed just days before the indictment to the job of interim U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

In his order Monday, Fitzpatrick said that after reviewing the grand jury transcript himself, he had come

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away deeply concerned about the integrity of the case.

"Here, the procedural and substantive irregularities that occurred before the grand jury, and the manner in which evidence presented to the grand jury was collected and used, may rise to the level of government misconduct resulting in prejudice to Mr. Comey," Fitzpatrick said.

The Justice Department responded to the ruling by asking that it be put on hold to give prosecutors time to file objections. The government said it believed Fitzpatrick "may have misinterpreted" some facts in issuing his ruling. On Monday evening, U.S. District Judge Michael Nachmanoff, the trial judge, froze the ruling pending the resolution of the government's objections.

Fitzpatrick's order ticked off nearly a dozen irregularities in the case that he said alarmed him.

They include two different comments that a prosecutor — presumably Halligan — made to the grand jury that he said represented "fundamental misstatements of the law."

The actual statements are blacked out, but Fitzpatrick said the prosecutor seems to have ignored the fact that a grand jury may not draw a negative inference about a person who exercises his right not to testify in front of it. Comey did not appear before the panel. He said she also appeared to suggest to grand jurors that they did not need to rely only on what was presented to them and could instead be assured that there was additional evidence that would be presented at trial.

An 'unusual series of events'

Fitzpatrick also drew attention to the jumbled manner in which the indictment was obtained and indicated that a transcript and recording of the proceedings do not provide a full account of what occurred.

Halligan initially sought a three-count indictment of Comey, but after the grand jury rejected one of the three proposed counts and found probable cause to indict on the other two counts, a second two-count indictment was prepared and signed. But Fitzpatrick said a transcript and recording of the proceedings "do not reflect any further communications after the grand jury began deliberating on the first indictment," creating what he said were unanswered questions about whether the record is complete.

"Either way, this unusual series of events, still not fully explained by the prosecutor's declaration, calls into question the presumption of regularity generally associated with grand jury proceedings, and provides another genuine issue the defense may raise to challenge the manner in which the government obtained the indictment," he wrote.

The two-count indictment charges Comey with lying to Congress in September 2020 when he suggested under questioning that he had not authorized FBI disclosure of information to the news media. His lawyers say the question he was responding to was vague and confusing but that the answer he gave to the Senate Judiciary Committee was literally true.

The line of questioning from Sen. Ted Cruz appeared to focus on whether Comey had authorized his former deputy director, Andrew McCabe, to speak with the news media. But since the indictment, prosecutors have made clear that their indictment centers on allegations that Comey permitted a separate person — a close friend and Columbia University law professor, Dan Richman — to serve as an anonymous source in interactions with reporters.

The FBI executed search warrants in 2019 and 2020 to access messages between Richman and Comey as part of a media leaks investigation that did not result in charges.

But Fitzpatrick said he was concerned that communications between the men that might have been protected by attorney-client privilege — Richman has at times been a lawyer for Comey — were exposed to the grand jury without Comey having had an opportunity to object. An FBI agent exposed to potentially privileged communications appeared before the grand jury.

"The government's decision to allow an agent who was exposed to potentially privileged information to testify before a grand jury is highly irregular and a radical departure from past DOJ practice," Fitzpatrick wrote.

## Indiana homeowner charged in fatal shooting of house cleaner who showed up at the wrong door

By TODD RICHMOND and OBED LAMY Associated Press

LEBANON, Ind. (AP) — An Indiana homeowner accused of killing a house cleaner who mistakenly arrived at his front door was charged with voluntary manslaughter on Monday in a case that could test the limits of stand-your-ground laws.

Curt Andersen, 62, could face anywhere from 10 to 30 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine if he's convicted. He was being held in the Boone County Jail pending an initial court hearing.

Officers found Maria Florinda Rios Perez De Velasquez, 32, dead on the front porch of a home in Whites-town, an Indianapolis suburb, on Nov. 5. Authorities said the Guatemalan immigrant was part of a cleaning crew that went to the wrong house just before 7 a.m.

Andersen shot her through the front door with no warning about a minute after hearing someone trying to unlock the door, according to a probable cause statement.

Rios' husband told media outlets that he was with her on the porch. He didn't realize she had been shot until she fell back into his arms, bleeding. On a fundraising page, her brother described Rios as a mother of four children.

### Case puts stand-your-ground law in the spotlight

Indiana is one of 31 states with a stand-your-ground law that permits homeowners to use deadly force to stop someone they believe is trying to unlawfully enter their dwelling. But police said that there's no evidence Rios entered the home before she was shot.

Andersen's attorney, Guy Relford, posted a statement on X saying he was disappointed that prosecutors charged his client. He said Andersen had every reason to believe his actions were justified and the stand-your-ground law clearly protects him.

"Mr. Andersen's actions must be evaluated based on the circumstances as he perceived them," Relford said in the statement.

Boone County Prosecutor Kent Eastwood told reporters at a news conference that the decision to charge Andersen wasn't difficult. Stand-your-ground protections don't apply because Andersen lacked enough information to know if his actions were reasonable, Eastwood said.

The prosecutor said he planned to prove that Andersen couldn't have reasonably believed he needed to use deadly force, given what he knew at the time.

### 'Commotion at the door'

According to the probable cause statement, Andersen told investigators that he and his wife were asleep in an upstairs bedroom when he heard a "commotion at the door" that grew more intense. He thought someone was using keys or tools on the front door.

Frightened, he went to the top of the stairwell and saw through the home's windows that two people were outside the front door. He said to himself, "What am I going to do? It's not going away and I have to do something now."

He said he loaded his handgun, went back to the windows and saw the people "thrusting" at the door and getting more aggressive, according to the statement.

He fired one shot toward the door. He said the door never opened and he didn't announce himself or say anything before he pulled the trigger.

When told he had killed Rios, he put his head down on the table and said he didn't mean for anything to happen to anybody.

### Wife says Andersen told a neighbor he would shoot any intruder

Andersen's wife, Yoshie Andersen, told investigators that her husband told her that he told a neighbor if anyone tried to break into his house he would shoot them. The probable cause statement does not say when this conversation happened.

She added that her husband fired the shot from the top of the stairs and neither of them went downstairs. He fired the shot and then told her to call 911, she said.

No evidence of forcible entry

Investigators found a bullet hole in the door, but no evidence of any forceful contact with the door itself, the latch or the door frame, according to the probable cause statement.

Rios' husband, Mauricio Velasquez, told investigators that she tried to open the door with keys from their cleaning company, but they unknowingly were at the wrong address. He said they'd been trying to open the door for 30 seconds to a minute before she was shot.

He said they never heard any voices from inside or saw any movement. The couple didn't knock, bang on the door or use force of any kind to enter the home and they never got inside, he said.

Stand-your-ground cases elsewhere

The shooting echoes a similar episode in Missouri in 2023 when an 86-year-old man shot Ralph Yarl after the 16-year-old Black teenager came to his door by mistake. Missouri has a similar stand-your-ground law, but prosecutors charged the shooter, Andrew Lester, with first-degree assault and armed criminal action. He ultimately pleaded guilty to second-degree assault and didn't go to trial.

In New York, which does not have a stand-your-ground law, a man was convicted in 2024 of second-degree murder for fatally shooting a woman inside a car who mistakenly came down the driveway of his rural upstate home.

Jody Madeira, an Indiana University law professor who specializes in gun rights, said last week that the Rios case was "horrible" and "exceptionally unusual."

In general, the public can legally access private property — including a front porch — for a legitimate purpose until they are told to leave, Madeira said. For example, a homeowner can't legally shoot a pizza delivery person or an Amazon driver just for stepping onto their property, she said.

Madeira said Monday that the allegations in the probable cause statement show that Curt Andersen was acting out of fear but that's not enough to invoke the stand-your-ground law. There was no unlawful entry and trying to insert a key into a lock or rattling a doorknob isn't a reasonable justification for firing a shot, she said.

"The reasonable person says, 'hey, I have my phone here, I have other options, I can shout a warning. It's 7 a.m., is someone really breaking into my house? He jumped up from bed and immediately went into I'm combatting a break-in.'"

## **Border Patrol official says dozens arrested in North Carolina immigration enforcement surge**

SOPHIA TAREEN, BRIAN WITTE and MARYCLAIRE DALE Associated Press

A top Border Patrol commander touted dozens of arrests in North Carolina's largest city on Sunday as Charlotte residents reported encounters with federal immigration agents near churches, apartment complexes and stores.

The Trump administration has made the Democratic city of about 950,000 people its latest target for an immigration enforcement surge it says will combat crime, despite fierce objections from local leaders and downtrending crime rates.

Gregory Bovino, who led hundreds of U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents in a similar effort in Chicago, took to X to document a few of the more than 80 arrests he said agents had made. He also posted a highly-edited video of uniformed CBP officers handcuffing people.

"From border towns to the Queen City, our agents go where the mission calls," he posted on X, referring to Charlotte.

The effort was dubbed "Operation Charlotte's Web" as a play on the title of a famous children's book that isn't about North Carolina.

Some welcomed the intervention, including Mecklenburg County Republican Party Chairman Kyle Kirby, who said in a post Saturday that the county GOP "stands with the rule of law — and with every Charlottean's safety first."

Fear and many questions

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The flurry of activity prompted fear and questions, including where detainees would be held, how long the operation would last and what agents' tactics — criticized elsewhere as aggressive and racist — would look like in North Carolina. On Saturday, at least one U.S. citizen said he was thrown to the ground and briefly detained.

At Camino, a nonprofit group that offers services to Latino communities, some said they were too afraid to leave their homes to attend school, medical appointments or work. A dental clinic the group runs had nine cancellations on Friday, spokesperson Paola Garcia said.

"Latinos love this country. They came here to escape socialism and communism, and they're hard workers and people of faith," Garcia said. "They love their family, and it's just so sad to see that this community now has this target on their back."

Bovino's operations in Chicago and Los Angeles triggered lawsuits over the use of force, including widespread deployment of chemical agents. Democratic leaders in both cities accused agents of inflaming community tensions. Federal agents fatally shot one suburban Chicago man during a traffic stop.

Bovino, head of a Border Patrol sector in El Centro, California, and other Trump administration officials have called their tactics appropriate for growing threats on agents.

Bovino posted pictures Sunday of people the Trump administration commonly dubs "criminal illegal aliens," meaning people living in the U.S. without legal permission who allegedly have criminal records. That included one of a man with an alleged history of drunk driving convictions.

"We arrested him, taking him off the streets of Charlotte so he can't continue to ignore our laws and drive intoxicated on the same roads you and your loved ones are on," Bovino said.

Residents report activity at churches and apartment complexes

The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees CBP, did not respond to inquiries about the Charlotte arrests. Bovino's spokesman did not return a request for comment Sunday.

Elsewhere, DHS has not offered many details about its arrests. In the Chicago area, the agency only provided names and details on a handful of its more than 3,000 arrests in the region from September to last week. U.S. citizens were detained during several operations. Dozens of protesters were arrested.

By Sunday, reports of CBP activity around Charlotte were "overwhelming" and difficult to quantify, Greg Asciutto, executive director of the community development group CharlotteEast, said in an email.

"The past two hours we've received countless reports of CBP activity at churches, apartment complexes and a hardware store," he said.

City council member-elect JD Mazuera Arias said federal agents appeared to be focused on churches and apartment buildings.

"Houses of worship. I mean, that's just awful," he said. "These are sanctuaries for people who are looking for hope and faith in dark times like these and who no longer can feel safe because of the gross violation of people's right to worship."

DHS says so-called sanctuary policy plays a role in Charlotte operation

Two people were arrested during a small protest Sunday outside a DHS office in Charlotte and taken to a local FBI office, said Xavier T. de Janon, an attorney who was representing them. He said it remained unclear what charges they faced.

DHS said it was focusing on North Carolina because of so-called sanctuary policies, which limit cooperation between local authorities and immigration agents.

Most North Carolina county jail operators have long honored "detainers," or requests from federal officials to hold an arrested immigrant for a limited time so agents can take custody of them. But some non-cooperation policies have existed in a handful of places in the state, including Charlotte, where the police do not help with immigration enforcement. In Mecklenburg County, where Charlotte is located, the sheriff previously did not honor detainers but said the jail now does as required under changes made to state law since last year.

Several county jails house immigrant arrestees and honor detainers, which allow jails to hold detainees for immigration officers to pick them up. But Mecklenburg County, where Charlotte is located, does not. Also, the city's police department does not help with immigration enforcement.

DHS alleged that about 1,400 detainees across North Carolina had not been honored, putting the public at risk.

"We are surging DHS law enforcement to Charlotte to ensure Americans are safe and public safety threats are removed," Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement.

## Trump says he will sell F-35s to Saudi Arabia on eve of crown prince's Washington visit

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Monday he will sell F-35 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia despite some concern within the administration that such a sale could lead to China gaining access to the U.S. technology behind the advanced weapon system.

The announcement came on the eve of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's highly anticipated Washington visit, his first to the United States in more than seven years.

"I will say that that we will be doing that," Trump said when asked if he would sell the jets to Saudi Arabia. "We'll be selling F-35s."

The sale of the fighter jets is one of several major deals between the two countries expected to be announced during the visit.

Saudi Arabia is expected to announce a multibillion-dollar investment in U.S. artificial intelligence infrastructure, and the two countries are will lay out details about new cooperation in the civil nuclear energy sector, according to a senior Trump administration official who was not authorized to comment publicly ahead of the formal announcement.

The crown prince had been expected to arrive with a wish list that includes receiving formal assurances from Trump defining the scope of the U.S. military protection for the kingdom and an agreement to buy U.S.-made F-35 fighter jets, one of the world's most advanced aircraft.

The Republican administration, however, has been wary about upsetting Israel's qualitative military edge over its neighbors, especially at a time when Trump is depending on Israeli support for the success of his Gaza peace plan.

Another long-standing concern, which also derailed a potential similar sale to the United Arab Emirates, is that the F-35 technology could be stolen by or somehow transferred to China, which has close ties to both the UAE and Saudi Arabia, according to three administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations on the matter.

The Saudis and China last month held joint naval exercises hosted by the kingdom. And Beijing in 2023 helped mediate an agreement between the Saudi Arabia and Iran to reopen their embassies and exchange ambassadors amid ongoing tensions.

China surpassed the U.S. last year as Saudi Arabia's top trade partner, but the United States has remained Riyadh's favored nation for arms sales.

Bradley Bowman, senior director of the Center on Military and Political Power at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said Congress could press the administration to detail what assurances Riyadh has given the White House about its relationship with China.

Questions about Israel

He added that the White House is likely to also face questions about plans to ensure Israel maintains its qualitative military edge.

The announcement by Trump comes at a moment in which he's trying to persuade Saudi Arabia and Israel to normalize relations.

He has talked up his push to extend his first-term Abraham Accords — the project that formalized commercial and diplomatic ties between Israel and a trio of Arab nations — as key to his plan for bringing long-term stability to the Middle East as the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza continues to hold.

"I hope that Saudi Arabia will be going into the Abraham Accords very shortly," Trump told reporters

aboard Air Force One on Friday as he made his way to Florida for the weekend.

Yet Trump's optimism that a U.S.-brokered deal could come soon is tempered by more sober internal assessments.

The Saudis have made clear that a guaranteed path to a Palestinian state remains a condition for the kingdom signing onto the accords — something Israel vehemently opposes.

The U.N. Security Council on Monday approved a U.S. plan for Gaza that authorizes an international stabilization force to provide security in the devastated territory and envisions a possible future path to an independent Palestinian state.

Still, Saudi Arabia is unlikely to sign on to the accords anytime soon, but there is cautious optimism that an agreement can be sealed by the end of Trump's second term, the officials said.

"Let's hope that President Trump makes clear that the first F-35 will not be delivered until Saudi Arabia normalizes relations with Israel," Bowman said. "Otherwise, the president will undercut his own leverage."

The Trump administration formally notified Congress in November 2020 that it planned to sell 50 stealth F-35 fighter jets to the United Arab Emirates as part of a broader arms deal worth \$23 billion aimed at deterring potential threats from Iran, despite concerns raised by Israel.

The UAE announcement came shortly after Trump lost the 2020 election to Democratic Joe Biden and followed the signing of the Abraham Accords between and the UAE.

But Biden, soon after taking office in January 2021, put a hold on that sale.

Human rights issues

Trump's move is likely to receive scrutiny from human rights activists as Prince Mohammed's trip marks his first visit to Washington since 2018.

On that visit, the crown prince went on a three-week U.S. tour aimed at improving the perception of his nation in the eyes of Americans concerned by the kingdom's conservative social mores, its unequal treatment of women and the ignominious fact that 15 of 19 hijackers that took part in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States were Saudi citizens.

The Saudis' reputation was further eroded months after Prince Mohammed's last Washington visit with the killing and dismemberment of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Turkey, an operation targeting a critic of the kingdom that U.S. intelligence agencies later determined Prince Mohammed likely directed. The crown prince has denied he was involved.

But seven years later, the dark clouds in the U.S.-Saudi relationship have been cleared away by Trump, who has tightened his embrace of the 40-year-old crown prince he views as an indispensable player in shaping the Middle East in the decades to come.

"They have been a great ally," Trump said.

## **FEMA acting chief David Richardson departs after six months on the job**

By GABRIELA AOUN ANGUEIRA Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The acting chief of the Federal Emergency Management Agency left his job Monday after just six months, according to the Department of Homeland Security, the latest disruption in a year of mass staff departures, program cuts and policy upheaval at the agency charged with managing federal disaster response.

David Richardson, who in his brief term remained largely out of public sight, is leaving the post after he faced a wave of criticism for his handling of the deadly Texas floods earlier this year. He replaced previous acting head Cameron Hamilton in May.

DHS did not comment on the details of Richardson's departure, but a FEMA employee familiar with the matter told The Associated Press that Richardson resigned. The employee spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the changes with the media.

"The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security extend their sincere appreciation to the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Administrator, David Richardson, for

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his dedicated service and wish him continued success in his return to the private sector," a DHS spokesperson told The Associated Press.

The Washington Post first reported the news about Richardson's resignation.

A former Marine Corps officer who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and also led the DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction office, Richardson had no previous emergency management experience when he assumed the role of "senior official performing the duties of administrator" in May.

After replacing Hamilton, who was fired one day after telling a House appropriations committee that he did not think FEMA should be eliminated, Richardson vowed to help fulfill President Donald Trump's goal to push more disaster recovery responsibilities to the states and told FEMA employees he would "run right over" anyone who tried to obstruct that mission.

But Richardson's leadership was questioned by members of Congress and FEMA employees, particularly after remaining largely out of sight after the deadly Texas floods last July that killed at least 136 people.

When asked by a House committee in July why he did not arrive on the ground until one week after the disaster, Richardson said he stayed in Washington, D.C., to "kick down the doors of bureaucracy," but also said he was camping with his sons for the July 4 weekend when the floods first hit and initially helped manage the response from inside his truck.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem has also kept a tight grip on FEMA programs and spending, requiring that she personally approve any agency expenditure over \$100,000. Richardson had denied reports that the approval policy slowed down FEMA's response in Texas.

FEMA Chief of Staff and former cybersecurity official Karen Evans will assume the role on Dec. 1, according to DHS. The FEMA administrator is required by law to have emergency management experience, but the Trump administration has circumvented those requirements up to now by appointing temporary leaders.

The agency has undergone major upheaval since Trump returned to office in January promising to vastly overhaul if not eliminate the agency. About 18% of the agency's permanent full-time employees had departed as of June, including 24 senior-level staffers, according to the Government Accountability Office.

The Trump administration also has slashed mitigation funding, placed requirements on preparedness grants that compel recipients to comply with Trump's immigration agenda, and denied several states' requests for major disaster declaration requests.

DHS did not respond to questions about whether Richardson will still lead the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

Trump appointed a 12-member review council led by Noem and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to deliver recommendations on how to reform FEMA and push more responsibility to the states for disaster preparedness, response and recovery. The council is expected to deliver its recommendations in December.

## What's next for the Epstein files after Trump's social media posts

By STEPHEN GROVES, MATT BROWN and JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House is heading toward a vote Tuesday on a bill to force the Justice Department to release the case files it has collected on the late financier Jeffrey Epstein, pushing past a monthslong effort by President Donald Trump and Republican leaders to stymie the effort.

The push for more disclosure in the years-old sex trafficking investigation into Epstein has come roaring back since the House returned to Washington after a nearly two-month absence during the government shutdown. As lawmakers returned last week, they were greeted by new details from a tranche of Epstein's emails, including claims that Trump had "spent hours" at Epstein's house with a sex trafficking victim and that he "knew about the girls."

The new revelations and the coming vote showed one of the rare instances where Trump has not been able to exhibit almost total control over his party. Bowing to the growing momentum behind the bill, Trump indicated Monday he would sign the bill if it passes both chambers of Congress.

The sex trafficking case into Epstein has only grown in political influence since Epstein killed himself in a Manhattan jail while awaiting trial in 2019. He faced charges that he sexually abused and trafficked

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underage girls, and since then many more have said they were abused by the well-connected financier. Now, many lawmakers say that the Justice Department also needs to release its case files on Epstein, arguing that it could show that other people were aware of or complicit in Epstein's sexual abuse. House Democrats, joined by a few key Republicans, have been able to force a vote on the bill to do that by using a rarely successful measure called a discharge petition.

As it became apparent that the bill will pass the House, most likely with significant support from Republican lawmakers, Trump and House Speaker Mike Johnson changed their approach from outright opposition to declarations of indifference.

"Here's what I want: We have nothing to do with Epstein. The Democrats do," Trump told reporters, adding that he believed the issue was distracting from his accomplishments.

Why is the House about to vote?

Reps. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., and Thomas Massie, R-Ky., introduced a petition in July to force a vote on their bill, the Epstein Files Transparency Act.

The effort was backed by all House Democrats and four Republicans: Massie and Reps. Lauren Boebert of Colorado, Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia and Nancy Mace of South Carolina.

Minutes after Democrat Adelita Grijalva of Arizona was sworn into office Wednesday, she signed her name to the Epstein petition, pushing it to the magic number of 218 — a majority in the 435-member House.

Johnson said following Grijalva's swearing-in that he would expedite the petition process to bring a vote on the bill to the House floor this week.

The speaker has pushed back on claims that he has obstructed the Epstein legislation to protect Trump or others. He told reporters last week that the Republican majority took issue with the phrasing of the measure, which he claimed did not adequately protect victims.

Johnson has also pointed repeatedly to a concurrent investigation into Epstein's sexual abuse that is being conducted by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Republicans who control the committee have also focused on Epstein's connections to Democrats, including former President Bill Clinton.

It was the oversight panel that released Epstein's emails, part of 20,000 pages of documents that it obtained from Epstein's estate.

The committee has also subpoenaed the Justice Department for its case files on Epstein, but Democrats on the committee say the response has been insufficient.

What does the bill do?

The bill would force the Justice Department to release all files and communications related to Epstein, as well as any information about the investigation into his death in federal prison. Information about Epstein's victims or continuing federal investigations would be allowed to be redacted, per the bill.

The department, however, would not be allowed to redact information due to "embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity, including to any government official, public figure, or foreign dignitary."

Several survivors of Epstein's abuse, joined by lawmakers, also plan to speak outside the Capitol on Tuesday morning.

Is it going to pass?

The bill will almost certainly pass the House, but its future in the Senate is a different story.

It already has support from a majority of the House, and more Republicans are expected to vote for it as they respond to demands from their voters.

The tougher test will come in the Senate, where Republicans hold a 53–47 majority.

Asked in September whether the Senate would take up the Epstein bill if it passed the House, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said, "I can't comment on that at this point."

Thune added that the Justice Department "has already released tons of files related to this matter."

"I trust them in terms of having the confidence that they'll get as much information out there as possible in a way that protects the rights of the victims," Thune said.

Trump says he won't stop it

Trump said Tuesday that he would sign the bill if it passes both chambers of Congress, though he added,

"Let the Senate look at it."

It was a remarkable reversal from the president after he had lobbied two Republicans last week to try to stop the House discharge petition.

Trump claims that Epstein had more ties with Democrats and said that he didn't want the Epstein files to "detract from the great success of the Republican Party."

Still, Massie has suggested Trump could avoid the entire ordeal by ordering the release of all the Epstein files held by the federal government.

"There's still time for him to be the hero," Massie said of Trump.

## Gunmen abduct 25 girls from a high school in northwestern Nigeria

By OPE ADETAYO and DYEPAZAH SHIBAYAN Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Gunmen attacked a high school in northwestern Nigeria before dawn on Monday, taking 25 schoolgirls and killing at least one staffer, authorities said of the latest abduction of students in the region.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for abducting the girls from the boarding school in Kebbi state and their motivation was unclear.

Nigeria is facing a multidimensional security challenge, specifically from amorphous groups of armed bandits who specialize in kidnapping for ransoms — sometimes totaling thousands of dollars — and have been responsible for several high-profile abductions across Nigeria's northern region. Kidnappings, attacks on villages and along major roads have become common because of the limited security presence.

Those bandits are not connected to militant groups such as Boko Haram and the splinter group Islamic State West Africa Province, whose attacks on communities and government installations are motivated by religion.

Police said the boarding schoolgirls were taken from their dorms at 4 a.m. Monday. The school is in Maga, in the state's Danko-Wasagu area, police spokesperson Nafi'u Abubakar Kotarkoshi said.

The assailants were armed with "sophisticated weapons" and exchanged fire with guards before abducting the girls, Kotarkoshi said.

"A combined team is currently combing suspected escape routes and surrounding forests in a coordinated search and rescue operation aimed at recovering the abducted students and arresting the perpetrators," the spokesperson said.

Kotarkoshi said one person was killed and another was injured, but a resident who said his daughter and granddaughter were abducted in the raid believes the death toll stands at two.

"We were told that the attackers entered the school with many motorcycles. They first went straight to the teacher's house and killed him before killing the guard," said Abdulkarim Abdullahi Maga.

Police did not respond to an Associated Press call seeking confirmation of a second death.

Armed groups have targeted school children in the region since 2014, when Boko Haram abducted 276 students from Chibok in Borno state. That abduction marked the beginning of a new era of fear, and dozens remain in captivity.

Since the Chibok abductions, at least 1,500 students have been kidnapped, as armed groups increasingly find in abductions a lucrative way to fund other crimes and control villages in the nation's mineral-rich but poorly policed region. In March 2024, more than 130 schoolchildren were rescued after spending more than two weeks in captivity in the Nigerian state of Kaduna.

Nonetheless, raids on schools have subsided in recent years as state governments implemented security measures in hot spots, including closing schools for an extended period of time.

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## Nations hit by natural disasters tell ministers at climate talks to act

By SETH BORENSTEIN, ANTON L. DELGADO and MELINA WALLING Associated Press

BELEM, Brazil (AP) — Battered by last month's ferocious climate-fueled hurricane, Jamaica joined other small island nations and impoverished countries at Monday's United Nations climate talks to implore the rest of the world to stop talking and start acting. Their message: Our lives are on the line.

As high-level ministers from governments around the world took over negotiations at the conference called COP30, vulnerable nations lined up to say how important it is for countries to cut emissions. They said the world's current climate plans aren't strong enough to keep warming below the 1.5 degree Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) set by the 2015 Paris Agreement.

In addition, they renewed a longstanding call for rich nations to do more financially to help poor countries deal with warming.

"Hurricane Melissa changed the life of every Jamaican in less than 24 hours," said Matthew Samuda, the country's economic growth minister. The Category 5 hurricane that hit three weeks ago caused almost \$10 billion in damage and displaced hundreds of thousands of people. He called it evidence of "the new phase of climate change."

"We did not create this crisis, but we refuse to stand as victims," Samuda said. "We call on the global community, especially major emitters, to honor their commitments and safeguard the 1.5 degree threshold for Jamaica. This is survival. It's about our people and their right to a safe and prosperous future."

Armando Rodriguez Batista, Cuba's environment and science minister, noted his country was flooded by Melissa.

"Tomorrow it will be too late to do what we had to do a long time ago," he said.

Speakers lament slow progress

Other nations reiterated the life-or-death nature of stepping up the fight to cut emissions, calling it "a moral duty" and saying climate damage is their day-to-day reality.

"I sit on the roof of the house all night, looking at the neighbors, thinking whether or not the water will swallow us all," Romanian Environment Minister Diana-Anda Buzoianu said, reading the words of a victim of this year's floods in her country.

"Promises alone will not hold back the rising seas," Seychelles Environment and Climate Minister Flavien Philomel Joubert said.

A ruling earlier this year by the International Court of Justice that climate change is a planetary existential problem that must be fixed is "leverage" that small island countries will use to speed up climate-fighting efforts at COP30, said Tuvalu Attorney-General Laingane Italeli Talia.

That ruling shows that "the 1.5 target is not just a political aspiration, but a legal obligation informed by the best available science," Tuvalu Environment and Climate Minister Maina Vakafua Talia said as thunder from a passing storm reverberated through the hall.

"We are seeing the 1.5 target disappear before our eyes," Talia said, adding that for small islands "it is the line between our survival and loss."

But stronger climate plans and saving 1.5 is important for the whole world, not just small islands, he added.

COP30, more heavily fortified after a pair of demonstrations disrupted the main venue in the first week, kicked off its second week with foreign and other ministers stepping in for the lower-level negotiators who handled it earlier. They have far more power and leeway to make tough political decisions, and U.N. Climate Executive Secretary Simon Stiell told them to use it.

"The spirit is there, but the speed is not," Stiell said. "The pace of change in the real economy has not been matched by the pace of progress in these negotiating rooms. As climate disasters wrecked millions of lives and hammer every economy, pushing up prices for food and other basic needs, we all know what's at stake."

Other speakers also urged quicker action.

"The time for promises is over," Brazil Vice President Geraldo Alckmin said. "Each additional fraction of

a degree of global warming represents lives at risk, greater inequality and greater losses for those who contributed least to the problem.”

U.N. General Assembly President Annalena Baerbock said recent disasters show how much needs to be done.

“The climate crisis is unrelenting,” she said. “We saw this when Hurricane Melissa barreled into the Caribbean two weeks ago. We saw it again last week at the Philippines ... near back-to-back typhoons.”

‘Our existence is at stake’

Adding to the pressure, late Sunday the Brazilian presidency of the talks issued a five-page summary on how to proceed on several sticky issues. Those include pressing nations to do more in their new emissions-cutting plans, handling of trade disputes and barriers involving climate and the need to deliver on last year’s \$300 billion annual pledge for climate financial aid to poor nations.

Those difficult issues weren’t part of the original agenda nor the COP30 presidency’s plans, but several countries pushed for them.

Several countries — especially small island nations — have asked that the talks address the inadequacy of the emissions-cutting plans submitted by 116 nations so far this year. Collectively, the plans come nowhere close to cutting heat-trapping gases enough to prevent breaching the 1.5-degrees Celsius warming limit since the 1800s.

That issue may get combined with a call for a plan for phasing out fossil fuels — coal, oil and natural gas, the chief cause of climate change. That phaseout was agreed to after much debate at U.N. climate talks two years ago, but last year, little happened on the issue. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva earlier this month raised the issue anew.

“Our very existence is at stake,” Mauritius Foreign Affairs Minister Dhananjay Ramful said. “A decade after the promises of the Paris Agreement, despite our good intentions, we realized that we have not done enough. ... Our planet demands action now.”

## **UK asylum reforms spark backlash within Labour Party, support from rivals**

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British government’s plan to tighten its asylum system met sharp resistance Monday from inside its own party but was getting some support from political rivals in a sign of how divisive the immigration issue has become.

Before Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood even released details of the sweeping plan to make the U.K. less attractive to asylum-seekers and migrants easier to remove she was trying to quell a backlash from center-left Labour Party backbenchers who accused her of trying to court the far-right.

“It’s shameful that a Labour government is ripping up the rights and protections of people who have endured unimaginable trauma,” said Nadia Whittome, a Labour member of Parliament from Nottingham who called the proposed policies “cruel” and “dystopian.” “Is this how we’d want to be treated if we were fleeing for our lives? Of course, not.”

Mahmood said her plans, which she partially released over the weekend, could fix a broken asylum system and unite a divided country over a flashpoint issue that has helped fuel the rise of the anti-immigrant Reform UK Party.

“We have a problem that it is our moral duty to fix — our asylum system is broken,” Mahmood said in the House of Commons. “The breaking of that asylum system is causing huge division across our whole country.”

Mahmood said the new policy would deter migrants who don’t stay in the first safe country where they land, but instead “asylum shop” across Europe for the most attractive place to settle.

The struggle to stop the boats

Halting the flow of migrants making dangerous English Channel crossings to enter the country without authorization has vexed successive governments that have tried a variety of approaches with little success.

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The previous center-right Conservative government's plan to send arrivals to Rwanda for asylum processing was challenged in court and scrapped by Prime Minister Keir Starmer, when he was elected last year. Starmer has vowed to crack down on migrant smuggling gangs and launched a pilot "one in, one out" program to send some channel crossers back to France in exchange for migrants with legitimate asylum claims.

The issue of migration became more politically volatile this summer as protests that occasionally became violent were held outside hotels housing asylum seekers after a migrant was arrested — and later convicted — of sexual assault for trying to kiss a 14-year-old girl.

More than 39,000 migrants have arrived by boat in the U.K. this year, surpassing the almost 37,000 who arrived in 2024, according to the latest Home Office figures. However, the number is still shy of the nearly 40,000 who had arrived at this point in the year in 2022, which recorded the highest number ever.

Although arrivals on small boats have grown, they are a fraction of total immigration, with most people entering the U.K. legally, on visas. Net migration — the number of people entering the U.K. minus those who left — topped 900,000 in the year ending June 2023, largely driven by hundreds of thousands of people fleeing war in Ukraine and China's clampdown in Hong Kong. Net migration declined to 431,000 in the year through June 2025, according to the Office for National Statistics, down 49.9% from 860,000 a year earlier.

Support for asylum seekers could be withheld

The new reforms, modeled after Denmark, would revoke the U.K.'s legal duty to provide support for asylum seekers, allowing the government to withdraw housing and weekly allowances that are now guaranteed. Benefits could also be denied to people who have a right to employment but don't work, and those who break the law or work illegally.

Refugee status would also be regularly reviewed to see if people can safely be repatriated. They will also have to wait 20 years, instead of five, to be permanently settled.

Safe ways would also be designated for migrants to claim asylum without having to risk crossing the choppy channel in overcrowded inflatable rafts.

While some political opponents said Mahmood's proposals don't go far enough, Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch offered her support.

"What we are seeing from the Labour government is steps in the right direction, so we want to encourage them in that right direction," Badenoch said.

Noting the Labour Party infighting, Richard Tice, deputy leader of the hard-right Reform UK, joked that Mahmood sounded like she's "bringing an application to join Reform."

He said he would wait and see what was proposed before committing the support of the party, which has growing support in the polls but only has five of the 650 seats in the House.

Labour denies courting far-right

The partial embrace by figures on the right is likely to create further Labour consternation as the party faces dreadful polling numbers amid buzz that Starmer could face possible leadership challenges just 18 months after a landslide election victory.

Starmer spokesperson Tom Wells repeatedly had to deny the government's asylum plan was trying to curry favor with far-right voters.

"We are an open, tolerant and generous country, but we must restore order and control," Wells said. "If we do not, we will lose public consent for giving refuge at all."

The Home Office said the new policy was modeled on Denmark's success at reducing its asylum applications to the lowest point in 40 years and removing 95% of those who sought to settle there.

Denmark was once a haven for refugees. But as Europe and the Western world have struggled to deal with mass migration from people fleeing conflict, famine and poverty, it has imposed strict limits on newcomers that have drawn international criticism for discouraging people seeking refuge.

## Purdue reclaims No. 1 from Houston in AP Top 25, Louisville and Illinois jump into top 10

By DAVE SKRETTA AP Basketball Writer

Purdue moved back to No. 1 in the AP Top 25 men's college basketball poll Monday ahead of Houston, which spent a single week there after leapfrogging the Boilermakers.

It's hardly a two-team race for the top, though. UConn, Arizona and Duke also got No. 1 votes from the 61-member media panel in a poll that also saw No. 6 Louisville and No. 8 Illinois jump into the top 10.

The Boilermakers got 44 first-place votes after an impressive week that included a road win over then-No. 8 Alabama and a victory over Akron. Houston lost six of its No. 1 votes but still had 12 after beating Oakland and edging No. 22 Auburn in a matchup of Final Four teams from last season.

"We have a great group of guys," said Purdue coach Matt Painter, who also picked up his 500th career win last weekend, "and just trying to go from one game to the other I think is really hard after you have such an emotional, big win on the road like we had."

UConn remained No. 3 with three first-place votes after beating then-No. 7 BYU 86-84 on Saturday. That started a tough road for the Huskies that includes games against No. 4 Arizona on Wednesday and Illinois and No. 24 Kansas down the road.

The Wildcats swapped spots with Duke this week, moving up with two first-place votes thanks in part to a win over then-No. 15 UCLA. The Blue Devils received the remaining No. 1 vote ahead of their game against the Jayhawks on Tuesday night.

Louisville tied for the biggest climb in the Top 25, moving up six spots after beating then-No. 9 Kentucky 96-88 last week. Michigan fell one spot to seventh while Big Ten rival Illinois also moved up six spots. BYU dropped two spots after its loss to the Huskies, while defending national champion Florida rounded out the top 10.

The losses by Alabama and Kentucky cost each three spots in this week's poll, pushing them into the second 10. Gonzaga was next, followed by St. John's and Texas Tech, which dropped four spots following its loss to Illinois.

Speaking of the Illini, they have climbed nine spots from No. 17 in the preseason poll, the highest they've been since they were No. 6 in the final poll two seasons ago. Staying there will be a test. Illinois plays the Crimson Tide on Wednesday night, UConn in a couple of weeks, No. 20 Tennessee the first week of December, and then Ohio State, Nebraska and Missouri — all of them unbeaten so far this season — before Christmas rolls around.

"It's the way you practice, the mental focus you have. Not reading all your guy's stuff, and the fans and everything else," Illini coach Brad Underwood said, when asked this week about how to keep early success in perspective. "I call it drinking the poison. And you can't. You have to stay with what is vital and what is important."

Rising and falling

The Illini joined Louisville and Gonzaga in making six-spot climbs this week, while the biggest falls came from Texas Tech as well as UCLA, which dropped four spots after a close loss to Arizona. N.C. State moved into the poll at No. 25 at the expense of Creighton.

Conference watch

The Big Ten, Big 12 and SEC led the way with six teams apiece in the Top 25, though the Big Ten and Big 12 also had three each in the top 10. The ACC was next with four ranked teams, the Big East had two and the West Coast Conference one.

Watch list

San Diego State was the top team outside the Top 25, followed by Indiana, which appeared on 18 ballots. Keep an eye on Georgetown, which appeared on six ballots and entered the week 4-0; the Hoyas have not been ranked since the final poll of the 2014-15 season.

## Foreign enrollment at US colleges holds steady, for now, despite Trump's visa crackdown

By COLLIN BINKLEY and MAKIYA SEMINERA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreign students enrolled at U.S. colleges in strong numbers this fall despite fears that a Trump administration crackdown would trigger a nosedive, yet there are signs of turbulence as fewer new, first-time students arrived from other countries, according to a new report.

Overall, U.S. campuses saw a 1% decrease in international enrollment this fall compared with last year, according to a survey from the Institute of International Education. But that figure is propped up by large numbers of students who stayed in the U.S. for temporary work after graduating. The number of new students entering the United States for the first time fell by 17%, the sharpest decrease since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some universities are seeing backslides that have punched big holes in tuition revenue, but overall the falloff is less severe than some industry groups had forecast. Researchers credit colleges for helping students navigate visa issues through the summer.

"I think colleges and universities did absolutely everything in their power to advocate to get these students to the United States," said Mirka Martel, head of research, evaluation and learning for the institute.

At DePaul University, a Catholic university in Chicago, the number of international graduate students fell by almost 62% this fall, a driving factor in recent spending cuts. The university president blamed student visa troubles and declining interest to study in the U.S., calling it a "massive" disruption.

Overall, nearly 60% of colleges reported a decrease in new foreign students this fall, the survey found, while 30% saw increases and others held even. More than 800 schools responded to the survey, which offers an early look at trends before full data is released next year.

Trump administration has pressed for reductions in foreign enrollment

The Trump administration has sought to reduce America's reliance on foreign students. The White House is pushing colleges to cap enrollment of foreign students and enroll more from the U.S. In June, the State Department began screening visa applications more closely after temporarily halting all interviews.

Visa processing has continued to lag in some countries, including India, the largest source of America's foreign students. Education firms have reported that future college students are now showing decreased interest in the U.S. and more in Europe and Asia. While international enrollment remained relatively steady, there are concerns about its sustainability.

"There are warning signs for future years, and I'm really concerned about what this portends for fall '26 and '27," said Clay Harmon, the executive director of AIRC: The Association of International Enrollment Management, which represents colleges and recruitment agencies.

Foreign students make up about 6% of America's college students but they play an outsize role in campus budgets. Most pay higher tuition rates and don't get financial aid, effectively subsidizing U.S. students. Their numbers are far higher at elite campuses, often making up a quarter or more of the student body.

International students at the graduate level saw the biggest backslide this fall, with a 12% drop. That was mostly offset by rising numbers of students participating in Optional Practical Training, which allows students to stay in the U.S. for temporary work after graduating. Undergraduate numbers ticked up slightly.

Graduate students make up the biggest share of foreign students in the U.S., often coming for science, math and business programs. Numbers had already started leveling off last year after a post-pandemic surge, but the recent turmoil appears to have accelerated the downturn. In the survey, colleges that saw decreases cite factors including visa issues and other travel restrictions.

Drops lead to budget cuts at some colleges

Many smaller and regional colleges have reported downswings, especially among master's and doctoral students.

In a recent campus address, the president of the University at Albany said a decrease in foreign graduate students was having a "disproportionate impact" on the school's budget. At Kent State University in Ohio, falling international numbers required an additional \$4 million in cuts to balance the budget, the president

wrote in an October update.

Even the biggest public universities weren't immune. The University of Illinois' flagship campus saw its international numbers dip, fueled by a 6% drop in graduate students. At the University of Michigan, foreign graduate enrollment fell by a similar share. Arizona State University, which has more foreign students than any other public campus, saw its overall numbers fall by 3%.

Universities are offering wider flexibility to students who couldn't make it to campus this fall, according to the survey. Almost three-quarters are allowing foreign students to defer their enrollment to the spring term, and more than half are allowing deferrals until fall 2026.

Colleges in other countries, meanwhile, have sought to capitalize on the disruption, said Joann Ng Hartmann, senior impact officer at NAFSA, an agency that promotes international education. In Germany, Canada and some other countries, colleges are ramping up efforts to recruit students who might be re-thinking college in the U.S.

"They have friendlier policies, and students realize that," she said. "They have friendlier messaging for students that welcomes them."

## Supreme Court will review an old policy used to turn away asylum seekers at the US border

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to review a policy used under past administrations to deny migrants a chance to apply for asylum on the Mexican border until space opened up to process claims.

The justices will hear the Trump administration's appeal of lower court rulings that struck down the practice known as metering, in which U.S. border agents capped the number of people seeking asylum at border crossings by prohibiting migrants from setting foot in the U.S.

The administration pressed for the high court's intervention even after President Donald Trump suspended the asylum system on the first day of his second term and advocates for migrants said the lower-court rulings have no ongoing practical effect.

The case will be argued in the late winter or early spring.

Metering was first used during President Barack Obama's administration when large numbers of Haitians appeared at the main crossing to San Diego from Tijuana, Mexico. It was expanded to all border crossings from Mexico during Trump's first term in the White House.

The practice ended in 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic led the government to restrict asylum-seekers even more severely. President Joe Biden formally rescinded the use of metering in 2021.

Still, the Justice Department said it wanted the justices to hear the case because the court rulings took away "a tool that administrations of both parties have deemed critical for controlling the processing of inadmissible aliens during border surges."

U.S. District Judge Cynthia Bashant ruled in 2021 that metering violated the migrants' constitutional rights and a federal law requiring officials to screen anyone who shows up seeking asylum.

A panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed Bashant's ruling in a 2-1 decision. Twelve of the 29 judges on the San Francisco-based appeals court voted to rehear the case, a strong signal that may have caught the justices' attention.

People seeking refuge in the U.S. are able to apply for asylum once they are on American soil, regardless of whether they came legally. To qualify, they have to show a fear of persecution in their own country because of specific reasons, such as their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

Once people are granted asylum, they can't be deported. They can work legally, bring immediate family, apply for legal residency and eventually seek U.S. citizenship. It offers a permanent future in the U.S.

## Michigan and TCU climb into top 10 of women's AP Top 25 after big wins over ranked opponents

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Basketball Writer

Michigan and TCU vaulted into the top 10 of The Associated Press Top 25 women's basketball poll on Monday after big victories over ranked opponents.

The sixth-ranked Wolverines climbed eight spots after routing then-No. 18 Notre Dame 93-54 on Saturday. No. 10 TCU moved up seven places as the Horned Frogs topped then-No. 10 N.C. State on the road Sunday, 69-59.

Michigan's win over Notre Dame was its biggest ever over a Top 25 team. The Wolverines, who were last ranked this high on Feb. 21, 2022, have a matchup with No. 1 UConn on Friday night in the Hall of Fame Showcase at Mohegan Sun.

"Connecticut is really, really good," Michigan coach Kim Barnes Arico said. "I think our kids want to compete against the best, I always have a stomach ache when those games are on our schedule."

The Huskies remained the top team after receiving 28 first-place votes from a national media panel. South Carolina was second, fresh off a 69-52 victory over then-No. 8 USC. The Gamecocks got three first-place votes and No. 3 UCLA received the other top ballot after double-digit wins over Oklahoma and North Carolina last week. Texas was fourth and LSU fifth.

Baylor was seventh and the Sooners fell one place to eighth with Maryland ninth.

In and out

West Virginia made its Top 25 debut at No. 23 after beating Duke 57-49 on Friday night in a game marred by an on-court confrontation. The Mountaineers had six players ejected at the half due and played the second half with just five players.

Duke fell out of the poll, ending a 24-week run in the Top 25 that was the ninth-longest active streak.

Conference supremacy

The Southeastern Conference has eight teams in the rankings this week, including three of the top five. The Big Ten has seven schools in the poll, the Big 12 five and the Atlantic Coast Conference four. The Big East has one.

Games of the week

No. 19 Iowa vs No. 7 Baylor, Thursday. The two schools will play in the WBCA Showcase at Disney World. It's the Hawkeyes' first trip outside Iowa state this season while the Bears have played in Paris and Las Vegas.

No. 11 USC at No. 24 Notre Dame, Friday. Both teams are coming off disappointing losses and will look for a quality win early in the season.

## What to know about abductions of schoolchildren in Nigeria

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria says more schoolchildren have been abducted in the country's volatile north.

It's not immediately clear who's to blame in the latest seizure in Kebbi state, an act that has come to define insecurity in Africa's most populous nation and the painful consequences. Kidnappers in the past have included the Boko Haram insurgency that carried out the mass abduction of 276 Chibok schoolgirls over a decade ago, bringing the extremist group to global attention. But groups of bandits are also active.

At least 1,500 students have been seized in the years since that Chibok attack. Here's what's to know about northern Nigeria's widespread insecurity that affects children and adults — and Christians and Muslims — alike.

Boko Haram and an Islamic State affiliate

Boko Haram has long menaced large parts of Nigeria's north, especially the northeast, as well as parts of neighboring Cameroon, Niger and Chad. The militant group has sought to impose an Islamic state in the region and its name — meaning "books are forbidden" — rejects Western education.

In 2014, Boko Haram burst onto the global stage with the Chibok abduction. Four years later, its fighters

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abducted 110 schoolgirls from a college in Yobe state in the northeast.

The militants have mounted a strong resurgence this year after splitting in the past, with many fighters now aligned with a local affiliate of the Islamic State. The exact number of fighters with each group is unknown, though they are estimated in the low thousands.

The groups continue to recruit, sometimes forcibly, youth who have been left vulnerable in a region that Nigerian authorities and humanitarian organizations struggle to serve safely. The Trump administration's deep cuts in foreign aid to Nigeria this year haven't helped.

Abductions for ransom

Other armed groups in northern Nigeria carry out abductions, largely for ransom. Authorities have said they include mostly former herders who took up arms against farming communities after clashes between them over increasingly strained resources.

Schools have been a popular target of the bandits, who are motivated more by money than religious beliefs. The attacks often occur at night, with gunmen at times zooming in on motorbikes or even dressed in military uniforms and then disappearing into the vast, under-policed landscape.

There is growing concern about links between the bandits and the militant groups, notably in the northwest.

"While often conflated with the militant Islamist groups, the bandits operating in northwestern Nigeria are a distinct driver of instability in this region," the U.S.-backed Africa Center for Strategic Studies said earlier this year, noting that the bandits are thought to be responsible for about the same number of deaths there as Boko Haram and the IS affiliate are in the northeast.

In 2020, gunmen on motorcycles attacked a government secondary school in Katsina state and abducted more than 300 boys. The state government announced their release within the week. In 2021, gunmen abducted more than 300 schoolgirls in a nighttime raid on a government secondary boarding school in Zamfara state. Within weeks, all were released after the apparent payment of a ransom.

And in 2024, gunmen on motorcycles abducted 287 students at a government secondary school in Kaduna state.

Nigeria's security challenges

Nigeria has struggled for years to combat Boko Haram and other armed groups, at times striking and killing civilians in mistaken air assaults meant for militants. The military also has carried out airstrikes and special operations targeting the hideouts of armed gangs.

But Islamic extremists in recent months have repeatedly overrun military outposts, mined roads with bombs and raided civilian communities despite the military's claims of success against them. That surge in activity has strained security efforts across Nigeria's north.

Last month, President Bola Tinubu replaced the country's security chiefs.

Earlier this year, the U.S. government approved the sale of \$346 million in arms to strengthen Nigeria's fight against insurgencies and criminal groups. More recently, however, President Donald Trump has threatened Nigeria with potential military action — and a halt to all aid and assistance — while alleging that Nigeria's government is failing to rein in the persecution of Christians. Nigeria has rejected the claim.

## Hard-right former lawmaker José Antonio Kast leads in Chile's polarizing presidential runoff

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — A hard-right former lawmaker and admirer of U.S. President Donald Trump held the upper hand as Chile headed to a polarizing presidential runoff against a member of Chile's Communist Party representing the incumbent government.

José Antonio Kast, an ultraconservative lawyer opposed to abortion and same-sex marriage, appears to be in pole position after nearly 70% of votes went to right-wing candidates in Sunday's first round. Many Chileans worry about organized crime, illegal immigration and unemployment in one of Latin America's safest and most prosperous nations.

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The father of nine, who pushed his traditional Catholic beliefs and nostalgia for aspects of Chile's brutal dictatorship into the political mainstream after founding his own Republican Party in 2019, came in second with nearly 24% of the vote. He campaigned on plans to crack down on gang violence, build a giant border wall and deport tens of thousands of immigrants.

Jeannette Jara, a former labor minister in President Gabriel Boric's left-wing government, eked out a narrower-than-expected lead with 27% of the vote. She wants to expand Chile's social safety net and tackle money laundering and drug trafficking to stem organized crime.

Neither contender received more than 50% of the overall vote count, sending the poll to a second round of voting on Dec. 14.

'Voters are upset'

The mood was ebullient at Kast's campaign headquarters early Monday, where young Chileans wrapped in national flags drank beer and rolled cigarettes as workers took down the stage where Kast had pledged a radical transformation in the country's security.

"We needed a safe candidate, someone with a firm hand to bring economic growth, attract investment, create jobs, strengthen the police and give them support," said Ignacio Rojas, 20. "Chile isn't safe anymore, and he'll change that."

The results seemed set to extend a growing regional shift across Latin America, as popular discontent with the economy simmers and right-wing challengers take over from leftist politicians who shot to power in the wake of the pandemic but largely failed to deliver on their lofty promises of social change and more equitable distribution of wealth.

"Economies are not growing, there are no new jobs, and people remember that 10 years ago they used to pay lower prices for almost everything," said Patricio Navia, a Chilean analyst and professor at New York University.

"Voters are upset with governments all over the region," he added.

Conservatives led the pack in Chile's eight-candidate field, with populist businessman and celebrity economist Franco Parisi surprising pundits by securing 20% of the votes and third place, reflecting the power of his anti-establishment message.

He also ran a tough law and order campaign, vowing to plant land mines along Chile's porous northern border to prevent people from crossing.

Another 14% of the votes went to Johannes Kaiser, a libertarian congressman and a former YouTube provocateur who campaigned as an even more radical alternative to Kast.

Chile's traditional center-right coalition landed in fifth place, with establishment candidate Evelyn Matthei winning 12.5% of the vote.

Conservative runners-up endorse Kast

Not all of the divided right is guaranteed to go to Kast, whose conservative moral values have previously alienated voters concerned about the rollback of hard-won rights for women and LGBTQ+ community. His promise to cut up to \$6 billion in public spending within his first 18 months has also been criticized by traditional conservative politicians as unrealistic. He has lost two presidential races before.

But it's also unlikely that many voters who supported Kaiser's plans to deport migrants who entered the country illegally to prison in El Salvador, or Matthei's plans to consider bringing back the death penalty, would vote for a lifelong member of Chile's hard-line Communist Party, which supports autocratic governments in Venezuela and Cuba.

There were no other left-wing front-runners, as all six parties in Chile's governing coalition threw their weight behind Jara.

After learning of the election results late Sunday, Matthei rushed to Kast's party headquarters to profess her support for her right-wing rival. "Chile needs a sharp change of direction," she said.

Kaiser also promised to back Kast, saying his libertarian party would "ensure that a sound doctrine and defense of freedom are not abandoned."

Parisi was coy after the results came out, saying, "We don't give anyone a blank check."

"The burden of proof lies with both candidates," said the political outsider, whose voters eschew elites

on the left and right. "They have to win people over."

The region is trending right

Economic travails and fervent anti-incumbent sentiment appear to have fueled a gradual pendulum swing away from the left-wing leaders who were ascendant across the region just a few years ago.

In Argentina, radical libertarian President Javier Milei, elected in late 2023 on a vow to break with years of left-leaning populism, has doubled down on his close bond with Trump and reshaped Argentina's foreign policy in line with the U.S.

Elections during the last year in Ecuador, El Salvador and Panama have kept right-wing leaders in office, while in Bolivia, restive voters outraged over a currency crisis punished the Movement Toward Socialism party and elected a conservative opposition candidate for the first time in nearly 20 years last month.

Gains for the right could buoy the U.S. as it competes for regional influence with China, some analysts say, with a new crop of leaders keen for American investment. Chile is the world's largest copper producer and home to vast reserves of other minerals key to the global energy transition.

Like many hopeful leftists four years ago, Boric, a young former student activist elected on the heels of Chile's 2019 mass protests over widening inequality, saw his ambitions to raise taxes on the rich and adopt one of the world's most progressive constitutions run into major legislative opposition.

Analysts warned that Kast could face the same fate if he caved to his most radical allies or pushed morally conservative measures. Although early legislative election results indicated that right-wing parties would hold a majority in the 155-member lower house of Congress, left-wing parties appeared to hold a slight edge in the Senate on Monday.

"There is a path forward for Kast," Navia said. But "if he tries to govern as a radical right-winger, he will hit a wall, just like outgoing President Gabriel Boric did."

## **Tribal college leaders are uneasy about US financial commitments despite a funding increase**

By GRAHAM LEE BREWER Associated Press

NEW TOWN, N.D. (AP) — On a recent chilly fall morning, Ruth De La Cruz walked through the Four Sisters Garden, looking for Hidatsa squash. To college students in her food sovereignty program, the crop might be an assignment. But to her, it is the literal fruit of her ancestors' labor.

"There's some of the squash, yay," De La Cruz exclaimed as she finds the small, pumpkinlike gourds catching the morning sun.

The garden is named for the Hidatsa practice of growing squash, corn, sunflower and beans — the four sisters — together, De La Cruz said. The program is part of the Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College, operated by the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation.

It is one of more than three dozen tribal colleges and universities across the country that the Trump administration proposed cutting funding to earlier this year. Tribal citizens are among communities navigating the impacts of massive cuts in federal spending and the effects of the longest government shutdown in U.S. history.

A funding increase for tribal colleges and universities announced before the shutdown was welcome news, but college leaders remain uneasy about the government's financial commitments. Those federal dollars are part of some of the country's oldest legal obligations, and tribal college and university (TCU) presidents and Native American education advocates worry they could be further eroded, threatening the passage of Indigenous knowledge to new generations.

"This is not just a haven for access to higher education, but also a place where you get that level of culturally, tribally specific education," De La Cruz said.

US committed to Native education

When the U.S. took the land and resources of tribal nations to build the country, it promised through treaties, laws and other acts of Congress that it would uphold the health, education, and security of Indigenous peoples. Those fiduciary commitments are known today as trust responsibilities.

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"We prepaid for all of this," said Twyla Baker, the college's president.

The U.S. may have intentionally and violently disrupted the passage of Indigenous knowledge and lifeways, Baker said, but their ancestors forced the government to promise to protect them for future generations. Those legal and moral obligations must be honored, she said.

"They carried our languages under their tongues. They carried them close to their heart. They carried these knowledge systems with them and protected them to bring them forward to us. So I feel as if I have a responsibility to do the same," Baker said.

Today, the education pillar of the trust responsibilities takes many forms, like the hundreds of elementary schools on reservations funded by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education and the funding that pays for Native history and language classes taught at TCUs.

That funding was set to be reduced by as much as 90% in President Donald Trump's federal budget proposal. But in September the U.S. Department of Education announced TCUs would receive an increase of over 100%. While the decision was welcomed by many, those new federal dollars came at the cost of other institutions where many Native students attend, like Hispanic-serving institutions.

The education of Native students outside of TCUs are also part of those trust and treaty rights, said Ahniwake Rose, president of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, which advocates for TCUs. An uncertain funding outlook

Rose said that the increase in Department of Education funding coincides with decreases in several areas of the federal government that provide vital grants to TCUs, like the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In 1994, Congress passed a bill designating tribal colleges as land grant institutions, which opened them up to new sources of federal funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. But unlike other land grant universities like Cornell, Purdue and Clemson that are still sustained by the profits of unceded tribal lands, TCUs don't share in those billions of dollars. Instead they rely on grants from the federal agencies that support land grant universities.

However, that too has become more difficult, Rose said. Tribal liaisons at some of those federal departments who ensure they are complying with their trust responsibilities have been laid off or furloughed, she said, and many of those positions remain unfilled.

"We're still under a great deal of stress," Rose said. "I don't want people to think because we got this increase in funds that all is OK, because it's still precarious."

That kind of uncertainty makes it hard to budget, said Leander McDonald, president of the United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, North Dakota. That, mixed with the current push to cut the federal workforce, leaves him and other TCU presidents second-guessing decisions to create education programs and hire staff.

"How long is the storm going to last?" McDonald said. "That's the part that I think is unknown for us."

Presidents like McDonald and Baker spend a lot of their time on the road, traveling to Washington, D.C., to make the case for both the value that TCUs add and the government's responsibility to uphold them. An American Indian Higher Education Consortium report released in September found that in 2023 TCUs generated \$3.8 billion in added income to the national economy in the forms of increased student and business revenue and social savings related to health, justice and income assistance.

Schools help preserve traditions

On top of the opportunities higher education provides, for TCU students there is an added incentive. The U.S. government systematically tried to erase their cultures, and many students and faculty believe part of the government's fiduciary responsibility to tribal nations today includes providing opportunities to sustain the traditions that it threatened.

Learning directly from elders who pass down that knowledge is a key part of the Native American Studies program at Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College. Students like Zaysha Grinnell, a citizen of the MHA Nation enrolled in the program, learn their languages and take classes on tribal sovereignty and traditional burial rites.

"You can't get that anywhere else," she said. "That experience, that knowledge, all of the knowledge

that the ones teaching here carry.”

Many of the communities where those traditions were taught were broken up, the languages spoken in them were intentionally targeted, and the lands where they thrived were taken, said Mike Barthelemy, head of the college’s Native American Studies program.

“You can look around us in any direction for hundreds of miles, and those are ceded territories,” he said. “There’s not a single Indigenous nation that got really, truly compensated for what they gave. And so I think that trust responsibility, it lingers.”

## **Prosecutor: Antonio Brown could face 30 years in prison if guilty of attempted murder with gun**

By CURT ANDERSON Associated Press

Former NFL star wide receiver Antonio Brown could face up to 30 years in prison if convicted of attempted murder because a firearm was allegedly used, a prosecutor said Monday.

Brown appeared via video at a brief arraignment hearing in Miami-Dade Circuit Court in which his lawyer, Mark Eglarsh, repeated that Brown already entered a not guilty plea. He was released from jail last week on a \$25,000 bond and required to wear a GPS ankle monitor.

An attempted murder charge in Florida carries a maximum 15-year prison sentence in many cases. But Assistant State Attorney Stephanie Cruz said because Brown allegedly used a gun, he could face double that time behind bars because of a firearm sentencing enhancement. The law also carries a potential 20-year minimum mandatory sentence upon conviction.

Brown, 37, did not speak during the hearing, Judge Marisa Tinkler-Mendez set at status hearing tentatively for Dec. 22. No trial date has been scheduled.

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

Eglarsh said at a previous hearing that the affidavit is mistaken and that Brown actually used his personal firearm, and the shots were not aimed at anyone. Brown has said on social media that he was defending himself from an attack and that others were trying to steal jewelry from him.

Brown spent 12 years in the NFL and was an All-Pro wide receiver who last played in 2021 for Tampa Bay, including a Super Bowl championship with quarterback Tom Brady. He spent much of his career with Pittsburgh. For his career, Brown had 928 receptions for more than 12,000 yards and accounted for 88 total touchdowns, counting punt returns and one pass.

Brown was extradited last week from Dubai, where he has business interests, after an arrest warrant on the attempted murder charge was issued in June.

## **Immigrant student enrollment is dwindling at schools across the US amid immigration crackdowns**

By KATE PAYNE, BIANCA VÁZQUEZ TONESS and GISELA SALOMON Associated Press

From Miami to San Diego, schools around the U.S. are seeing big drops in enrollment of students from immigrant families.

In some cases, parents have been deported or voluntarily returned to their home countries, driven out by President Donald Trump’s sweeping immigration crackdown. Others have moved elsewhere inside the U.S.

In many school systems, the biggest factor is that far fewer families are coming from other countries. As fewer people cross the U.S. border, administrators in small towns and big cities alike are reporting fewer newcomer students than usual.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools, about 2,550 students have entered the district from another country so far this school year — down from nearly 14,000 last year, and more than 20,000 the year before that. School board member Luisa Santos, who attended district schools herself as a young immigrant,

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said the trend is "a sad reality."

"I was one of those arrivals when I was 8 years old," Santos said. "And this country and our public schools — I'll never get tired of saying it — gave me everything."

Collectively, the enrollment declines in Miami-Dade erased about \$70 million from the district's annual budget, forcing administrators to scramble to cover the unexpected shortfall.

The drops in immigrant students add to strains on enrollment at many traditional public schools, which have seen overall numbers dip due to demographic changes and students opting for alternatives like private schools and homeschooling. Despite needs for English instruction and social supports, the newcomers in some districts have helped to buoy enrollment and bring critical per-pupil funding in recent years.

In northern Alabama, Albertville City Schools Superintendent Bart Reeves has seen the local economy grow along with its Hispanic population, which for decades has been drawn by the area's poultry processing plants. Albertville soon will be getting its first Target store, a sign of the community's growing prosperity.

Reeves' district is home to one of Alabama's largest Hispanic student populations, with about 60% identifying as Hispanic. But Reeves said the district's newcomer academy at a local high school hasn't been enrolling any new students.

"That's just not happening this year with the closure of the border," said Reeves, who expects the hit to his budget from enrollment declines will cost him about 12 teacher positions.

Some students are self-deporting with their families

One Sunday morning in August, Edna, a 63-year-old immigrant from El Salvador, got the call she had been dreading. Her friend, a mother from Guatemala with seven young children, had been detained in Lake Worth, Florida, on immigration charges while she was out grabbing a treat for her kids' breakfast.

The family had prepared for this moment. There were legal documents in place granting temporary custody of the children to Edna, who asked to be identified only by her first name because she fears immigration enforcement.

"I'll be here, and we'll be OK," she recalled telling the oldest child, a 12-year-old boy.

In the weeks that followed, Edna stayed home with two younger kids and got their five older siblings on the bus each day to attend Palm Beach County public schools, where enrollment has fallen by more than 6,000 students this year. One day in September, all seven children boarded a plane to Guatemala to be reunited with their mom, leaving behind neighborhood friends, band practices, and the only life they had ever known.

"My house feels like a garden without flowers," Edna said. "They're all gone."

The family is now living in a rural part of Guatemala, out of reach of phone service. School there had already started for the year and the mother, who did not attend school herself as a child, was keeping them home and weighing whether to enroll them next year, Edna said.

Schools accustomed to newcomers see far fewer this year

The declines in the numbers of immigrants coming to the U.S. were already becoming evident in school registration numbers this summer.

Denver Public Schools enrolled 400 new-to-country students this summer, compared to 1,500 during the previous summer. Outside Chicago, Waukegan Community Unified School District 60 signed up 100 fewer new immigrant students. And administrators in the Houston Independent School District shuttered the Las Americas Newcomer School, a program dedicated to children who are new to the U.S., after its enrollment fell to just 21 students from 111 last year.

The shift is visible in places like Chelsea, Massachusetts, a city outside Boston that has long been a destination for new immigrants. The 6,000-student Chelsea Public Schools system has attracted Central Americans looking for affordable housing, and more recently, the state housed newly-arrived Haitians in shelters there. This year, the usual influx of newcomers didn't materialize.

"This year has been different. Much more quiet," said Daniel Mojica, director of Chelsea's parent information center.

Over the summer, 152 newcomers signed up for Chelsea Public Schools, compared to 592 new-to-country students the previous summer.

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Some are also picking up and leaving. Since January, 844 students have withdrawn from the district, compared to 805 during the same period last year. Mojica said a greater share of students leaving – roughly a quarter – are returning to their native countries.

He attributes that partly to the presence of masked Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers walking the city's streets.

"You can feel the fear in the air," he said.

Educators worry students are missing out

In San Diego, Principal Fernando Hernandez has enrolled dozens of newcomer students from across Latin America over the past couple years. Many made the treacherous journey through the jungles of the Darien Gap before setting up camp in a park near Perkins K-8 school.

About a third of students at the school are homeless. Staff have become experts on supporting kids who are facing adversity. As more newcomers arrived, Hernandez watched as Mexican American students switched up their playground slang to be better understood by their new classmates from Venezuela, Colombia and Peru.

But so far this school year, he hasn't enrolled a single newcomer student. Other families did not return when the new school year began. Overall, the district's enrollment is on par with last year's, according to a spokesperson. But at Hernandez' school, the change is noticeable.

Hernandez fears the toll of the disruption will extend far beyond students' academic progress. He worries students are missing out on chances to learn how to show empathy, to share, to disagree, to understand each other.

"This is like a repeat of the pandemic where the kids are isolated, locked up, not socializing," he said.

"These kids, they have to be in school," he added.

Natacha, a parent who moved with her family to California after leaving Venezuela, said she tries to avoid going out in public, but continues sending her daughters to school. Natacha, who asked to only be identified by her first name because she fears immigration enforcement, said she braces herself as she drives the girls home each afternoon, scanning the road behind her in case another car is following hers.

"I entrust myself to God," she said.

## **Takeaways from AP's report on a surge in Palestinian deaths in Israeli custody**

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — The number of Palestinians dying in Israeli custody surged to nearly 100 people since the start of the war in Gaza, according to a report published Monday by a human rights group that says systematic violence and denial of medical care at prisons and detention centers contributed to many of the deaths it examined.

The picture that emerges from the report by Physicians for Human Rights-Israel is consistent with findings by The Associated Press, which interviewed more than a dozen people about prison abuses, medical neglect and deaths, analyzed available data, and reviewed reports of autopsies. AP spoke with a former guard and a former nurse at one prison, an Israeli doctor who treated malnourished prisoners brought to his hospital, former detainees and their relatives, and lawyers representing them and rights groups.

The former guard at a military prison notorious for its harsh treatment of Palestinians told the AP detainees were routinely shackled with chains and kicked and hit with batons, and that the facility had been dubbed a "graveyard" because so many prisoners were dying there. He agreed to talk to AP to raise awareness of violence in Israeli prisons and spoke on condition of anonymity due to fear of reprisal.

Israel's Prison Service said it operates in accordance with the law. It declined to comment on the death count and directed any inquiries to Israel's army.

The army said it is aware some detainees have died, including people with preexisting illnesses or combat-related injuries. But army spokesperson Nadav Shoshani said the death count in the PHRI report is inflated, while declining to say what the army believes the real number to be.

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The army also said allegations of abuse or inadequate conditions are assessed, and that those who violate the army's code of conduct are punished and sometimes subject to criminal investigations.

Here are some key takeaways:

Prisoner population spiked, deaths rose even faster

Of the 98 prisoner deaths PHRI documented since the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war, 27 occurred in 2023, 50 in 2024 and 21 this year, the most recent on Nov. 2. PHRI says the actual death toll over this timeframe is "likely significantly higher," noting that Israel has refused to provide information about hundreds of Palestinians detained during the war.

Fewer than 30 Palestinians died in Israeli custody in the 10 years preceding the war, PHRI says. But since the war, the prison population more than doubled to 11,000 as people were rounded up, mainly from Gaza and the West Bank. The number of prisoners dying grew at an even faster rate over that period, PHRI data shows.

PHRI documented deaths by interviewing former detainees and prison medical staff, examining reports prepared by doctors who observed autopsies at the behest of dead prisoners' families, and confirming dozens of fatalities through freedom of information requests.

Guards told to reduce the number of deaths

One morning, early in Israel's war against Hamas, the former guard at the Sde Teiman military prison in southern Israel arrived at work to see a motionless Palestinian lying on his side in the yard, yet no guards rushed to see what had happened to the man, who was dead.

"It was sort of business as usual with the dead guy," said the guard, who didn't know the cause of death.

Prisoners' arms and legs were always in chains, and they were beaten if they moved or spoke, the guard said.

The former nurse at Sde Teiman said chains used to restrain many prisoners' arms and legs caused such severe wounds that some needed their limbs to be amputated. She spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal. She said the staff at times talked about prisoner deaths but that she didn't see anyone die while working there for several weeks early last year. She left the job because she didn't like the abusive treatment of the prisoners, she said.

The army said prolonged handcuffing is implemented only in exceptional cases when there are "significant security considerations." Even then, detainees' medical condition is taken into account, it said. Only a few detainees from Gaza are currently being handled this way, it added.

Guards were told by their commanders — who also participated in the beatings -- that they needed to reduce the deaths, according to the Sde Teiman guard, who spent several months there.

Eventually cameras were installed, which helped mitigate the abuse, he said. Twenty-nine prisoners have died at Sde Teiman since the war began, according to PHRI.

Earlier this year, an Israeli soldier was convicted of abusing Palestinians in Sde Teiman and sentenced to seven months in prison, according to the army, which said this shows there is accountability.

But lawyers for prisoners say Israel rarely conducts serious investigations into alleged violence and that this fuels the problem.

Medical neglect and abuse

It is difficult to pinpoint with certainty the cause of death for most prisoners. Sometimes, at the behest of prisoners' families, doctors were granted permission by Israel to attend autopsies and provided reports to the families on what they saw.

Eight reports seen by the AP showed a pattern of physical abuse and medical neglect.

In one, a 45-year-old man who died in Kishon detention center, Mohammad Husein Ali, showed multiple signs of physical assault, likely causing brain bleed, according to the report. The potential use of excessive restraints was also noted. His family said he was healthy before he was detained from his home in the West Bank. He died within a week of being imprisoned.

Husein Ali had previously served time in an Israeli prison after being convicted of association with militancy, according to his family. But they said he had no ties with militants when he was arrested last year.

## **Palestinian deaths in Israeli custody have surged. A prison guard describes rampant abuse**

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — The number of Palestinians dying in Israeli custody surged to nearly 100 people since the start of the war in Gaza, according to a report published Monday by a human rights group that says systematic violence and denial of medical care at prisons and detention centers contributed to many of the deaths it examined.

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PHRI documented deaths by interviewing former detainees and prison medical staff, examining reports prepared by doctors who observed autopsies at the behest of dead prisoners' families, and confirming dozens of fatalities through freedom of information requests.

"The alarming rate at which people are killed in Israeli custody reveals a system that has lost all moral and professional restraint," said Naji Abbas, a director at PHRI.

Last year, the head of Israel's prison system, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, boasted that he had degraded prison conditions to the legal minimum. Under pressure from rights groups, conditions improved slightly.

Israel's Prison Service said it operates in accordance with the law. It declined to comment on the death count and directed any inquiries to Israel's army.

The army said it is aware some detainees have died, including people with preexisting illnesses or combat-related injuries. But army spokesperson Nadav Shoshani said the death count in the PHRI report is inflated, while declining to say what the army believes the real number to be.

The army also said allegations of abuse or inadequate conditions are assessed, and that those who violate the army's code of conduct are punished and sometimes subject to criminal investigations.

### Guards told to reduce the number of deaths

Although hesitant at first, the former guard at the Sde Teiman military prison in southern Israel said he eventually participated in beatings of prisoners.

One morning, early in Israel's war against Hamas, the guard arrived at work to see a motionless Palestinian lying on his side in the yard, yet no guards rushed to see what had happened to the man, who was dead.

"It was sort of business as usual with the dead guy," said the guard, who didn't know the cause of death.

Prisoners' arms and legs were always in chains, and they were beaten if they moved or spoke, the guard said, adding that nearly all would urinate and defecate on themselves rather than ask to use the bathroom.

The former nurse at Sde Teiman said chains used to restrain many prisoners' arms and legs caused such severe wounds that some needed their limbs to be amputated. She spoke on condition of anonymity for

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fear of reprisal. During the several weeks she worked there at the start of last year she didn't see anyone die, but she said the staff at times talked about prisoner deaths. She left the job because she didn't like the abusive treatment of the prisoners, she said.

The army said prolonged handcuffing is implemented only in exceptional cases when there are "significant security considerations." Even then, detainees' medical condition is taken into account, it said. Only a few detainees from Gaza are currently being handled this way, it added.

Guards were told by their commanders — who also participated in the beatings -- that they needed to reduce the deaths, according to the Sde Teiman guard, who spent several months there.

Eventually cameras were installed, which helped mitigate the abuse, he said. Twenty-nine prisoners have died at Sde Teiman since the war began, according to PHRI.

Earlier this year, an Israeli soldier was convicted of abusing Palestinians in Sde Teiman and sentenced to seven months in prison, according to the army, which said this shows there is accountability.

But lawyers for prisoners say Israel rarely conducts serious investigations into alleged violence and that this fuels the problem.

In a sign of the public climate, the Israeli military's top lawyer was recently forced to resign after acknowledging she approved the leak of a surveillance video at the center of an investigation into allegations of severe sexual abuse against a Palestinian at Sde Teiman. The leak, meant to defend the decision by her office to prosecute guards for the alleged abuses, instead triggered fierce criticism from hard-line Israeli leaders who sympathized with the guards.

Several soldiers were indicted in that case, which is still pending before the military court.

## Medical neglect and abuse

It is difficult to pinpoint with certainty the cause of death for most prisoners. Sometimes, at the behest of prisoners' families, doctors were granted permission by Israel to attend autopsies and provided reports to the families on what they saw.

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Husein Ali had previously served time in an Israeli prison after being convicted of association with militancy, according to his family. But they said he had no ties with militants when he was arrested last year.

After Husein Ali was taken, his 2-year-old daughter would stare out the window calling for her father, said his wife, Hadeel. "She'd say 'baba, where's baba,' but after time she stopped asking," she said, wiping tears from her eyes.

Malnutrition was a contributing factor in at least one death, according to PHRI, leading to a 17-year-old boy dying from starvation.

In September, Israel's Supreme Court ordered that more and better food be served to Palestinian inmates. Rights groups say the situation has slightly improved.

The army said detainees receive three meals a day, approved by a dietitian. It said every detainee is examined by a doctor upon arrival and, for those who need it, monitored with regular checkups.

## Former prisoner can't forget what he witnessed

Sariy Khuorieh, an Israeli-Palestinian lawyer from Haifa, said he was detained at the start of the war after Israel accused him of inciting violence through his social media posts. While in Megiddo prison for 10 days, Khuorieh says he saw a man die after repeated beatings.

Khuorieh said the 33-year-old father of four from the West Bank was beaten almost daily. The man, and some of his relatives, had close ties to Hamas, according to a Palestinian security official and someone who knew the family, both of whom spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern for retaliation.

The night before the man died, he screamed in pain for hours while in solitary confinement, said Khuorieh, who choked back tears while recounting what happened. The man had repeatedly called for a doctor,

but none came, Khourieh said.

A spokesperson for Israel's Prison Service wouldn't comment on the case.

A report written about the man's autopsy seen by AP said the cause of death was inconclusive but that there were signs of old and new bruising, including broken ribs. The report said it could be assumed that violence contributed to his death.

When the guards opened the man's cell they kicked and beat him before summoning a physician who tried to revive him and then pronounced him dead, said Khourieh, who said he was able to see what was happening through the small window in his cell door.

Once the man was pronounced dead, Khourieh said one of the officer's laughed and said: there's "at least one less" to care about.

## **Most of Gaza's schools are destroyed and hundreds of thousands of children cannot go back to class**

By WAFAA SHURAFI and KAREEM CHEHAYEB Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Bissan Younis looked dejected as she stood outside a cluster of tents surrounded by rubble and debris, a wasteland that is a common sight across the Gaza Strip. The tiny encampment was yet another makeshift school that has no room for her teenage son Kareem.

"Most of the schools are destroyed," she told The Associated Press. "Every school I go to tells me there is no room."

More than 600,000 Palestinian children in Gaza have missed the past two years of school because of the war between Israel and the militant Hamas group. Instead of studying and socializing, they have been repeatedly displaced, fled airstrikes and shelling and often spent their days scouring for water and food for their families.

With a ceasefire reached last month largely holding, humanitarian officials are now working frantically to reopen dozens of makeshift schools.

John Crickx, a spokesman for the U.N. children's agency UNICEF, said it's critical for children to return to classes as soon as possible, not just because of basic education but also for their mental health.

"In the weeks to come, if we don't offer education," he said, there could be "terrible consequences for an entire generation."

UNICEF estimates that over 630,000 Palestinian children missed out on school during the war. Crickx says that so far, only about 100,000 children have been able to return.

Separately, UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, is providing some education through their contracted teachers — for about 40,000 students. Most of the UNRWA-run schools, which catered to half of the Gaza children before the war, have since turned into shelters for displaced people.

No space for tents

Lack of space is a key obstacle: Dozens of schools were badly damaged or completely destroyed. Many are still being used as shelters for Palestinians who have been repeatedly displaced during the enclave's intense bombardment.

"It's basically tents among the displaced people's tents or it is some prefabs or shelters, said Crickx. "It's very much ... the most basic learning."

At one school — a cluster of tents with the UNICEF logo erected on a patch of land amid bombed-out buildings in the southern city of Khan Younis — children huddled closely in one classroom, eagerly listening to their teacher.

Crickx said that finding a location to put up the tents has been tricky. Another challenge is getting supplies into Gaza, whether concrete to fix damaged schools or simple pencils, erasers and other basic supplies.

Since the Oct. 7, 2023 start of the war with the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel, these items have not been allowed into Gaza. Israel, which controls the flow of goods into the territory, considers them "non-critical, non-life saving," Crickx said.

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COGAT, the Israeli military body that coordinates aid to Gaza, had no immediate comment on allowing in school supplies to Gaza.

Even the children who return to makeshift schools were able to enroll carry the psychological burdens that come with war and displacement.

"The level of trauma among the people of Gaza, including children, is horrific," said UNRWA communications director Juliette Touma.

U.N. agencies say they are struggling to assess the damages and figure out the costs — with the ceasefire still in its early stages, reconstruction of Gaza has not yet begun and U.N. experts say the process could take years and cost some \$70 billion.

Schools that turned into shelters

Displaced families continue to live in the ruins of damaged schools. UNRWA's Touma says about 75,000 people still shelter in the agency's schools.

One of the displaced, Tahreer al-Oweini says she feels guilty but that she had no choice.

"I live in a classroom that should be in session with a teacher, students, and a blackboard," said al-Oweini. Around her, damaged walls and ceilings are covered with tarp.

Al-Oweini said she is struggling to secure spots for her three daughters and a son who are in elementary and middle school. She even told one school principal that she will search for a chair and desk for her daughter but was still rejected.

"The children forgot everything they learned," she said. "Their life over the past two years has been getting water, running after aid vehicles, war, Hamas, shelling, destruction."

"They have lived in fear or horror," she added.

Even during the most intense fighting, there have been some efforts in displacement camps and communities to keep children from falling behind in school, even as everyone struggled with bombardment, power cuts, and shortages of food, water, and medicine.

But lessons were sporadic, and some families say they kept their children close and couldn't risk letting them attend classes, fearing for their lives.

It's a race against time and UNRWA's Touma warns of a "lost generation" — the longer the children stay out of school, the tougher it will be to someday catch up with their peers elsewhere.

Touma is worried that if children miss out on education, the more likely they are to fall "prey to exploitation, including child marriage, child labor, and recruitment into armed groups."

Al-Oweini, like other families desperate to get their children back to school, is still hopeful.

"I want my children to be like their father who finished university," she said, adding that her daughters want to become doctors or engineers.

"They have ambition," she said. "But if they don't go to school, they will have no future."

## Today in History: November 18, more than 900 die at Jonestown

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 18, the 322nd day of 2025. There are 43 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 18, 1978, U.S. Rep. Leo J. Ryan of California and four others were killed on an airstrip in Jonestown, Guyana, by members of the Peoples Temple; the killings were followed by a night of mass murder and suicide, resulting in the deaths of more than 900 cult members.

Also on this date:

In 1928, "Steamboat Willie," the first cartoon with synchronized sound as well as the first release of the character Mickey Mouse, debuted on screen at the Colony Theater in New York.

In 1987, an underground fire broke out in the King's Cross St. Pancras subway station in London, causing 31 deaths.

In 1991, Shiite Muslim kidnappers in Lebanon freed Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland, the American dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut.

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In 1999, 12 people were killed and dozens injured when a bonfire under construction at Texas A&M University collapsed. The stack of thousands of logs more than 50 feet tall gave way ahead of an annual bonfire tradition marking a Texas A&M-Texas rivalry football game in College Station.

In 2005, eight months after Robert Blake was acquitted of murdering his wife at a criminal trial, a civil jury decided the actor was behind the killing and ordered him to pay \$30 million to Bonny Lee Bakley's children.

In 2021, more than half a century after the 1965 assassination of Malcolm X, two of his convicted killers were exonerated; a New York judge dismissed the convictions of Muhammad Aziz and the late Khalil Islam after prosecutors and the men's lawyers said a renewed investigation had found new evidence that undermined the case against them.

Today's Birthdays: Author Margaret Atwood is 86. Actor Linda Evans is 83. Actor Delroy Lindo is 73. Comedian Kevin Nealon is 72. Football Hall of Famer Warren Moon is 69. Actor Oscar Nunez is 67. Actor Elizabeth Perkins is 65. Rock musician Kirk Hammett (Metallica) is 63. Author and lecturer Brené Brown is 60. Actor Romany Malco is 57. Actor Owen Wilson is 57. Commentator Megan Kelly is 55. Actor Chloe Sevigny (SEH'-ven-ee) is 51. Baseball Hall of Famer David Ortiz is 50. Rapper Fabolous is 48. NASCAR driver Denny Hamlin is 45. Actor-comedian Nasim Pedrad (nah-SEEM' peh-DRAHD') is 44. Actor Damon Wayans Jr. is 43. Olympic track and field gold medalist Allyson Felix is 40. Fashion designer Christian Siriano is 40. Actor Nathan Kress is 33. NFL quarterback Caleb Williams is 24.