

Groton Daily Independent

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Mon., Dec. 8

Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo with broccoli, fruit, breadstick.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Pork chop, rice.

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

Groton Senior Citizens meet at Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

GBB at Florence: 7th grade @ 4pm, 8th grade @ 5pm

4th Grade Practice, 4 p.m.

JH WR @ Sisseton, 5 p.m.

5th Grade BBB, 6 p.m.

Tues. Dec. 9

Senior Menu: Turkey and Swiss sandwich, baked beans, potato chips, tomato spoon salad, fruit.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.

School Lunch: Chicken breast sandwich, tiny whole potatoes.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Pierre Middle School Wrestling Invite (boys and girls), 4 p.m.

5th Grade Girls Basketball, 4:15 p.m.

GBB at Northwestern: MS at 5 p.m.; JV at 6 p.m.; Varsity to follow

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

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.

Chernobyl Shield Damage

The protective shield at Chernobyl can no longer perform its main function of confining radioactive waste, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog said Saturday. The assessment comes after a Feb. 14 drone strike Ukraine has blamed on Russia.

The New Safe Confinement is the world's largest movable land structure—a hangar-like structure designed to last 100 years that was built from 2010 to 2019. The structure—made with donations from 45 countries—was designed to enclose the Soviet Union's concrete "sarcophagus," erected immediately following the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. Earlier this year, a drone carrying a high-explosive warhead struck the NSC, damaging its protective cladding. There were no reports of radiation leaks, and radiation levels remained normal. The UN's watchdog said this weekend the NSC's monitoring functions remain intact.

On April 26, 1986, two explosions at Chernobyl's nuclear reactor No. 4 sent radioactivity across much of the Soviet Union and Europe.

Benin Coup Attempt

Benin's interior minister said yesterday the army had successfully thwarted a coup. The announcement came hours after soldiers on state television claimed to have seized control of the government.

The country has been relatively stable politically since 1991, when it began holding multiparty elections following the end of Mathieu Kérékou's authoritarian rule. The current leader, President Patrice Talon, has been in power since 2016, but his mandate is set to end in April. Last month, the ruling coalition approved broad constitutional reforms to extend the next president's (and lawmakers') mandate from five to seven years—a move critics called a power grab. A Beninese court had separately barred the opposition party's proposed candidate from running, citing insufficient support from lawmakers.

Benin is the latest West African country to face a coup attempt, after neighbors Niger and Burkina Faso, as well as Mali, Guinea, and, most recently, Guinea-Bissau.

Frank Gehry Dies

Legendary architect and designer Frank Gehry passed away Friday at age 96 following a brief respiratory illness. The Canadian-American Gehry is generally considered the most decorated architect of all time, having won many of the industry's top awards during his career.

Known for his imaginative, curving, and unconventional designs, Gehry built an early reputation for challenging traditional construction norms. Beyond the structures themselves, Gehry's designs gave birth to the "Bilbao effect"—the idea that a single architectural project can spark a revitalization in an otherwise declining urban center. The term comes from Gehry's Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, Spain, which drew 4 million visitors and generated roughly \$580M in economic activity in its first three years (and was notably completed on time and on budget).

Gehry's best-known buildings include the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles and the Louis Vuitton Foundation in Paris.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

President Donald Trump becomes first US president to host the Kennedy Center Honors, distributing lifetime achievement awards to actors Sylvester Stallone and Michael Crawford, rock band KISS, and singers Gloria Gaynor and George Strait; ceremony will air Dec. 23 on CBS and Paramount+.

Indiana takes No. 1 spot in 12-team field competing for college football's 2025 national championship.

Lionel Messi leads Inter Miami to first MLS Cup title.

The UK's Lando Norris wins first Formula 1 world championship title following third-place finish in Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

Former NASCAR driver Michael Annett dies at age 39.

Science & Technology

OpenAI reportedly moves up the release of ChatGPT 5.2 to as early as this week; move follows CEO Sam Altman's "Code Red" memo in response to Google's Gemini 3.

Scientists develop process using CO2 to create carbon-negative construction materials; concrete production accounts for about 8% of global CO2 emissions.

California officials issue warning against wild mushroom foraging after identifying 21 cases and one death linked to amatoxin poisoning, likely linked to the "death cap" mushroom.

Business & Markets

US stock markets rise Friday (S&P 500 +0.2%, Dow +0.2%, Nasdaq +0.3%), with analysts projecting a nearly 90% chance the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates again Wednesday.

SpaceX to offer insider shares valuing it at \$800B, passing OpenAI as the most valuable privately held company; may eye initial public offering late next year.

Federal officials waive final, \$11M installment of \$140M against Southwest Airlines over its 2022 holiday meltdown that left more than 2 million travelers stranded; decision cited company's efforts to upgrade infrastructure.

Politics & World Affairs

Supreme Court to hear case challenging President Donald Trump's move to fire Federal Trade Commissioner Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, testing 90-year-old limits on presidential power to remove regulators.

Japan says Chinese jets locked radar on its fighter jets; incident comes weeks after Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi indicated the country could get involved if China took action against Taiwan.

Hong Kong voters elect 90-member legislature weeks after fire in Tai Po kills at least 159 people; turnout is estimated at nearly one-third of the eligible population.

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**ELDA STANGE'S
102nd BIRTHDAY**
is on **Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025.**
Please join us in helping her celebrate her
special day by sending her a card at:

**PO Box 305
405 N. 3rd Street
Groton, SD 57445**



Christmas Holiday Show!



**Featuring:
The Shaun Johnson Big
Band Experience:
The Holiday Show**

**Sunday, December 14, 2025
4pm at the NSU Johnson Fine
Arts Center**

Tickets are on sale now!

- \$35/Adult & \$25/Student for non-members on-line or at IDC.
- \$25 for ACCA members (contact a board member or purchase at IDC Box Office for discount pricing.)

www.AberdeenCommunityConcerts.org



DACOTA BANK

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

**Cookies &
Calendars**

FRIDAY, DEC. 12

9:00 - 4:00 PM

7 East Hwy 12, Groton

*Stop in lobby for
cookies, coffee and a
2026 calendar!*

MEMBER FDIC

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After losing four straight games and six of their last seven, the Minnesota Vikings returned home from a two-game road trip to face the Washington Commanders. With an anemic offense that didn't score a single point last week, the Vikings were looking to right the ship, and they did just that with a 31-0 win.

The Vikings won the coin toss and surprisingly elected to receive the ball to begin the game. Head coach Kevin O'Connell wanted to get the offense out there and start building some sort of momentum since they hadn't found the endzone since November 16th. Leading up to the game, KOC mentioned he wanted to simplify things for J.J. McCarthy, and it showed

immediately. McCarthy came out and led the Vikings on a 7-play, 61-yard touchdown drive to take an early 7-0 lead. The Commanders responded with a good drive of their own, but were unable to find the end zone, despite having 1st-and-goal from the four-yard line, and failed on a fourth-down attempt.

The Vikings, backed up to the two-yard line, put together an amazing 19-play, 98-yard touchdown drive that took over 12 minutes. It was the first 12-minute drive in the NFL in four years and the longest Vikings drive of the century. Both teams traded punts to end the second quarter, and the Vikings went into halftime with a 14-0 lead, their largest halftime lead since week three against the Bengals.

The Commanders got the ball to begin the second half and were moving the ball well, attempting to gain some momentum. However, on the 12th play of the drive, Andrew Van Ginkel intercepted Jayden Daniels (who was then injured on the play and wouldn't return to the game), and the Vikings turned the turnover into three points. On the Commanders' next drive, backup QB Marcus Mariota threw an interception to Harrison Smith. Four plays later, the Vikings found the end zone again to extend their lead to 24-0.

Wanting to put the nail in the coffin, the Vikings put together another TD drive early in the fourth quarter, making this a four-score game. With eight minutes left in the game, a Mariota fumble gave the ball back to Minnesota, who were able to eat up the rest of the clock to preserve the 31-0 win. The Vikings are 5-8 with four games remaining.

J.J. McCarthy put together the best game of his young career, completing 16 of 23 passes for 163 yards, three touchdowns, and, perhaps most importantly, zero turnovers. Aaron Jones Sr. and Jordan Mason combined for 128 yards and a touchdown on 25 carries. Jordan Addison led the team with four catches for 62 yards, Josh Oliver caught two touchdowns, and T.J. Hockenson had another.

The Vikings' defense had two sacks (Jalen Redmond and Eric Wilson), four tackles for a loss (Redmond x2, Wilson, and Byron Murphy Jr.), four pass deflections (Andrew Van Ginkel x2, Harrison Smith, and Jay Ward), three QB hits (Jonathan Allen x2 and Wilson), two interceptions (Van Ginkel and Smith), and one fumble recovery (Javon Hargrave).

The player of the game was J.J. McCarthy, who put together a good game from the first snap to the final kneel down. One game doesn't cover up the poor prior performances, and he'll need to prove that this game wasn't a fluke, but this was a good start.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will travel to Dallas to take on the Cowboys. It's a Sunday Night Football game, so kickoff will be at 7:20 pm.

Silent but Serious: How to Spot and Manage Gum Disease

Gum disease is one of the most common chronic health conditions in adults. For those 40 and older, it's also the leading cause of premature tooth loss. Unlike cavities, which often cause sensitivity or pain, gum disease is silent. Because the infection starts under the gums, you may not notice symptoms right away.

There are two types of gum disease: gingivitis and periodontitis. Gingivitis is an early, reversible infection of the gums caused by bacteria and hardened plaque (calculus). Once the bacteria and calculus are removed, the gums can return to their healthy state. Think of it like a sliver in your skin: once it's out, the redness and swelling go away.

Periodontitis is irreversible and develops when the infection reaches deeper structures: the gum tissue, the ligament holding the tooth, and the bone beneath. Over time, this leads to gum recession, loose teeth, and tooth loss if untreated. Signs include gum recession, teeth appearing longer, shifting teeth, or changes in your bite. These symptoms reflect permanent damage to the tooth's support system.

Because gum infections are deeper in the gingival pocket, they can go unnoticed. Signs of both gingivitis and periodontitis include red, swollen gums and bleeding when brushing or flossing. This is often called "pink in the sink." Other symptoms may include bad breath, a bad taste in the mouth, or irritated or "itchy" gums. If you notice these, it may be time to get your gums professionally evaluated. Most dental hygienists recommend a cleaning every six months, as that's when gingivitis commonly returns.

When periodontitis is diagnosed in a dental office, the first step is usually nonsurgical periodontal therapy. This involves scaling and root planing; a thorough cleaning to remove bacteria, plaque, and calculus. Dental hygienists will use special instruments, including ultrasonic scalers, to clean the roots of the teeth and allow the gums to heal. For advanced cases, they may even recommend laser treatment, localized antibiotics, and other adjuncts individualized for your needs. Patients with advanced disease may be referred to a specialist called a periodontist for surgical options to repair the damage that the infection has caused. This might include flap surgeries or bone grafting.

Home care is an essential part of managing both forms of gum diseases. Brushing twice a day with a soft-bristled toothbrush and cleaning between teeth is not just about preventing cavities, it's about the gums too. The infection starts in the gum pocket, so cleaning under the gumline is key. Interdental brushes and water flossers often outperform traditional floss at removing bacteria from the gingival pocket around the tooth.

Gum disease may be silent, but its effects are not. Periodontitis has lasting consequences not only for your smile but for your overall health. Fortunately, with early recognition and consistent care it can be managed effectively. If your gums bleed, your breath smells bad, or it's been more than a year since your last dental visit, now is the time to act. A healthy mouth is a vital part of a healthy body.

Sources: National Institutes of Health. Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges. U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research; 2021.

Katie Pudwill, RDH, PhD, is a registered dental hygienist and educator in South Dakota. She teaches periodontics, ethics and jurisprudence, and dental anatomy at the University of South Dakota Department of Dental Hygiene. Katie is passionate about improving oral health through education, prevention, and advocacy. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on



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or anyone using physical therapy
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GDI Living Fitness

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Call/Text Tina at 605/397-7285

for details



Annual Membership Rates

Student is \$29.82 per month or \$255.60 per year
Single is \$35.15 per month or \$319.50 per year
2-Person is \$55.45 per month or \$575.10 per year
Family is \$67.10 per month or \$702.26 per year

Month-to-Month Rates

Student is \$35.15 per month
Single is \$40.48 per month
2-Person is \$59.78 per month
Family is \$72.43 per month

**While many other rates have gone up, ours has not.
Same rates for several years!**

EARTHTALK

Sand Mining Wreaks Havoc On Marine Ecosystems

by Rachel Berliner

Dear EarthTalk: What is "sand mining" and why is it bad for the environment?

– O.H., Via email

Sand mining, extracting sand from the earth, is the second most widespread human activity in marine environments, after fishing. Sand and gravel are the most extracted materials across the globe. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the dredging industry removes six million tons of sand from marine settings around the world each year.

Sand is typically extracted from where it's most abundant: aquatic areas, like ocean floors. Once mined, it is incorporated into concrete, glass, electronics and asphalt, which are then used to construct buildings and houses. Although sand has many important roles in human development, it is also important for the health of ecosystems. "This resource is often seen as an inert, abundant material, but in reality it is an essential resource that shapes coastal and marine ecosystems, protects shorelines and sustains ecosystems and livelihoods," says Aurora Torres, a biodiversity researcher at Spain's University of Alicante.

Removing sand in large amounts has negative effects on the environment. The process of dredging harms aquatic habitats by altering natural seagrass and coral while clouding the water. Sand mining has also been connected to the spread of invasive species, changes in wave patterns and coastal erosion. These issues are becoming increasingly prevalent. "Without new thinking, the sands of time will run out," says Beatrice Kariuki, a Kenyan spoken word poet, in a video released by UNEP.

There are solutions to this growing threat. The sand mining industry is not regulated in many areas, so increasing government oversight is one avenue. Also, construction companies can use other materials. In Singapore, recycled glass is replacing sand in 3D-printed concrete. Limiting the amount of sand removed at one time is the most sustainable option since the sand will naturally replenish. "Keeping sand in the rivers is the best adaptation to climate change," says Marc Gochoit, a leader at the World Wide Fund for Nature. "If a river delta receives enough sediment, it builds itself above sea level in a natural reaction."

Sand mining is projected to continue at its current unsustainable rate unless people across the globe take action. One way to get involved is to petition your local legislature for governmental action, like creating restrictions and regulations on the industry. Also, stay informed on sand mining from sources such as the Marine Sand Watch, a data platform that monitors and tracks dredging activities across the globe..

While this was Goodall's most well-known work, it was not her last. After receiving her Ph.d, Goodall continued to advocate for wildlife protection and conservation of endangered habitats. As a researcher, Goodall left her legacy on challenging the idea of human uniqueness. Her youth empowerment, reforestation and activism also inspired multiple generations to come together for conservation.



The dredging industry's removal of some 6 million tons of sand from marine settings around the world each year is devastating aquatic ecosystems. Credit: Wikideas1, CC0.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Gun suicide deaths rise in South Dakota

Prevention workers advocate seeking help and safe storage as state continues to strip away firearm restrictions

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you or someone you know needs help, the national suicide and crisis lifeline in the U.S. is available by calling or texting 988. There is also an online chat at 988lifeline.org.

It's becoming more common for South Dakotans to kill themselves with a gun, according to new data.

The number of South Dakotans who took their own lives with a firearm rose to 116 last year, and the proportion of South Dakota suicides involving a gun rose to 59%, according to the state Department of Health. The state's gun-suicide rate rose to 12.6 per 100,000 people. All three numbers are the highest in recent years' data for the state.

Suicide prevention workers say the numbers underscore the need for real-life connection and safe gun storage in a state where firearm ownership is common and legal gun restrictions are minimal.

Sioux Falls Police Chief John Thum cautioned against attributing the trends to a single cause, because local investigations encounter factors ranging from terminal illness to relationship struggles, chronic depression and substance use.

But access and lethality also matter.

"There's a definite sense of finality to a gunshot attempt," Thum said. "If we look at some of the other suicide attempts that we have — overdose, and some of the other ones — the level of absolutism to a firearm is there."



Pistols and ammunition at a shooting range.

(Stock photo by Aleksandar Georgiev/Getty Images)

Gun laws and lawmaking in Pierre

According to estimates by the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit policy think tank, more than half of adults in South Dakota live in a household with a firearm. A separate analysis by KFF, a nonprofit health policy research group, shows South Dakota has some of the loosest gun restrictions in the country, and "more than twice as many suicides by firearm occur in states with the fewest gun laws, relative to states with the most laws."

South Dakota requires no permit or background check for private gun sales, allows for the carrying of concealed pistols without a permit, allows concealed pistols in bars and on public college campuses, allows concealed pistols in the state Capitol with prior approval and notification, does not have a firearm registration system, and lacks a "red flag law," which in other states allows temporary firearm removals from people in crisis.

Democratic former state lawmaker Linda Duba, of Sioux Falls, unsuccessfully proposed what she described as two "modest firearm safety bills" during the 2024 legislative session. She said one of her goals was to

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lower firearm suicides in the state.

One bill would have required gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms. The other would have required firearms not in use to be locked away with a gun lock or in a safe. Duba said she had seen research that locked-up firearms were less likely to be used in a suicide.

Duba said some Republican legislators privately supported the measures, but refused to back them publicly because they feared political retaliation from the National Rifle Association. She said the association makes it impossible to convince Republican legislators to support "even the most reasonable regulations."

"It's going to take someone being personally impacted before they wake up," Duba said.

Rep. Tim Reisch, R-Howard, is a retired sheriff, former state Department of Corrections secretary and a member of the National Guard. He was one of a handful of Republican lawmakers earlier this year to vote against the legislation that now allows for the carrying of concealed pistols on technical college and public university campuses. He said many Republicans in Pierre fear negative campaign postcards from the National Rifle Association showing up in their constituents' mailboxes.

"Nobody wants a 'D,' 'C,' or even a 'B' grade," from the NRA, Reisch said. "These scorecards are ridiculous. It's one person's opinion. But in the end, come election season, sound bites matter. It's 'Reisch is soft on crime.' And those things weigh heavily in the minds of some legislators who really want to keep getting elected."

Former state trooper Rep. Jim Halverson, R-Winner, also voted against the bill allowing concealed pistols on campus.

"I'm a Second Amendment lover, I really am," he said. "I just believe there are places where it's not a good idea."

Halverson said college is a place where students may experience their first big failure, first major breakup, and first experiences with drugs and alcohol. All of that, and being away from the support of family at home, makes for an environment where suicides could become more likely, he said.

Halverson said "unless these people have seen somebody who's been shot themselves, seen someone who has taken their life, they don't get it."

"They haven't had to go pick up a body," he said. "Or go to somebody's house and say, 'Your son or daughter is not coming home tonight.'"

Retired law enforcement officer Rep. Kevin Van Diepen, R-Huron, voted in favor of the pistols-on-campus bill. He said it was a Second Amendment issue, and it would have been unconstitutional to restrict students' rights.

Van Diepen said suicide "is a mental health issue."

"If they didn't have a gun, they would use some other means," he said.

Storage, loneliness and stigma

Lost & Found is a Sioux Falls-based suicide prevention nonprofit. Researcher Cody Ingle said suicide is not always linked to mental illness. Sometimes it's an impulsive decision brought on by stress or crisis. He said things like gun locks can be the difference between people pulling the trigger in the heat of the moment, and just a few more breaths that can save their life.

"We've had individuals come up to us and say, 'This gun lock saved my life,'" Ingle said. "We're not saying guns are bad, but creating time and space between someone in a difficult headspace and a firearm can save lives."

Safe gun storage, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, includes locking up guns in a safe with a trigger lock and keeping ammunition separately stored. Keys and codes should be secured.

Loneliness and isolation — which the U.S. surgeon general declared a public health crisis in 2023 — is also playing a role in the gun suicide trend, said Carrie Jorgensen, executive director of Lost & Found.

"People are not connecting like they used to," she said. "And in the online, virtual space, it's not the same. You can still feel incredibly lonely, even if you have 10 conversations happening at the same time."

She said stigma around mental health remains strong in South Dakota, where cultural norms can dis-

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courage seeking help, particularly among men.

"That idea of 'pull yourself up by your bootstraps, just grin and bear it,' continues to exist, especially within that population," Jorgensen said.

The male suicide death rate in the U.S. is about four times higher than the female rate, and 57% of male suicides in South Dakota from 2015 to 2024 involved a firearm, according to the state Department of Health.

Jorgensen advised South Dakotans to take the time to maintain real-life friendships and a sense of community, and not to be too proud to ask for help from friends, family or suicide prevention and mental health professionals.

South Dakota Searchlight received research assistance for this story from the Gun Violence Data Hub, an initiative of The Trace that provides support, resources and data to newsrooms, researchers and the public.

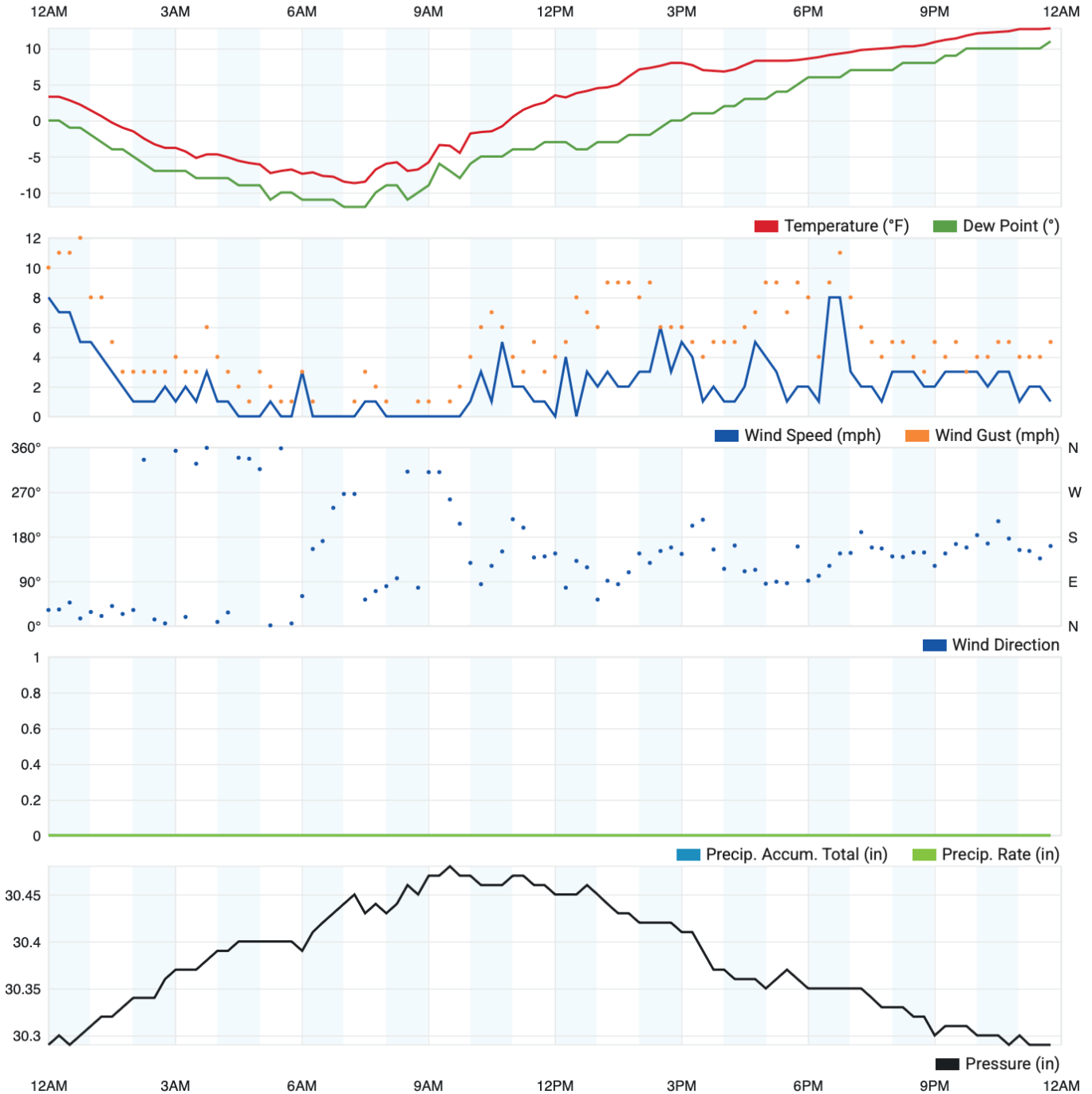
Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

December 7, 2025



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Today

Tonight

Tuesday

Tuesday Night

Wednesday



High: 33 °F

Patchy Fog
then Partly
Sunny



Low: 20 °F

Mostly Cloudy



High: 40 °F

Rain/Freezing
Rain Likely
and Windy



Low: 11 °F

Slight Chance
Rain/Snow and
Windy



High: 16 °F

Partly Sunny



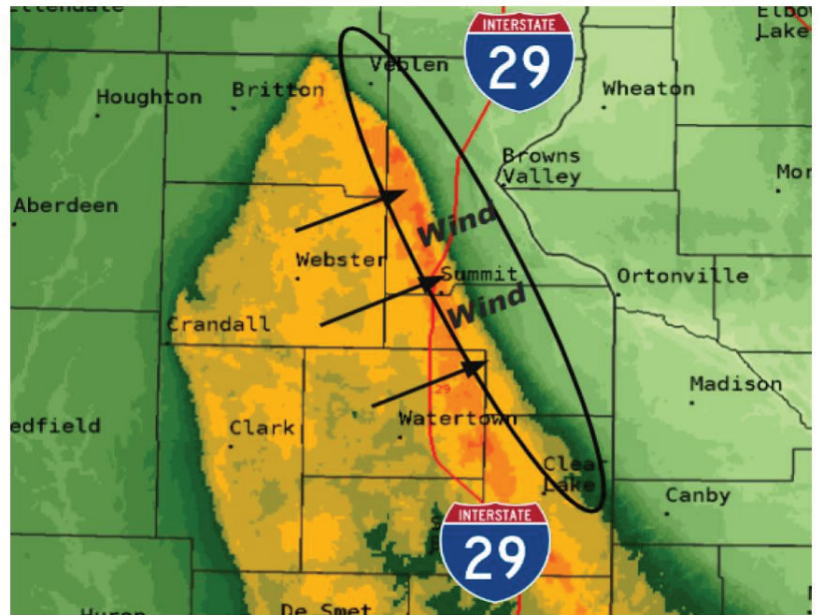
Gusty Downslope Winds Monday

December 7, 2025
3:17 PM

Localized blowing snow could create travel issues

Key Messages

- What: Strong wind gusts 30 to 40 mph.
- Where: Downwind of the Coteau/Sisseton hills (Marshall, Roberts, Day, Grant and Deuel counties).
- When: Monday afternoon
- Impacts: Use caution while traveling this area! Drifting snow, with patchy/areas of blowing snow may make travel difficult at times north of Summit and/or other downslope wind-prone areas.



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Winds will increase out of the southwest Monday with gusts between 30 to 40 mph expected by the afternoon downwind of the Coteau/Sisseton Hills. Use caution while traveling this area! Drifting snow, with patchy/areas of blowing snow may make travel difficult at times north of Summit and/or other downslope wind-prone areas.

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Strong Winds and Freezing Rain Potential Tuesday

December 7, 2025
3:19 PM

Wind gusts up to 60 mph over central SD & morning freezing rain potential northeast SD

Key Messages

- Northwest winds increase Tuesday afternoon into late Tuesday night.
- **Gusts of 40 to 60 mph, highest over central South Dakota.**
 - High winds will make travel difficult for high-profile vehicles.
- **Early morning freezing rain potential** in the James River Valley eastward into west-central MN before temperatures warm above freezing.
- **Blowing snow possible** in the **highlighted area** **IF** the storm track shifts slightly south and wrap-around snow showers develop.

NEW

What Has Changed

- High Wind Watch has been issued for central South Dakota

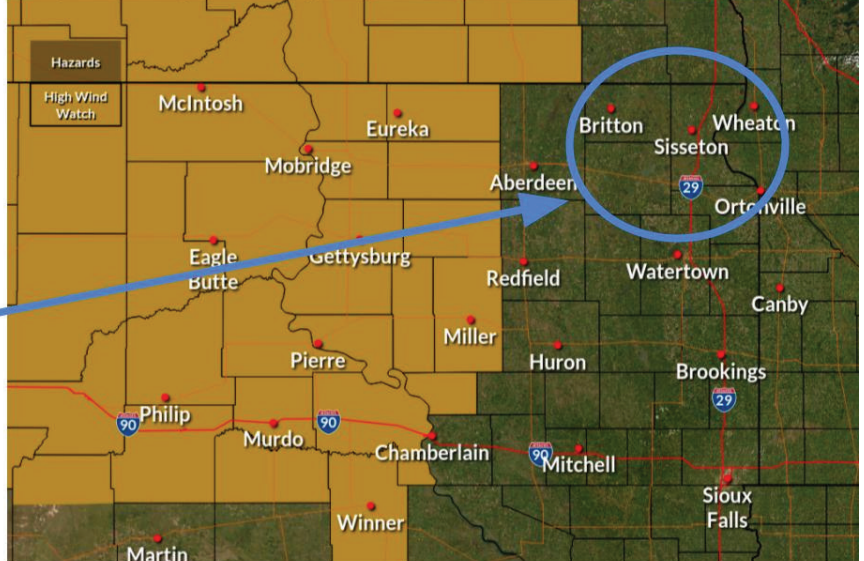
Next Scheduled Update

- Monday morning

High Wind Watch

Tuesday Afternoon Through Late Tuesday Night

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued Dec 07, 2025 2:07 PM CST



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

- Strong Winds: Northwest winds will increase Tuesday afternoon into late Tuesday night, with gusts of 40 to 60 mph (highest over central South Dakota). Travel for high-profile vehicles will be difficult. - Freezing Rain Potential: Early morning freezing rain is possible Tuesday in the James River Valley eastward into west-central MN before temperatures warm above freezing. - Blowing Snow Potential: Possible if the storm track shifts slightly south over far northeastern SD into west central MN

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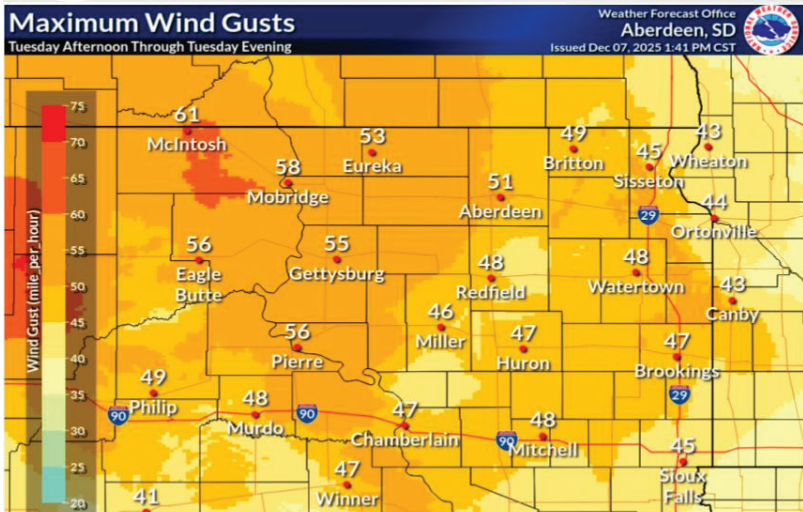
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Maximum Wind Gusts and Timing

December 7, 2025
3:26 PM

Strong Winds Tuesday Afternoon Through Tuesday Night



Key Messages

- Northwest winds increase Tuesday afternoon into late Tuesday night
- Gusts of 40 to 60 mph, **highest over central South Dakota**
- **IMPACTS:** High winds may move loose debris, damage property and cause power outages. Travel could be difficult, especially for high profile vehicles.



Northwest winds increase Tuesday afternoon into late Tuesday night with gusts of 40 to 60 mph, highest over central South Dakota. IMPACTS: High winds may move loose debris, damage property and cause power outages. Travel could be difficult, especially for high profile vehicles.

Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)

	12/9 Tue						12/10 Wed					
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	
Aberdeen	20↑	25↑	32↑	44↑	51↑	51↑	39↑	33↑	25↑	16↑	16↑	
Britton	21↑	29↑	35↑	43↑	48↑	49↑	43↑	38↑	31↑	18↑	18↑	
Brookings	15↑	23↑	30↑	36↑	45↑	49↑	49↑	43↑	38↑	31↑	21↑	
Chamberlain	15↑	22↑	32↑	38↑	46↑	47↑	45↑	36↑	28↑	24↑	17↑	
Clark	18↑	26↑	33↑	39↑	45↑	47↑	45↑	39↑	33↑	21↑	18↑	
Eagle Butte	25↑	40↑	53↑	58↑	56↑	51↑	41↑	33↑	25↑	17↑	18↓	
Ellendale	21↑	28↑	36↑	48↑	51↑	47↑	41↑	37↑	22↑	18↑	17↑	
Eureka	22↑	30↑	40↑	51↑	53↑	51↑	43↑	37↑	23↑	18↑	16↑	
Gettysburg	22↑	29↑	46↑	55↑	55↑	52↑	41↑	35↑	25↑	18↑	17↑	
Huron	16↑	21↑	29↑	39↑	46↑	47↑	46↑	37↑	31↑	26↑	17↑	
Kennebec	22↑	31↑	44↑	53↑	53↑	48↑	43↑	36↑	24↑	17↑	18↓	
McIntosh	30↑	40↑	58↑	63↑	61↑	51↑	40↑	32↑	20↑	16↑	18↑	
Milbank	14↑	22↑	30↑	36↑	41↑	45↑	41↑	37↑	29↑	22↑	20↑	
Miller	22↑	28↑	36↑	44↑	47↑	46↑	43↑	37↑	29↑	18↑	17↑	
Mobridge	22↑	31↑	47↑	58↑	58↑	52↑	40↑	32↑	22↑	16↑	16↑	
Murdo	25↑	32↑	46↑	49↑	47↑	46↑	38↑	32↑	20↑	16↑	18↑	
Pierre	17↑	25↑	46↑	56↑	56↑	48↑	38↑	31↑	18↑	14↑	16↑	
Redfield	18↑	25↑	35↑	44↑	48↑	48↑	41↑	36↑	28↑	18↑	17↑	
Sisseton	17↑	23↑	31↑	37↑	43↑	45↑	43↑	38↑	32↑	22↑	20↑	
Watertown	17↑	26↑	33↑	39↑	45↑	47↑	45↑	40↑	35↑	22↑	21↑	
Webster	21↑	28↑	35↑	39↑	46↑	49↑	43↑	39↑	32↑	22↑	21↑	
Wheaton	18↑	20↑	25↑	31↑	39↑	43↑	41↑	37↑	28↑	22↑	21↑	

Hazardous Weather Outlook National Weather Service Aberdeen SD 451 AM CST Mon Dec 8 2025

Traverse-Big Stone-Corson-Campbell-McPherson-Brown-Marshall-Roberts-Walworth-Edmunds-Day-Dewey-Potter-Faulk-Spink-Clark-Codington-Grant-Hamlin-Deuel-

This Hazardous Weather Outlook is for west central Minnesota, northcentral South Dakota and northeast South Dakota.

.DAY ONE...Today and tonight.

Downslope winds off the lee of the Prairie Coteau could result in areas of blowing and drifting snow and reduced visibility.

.DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...Tuesday through Sunday.

Freezing rain will be possible across portions of north central and northeast South Dakota Tuesday morning before temperatures warm up enough for precipitation to fall as rain.

Very strong northwest winds are possible Tuesday afternoon through Tuesday night. Sustained winds in excess of 40 mph, gusting in excess of 60 mph, are possible over north central South Dakota Tuesday afternoon into Tuesday night. Over northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota sustained winds in excess of 30 mph, gusting in excess of 45 mph, are possible from early Tuesday evening through the overnight hours.

If falling snow happens across far northeast South Dakota Tuesday night into early Wednesday morning while these strong winds are happening, considerable blowing snow and reduction to visibility could be possible.

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Rain/Freezing Rain/Blowing Snow Potential

December 7, 2025
3:29 PM

Late Tuesday Morning Through Tuesday Night

Key Messages

- A strong storm will bring rain and possible morning freezing rain Tuesday.
- **Freezing rain** is possible in the James River Valley and west-central MN.
- **Blowing snow possible** *IF* the storm track shifts slightly south and wrap-around snow showers develop.
- Confidence is low on the rain/freezing rain transition line's exact location at this time and ice accumulation potential
- Stay up to date with the latest weather forecast



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

A strong storm will bring rain and the potential for morning freezing rain Tuesday. The freezing rain potential is possible in the James River Valley and eastward into west central MN. Blowing snow possible IF the storm track shifts slightly south and wrap-around snow showers develop. However, confidence is low on the rain/freezing rain transition line's exact location at this time and ice accumulation potential. Stay up to date with the latest weather forecast

Groton Daily Independent

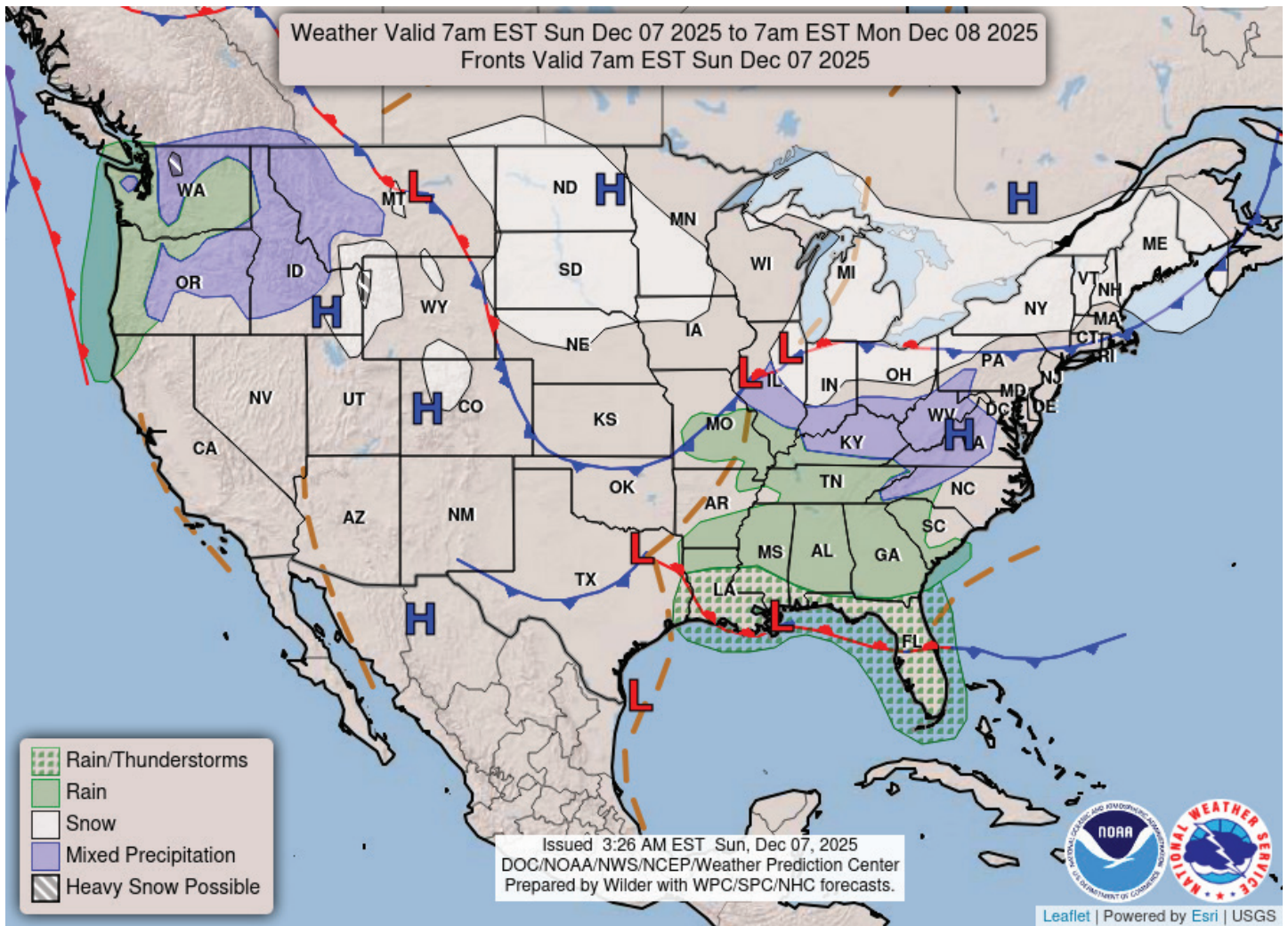
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 13 °F at 11:18 PM
Low Temp: -9 °F at 7:19 AM
Wind: 12 mph at 12:43 AM
Precip: : Total through Sunday morning:
Snow: 2.5"
Precip: .18
Sunday evening Snow: 1.25" Precip: 0.10

Today's Info

Record High: 62 in 2020
Record Low: -27 in 1927
Average High: 32
Average Low: 10
Average Precip in Dec.: 0.16
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.28
Average Precip to date: 21.37
Precip Year to Date: 25.09
Sunset Tonight: 4:49 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:59 am



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Today in Weather History

December 8, 1995: A powerful Arctic front moved across west central Minnesota and central, north central, and northeast South Dakota throughout the day with winds of 30 to 60 mph. With temperatures falling and one to four inches of snowfall in the morning and afternoon, the high winds produced blizzard conditions with blowing snow and extreme wind chills of 40 to 70 below zero. Many schools, college classes, and activities were canceled for the day. Travel was also significantly affected.

1740 - In early December two weeks of mild and rainy weather culminated in the worst flood in fifty years in the Lower Connecticut River Valley. The Merrimack River swelled to its highest level, and in Maine the raging waters swept away mills, carried off bridges, and ruined highways. (David Ludlum)

December 8, 1935: From the Monthly Weather Review for December 1935, "The outstanding flood of December 1935 was the record-breaking overflow of Buffalo and White Oak Bayous at Houston, Texas on the 8 and 9th. This destructive flood was caused by excessive rainfall over Harris County, Texas during a 42 hour period on the 6th, 7th, 8th, with amounts ranging from 5.50 inches at Houston" to 16.49 inches at the Humble Oil Company in the northwestern part of Harris County.

1987 - Heavy rain fell across eastern Puerto Rico, with 19.41 inches reported at Las Piedras. Flooding caused five million dollars damage. Another in a series of storms hit the northwestern U.S., with wind gusts above 100 mph reported at Cape Blanco OR. While snow and gusty winds accompanied a cold front crossing the Rockies, strong westerly winds, gusting to 93 mph at Boulder CO, helped temperatures in western Kansas reach the 60s for the sixth day in a row. Freezing drizzle in northeastern slowed traffic to 5 mph on some roads in Morrow County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - An outbreak of cold arctic air brought up to 18 inches of snow to the Colorado Rockies, with 14 inches at Boulder CO, and seven inches at Denver. Heavy snow blanketed New Mexico the following day, with 15 inches reported near Ruidoso. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A storm moving out of the Central Rocky Mountain Region spread snow across Kansas and Oklahoma into Arkansas and Tennessee. Snowfall totals ranged up to 7.5 inches at Winfield KS. Freezing rain on trees and power lines cut off electricity to 24,000 homes in northeastern Arkansas, and 40,000 homes in the Nashville TN area were without electricity for several hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

Last Week's Ace of Hearts winner was Tricia Keith. Ticket sales were \$1,355. Keith won \$135 with Card #14 which was the five of hearts. Jackpot was \$16,840.

A  **Chase the Ace** **A**
♥ **Jackpot is over \$17,000!** ♥

Get your ticket before 5 p.m. Thursday.

From Paper Paul, Groton Legion or S & S Lumber
\$20 for 5 tickets

Drawing Thursday at 6:00 at the Groton American Legion
You do not need to be present to win.

Message or Text Paul at 605-397-7460



The Pattern for Servanthood

Jesus performed the ultimate act of service by sacrificing His life for us.

Matthew 20:25-28: 25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

We often think of great people as the ones with authority, prominence, and power. Though Jesus had all that, He laid it aside to become a servant (Isaiah 42:1).

Jesus gave Himself completely to fulfill the Father's plan of redemption, even though the beneficiaries—each of us—were undeserving. God, who is holy and righteous, has "eyes ... too pure to approve evil, and [He] can not look on wickedness with favor" (Habakkuk 1:13). Yet all of humanity is marked by wrongdoing (Romans 3:23).

Jesus' ultimate act of service was to give His life to rescue us (Matt. 20:28). He made it possible for all of us to be free and to experience the joy that comes with being united to God in love, which was the Father's intention from the moment we were created by His loving hands.

Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we receive the gift of grace. We are now sons and daughters of the Almighty! He served the Father's purpose faithfully. He gave up His righteousness to carry the weight of all our failures and endured pain and disgrace to bring us salvation. To meet our needs, the Savior held nothing of Himself back and thereby set a powerful example of servanthood for us to follow.

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:
12.05.25

34 38 42 44 69 8

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$60,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 21
DRAW: Mins 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
12.06.25

7 8 14 23 41 9

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$8,870,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 36 Mins 40
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
12.07.25

5 8 11 12 34 4

TOP PRIZE:
\$7,000/week

NEXT 16 Hrs 51 Mins 39
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
12.06.25

5 8 17 21 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$116,000

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 51
DRAW: Mins 39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
12.06.25

4 17 29 55 56 3

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 20 Mins 39
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
12.06.25

13 14 26 28 44 7

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$875,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 20 Mins 39
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Zelenskyy heads to London for talks with European allies on peace plan and security

By JILL LAWLESS and ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was meeting the French, German and British leaders in London on Monday as Kyiv's European allies try to strengthen Ukraine's hand in thorny talks on a U.S.-backed plan to end the Russia-Ukraine war.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer was due to gather with Zelenskyy, President Emmanuel Macron and Chancellor Friedrich Merz at the British leader's 10 Downing St. residence.

Zelenskyy said late Sunday that his talks with European leaders this week in London and Brussels will focus on security, air defense and long-term funding for Ukraine's war effort. The leaders are working to ensure that any ceasefire is backed by solid security guarantees both from Europe and the U.S. to deter Russia from attacking again.

U.S. and Ukrainian negotiators completed three days of talks on Saturday aimed at trying to narrow differences on the U.S. administration's peace proposal.

Zelenskyy said in a post on Telegram that talks had been "substantive" and that National Security and Defense Council Secretary Rustem Umerov and Chief of the General Staff Andrii Hnatov were traveling back to Europe to brief him.

A major sticking point in the proposal is the suggestion Ukraine must cede control of its eastern Donbas region to Russia, which illegally occupies most but not all of its territory. Ukraine and its European allies have balked at the idea of handing over land.

In an exchange with reporters on Sunday night, President Donald Trump appeared frustrated with Zelenskyy, claiming the Ukrainian leader "hasn't yet read the proposal."

"Russia is, I believe, fine with it, but I'm not sure that Zelenskyy's fine with it," Trump said before taking part in the Kennedy Center Honors in Washington. "His people love it, but he hasn't read it."

Trump has had a hot-and-cold relationship with Zelenskyy since riding into a second White House term insisting that the war was a waste of U.S. taxpayers' money. Trump has also repeatedly urged the Ukrainians to cede land to Russia to bring an end to the nearly four-year conflict.

The European talks follow the publication of a new U.S. national security strategy that alarmed European leaders and was welcomed by Russia.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the document, which spells out the administration's core foreign policy interests, was largely in line with Moscow's vision.

The document released Friday by the White House said the U.S. wants to improve its relationship with Russia after years of Moscow being treated as a global pariah and that ending the war is a core U.S. interest to "reestablish strategic stability with Russia."

The document also says NATO must not be "a perpetually expanding alliance," echoing another complaint of Russia's. It was scathing about the migration and free speech policies of longstanding U.S. allies in Europe, suggesting they face the "prospect of civilizational erasure" due to migration.

Starmer's government has declined to comment on the American document, saying it is a matter for the U.S. government.

As diplomatic efforts continued, Russian forces continued to assault Ukraine over the weekend. At least four people were killed in drone and missile strikes on Sunday, while Moscow continues to target Ukrainian energy infrastructure as winter sets in.

Meanwhile, Russian air defenses destroyed 67 Ukrainian drones overnight, Russia's Ministry of Defense said Monday. The drones were shot down over 11 Russian regions, it said.

Trump says Zelenskyy 'hasn't read' a US-authored proposal to end Russia-Ukraine war

By SUSIE BLANN Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — President Donald Trump on Sunday claimed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "hasn't read" a U.S.-authored peace proposal aimed at ending the Russia-Ukraine war.

Trump was critical of Zelenskyy after U.S. and Ukrainian negotiators completed three days of talks on Saturday aimed at trying to narrow differences on the U.S. administration's proposal. But in an exchange with reporters on Sunday night, Trump suggested that the Ukrainian leader is holding up the talks from moving forward.

"I'm a little bit disappointed that President Zelenskyy hasn't yet read the proposal, that was as of a few hours ago. His people love it. But he hasn't — Russia's fine with it," Trump told reporters on the red carpet at the Kennedy Center Honors. "Russia is, I believe, fine with it, but I'm not sure that Zelenskyy's fine with it. His people love it, but he hasn't read it."

Russian President Vladimir Putin also hasn't publicly expressed approval for the White House plan. In fact, Putin last week had said that aspects of Trump's proposal were unworkable, even though the original draft heavily favored Moscow.

Trump has had a hot-and-cold relationship with Zelenskyy since riding into a second White House term insisting that the war was a waste of U.S. taxpayer money. Trump has also repeatedly urged the Ukrainians to cede land to Russia to bring an end to a now nearly four-year conflict he says has cost far too many lives.

Zelenskyy said Saturday he had a "substantive phone call" with the American officials engaged in the talks with a Ukrainian delegation in Florida. He said he had been given an update over the phone by U.S. and Ukrainian officials at the talks.

"Ukraine is determined to keep working in good faith with the American side to genuinely achieve peace," Zelenskyy wrote on social media.

Trump's criticism of Zelenskyy came as Russia on Sunday welcomed the Trump administration's new national security strategy in comments by the Kremlin spokesman published by Russia's Tass news agency.

Dmitry Peskov said the updated strategic document, which spells out the administration's core foreign policy interests, was largely in line with Moscow's vision.

"There are statements there against confrontation and in favor of dialogue and building good relations," he said, adding that Russia hopes this would lead to "further constructive cooperation with Washington on the Ukrainian settlement."

The document released Friday by the White House said the U.S. wants to improve its relationship with Russia after years of Moscow being treated as a global pariah and that ending the war is a core U.S. interest to "reestablish strategic stability with Russia."

Speaking on Saturday at the Reagan National Defense Forum, Trump's outgoing Ukraine envoy, Keith Kellogg, said efforts to end the war were in "the last 10 meters."

He said a deal depended on the two outstanding issues of "terrain, primarily the Donbas," and the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

Russia controls most of Donbas, its name for the Donetsk and neighboring Luhansk regions, which, along with two southern regions, it illegally annexed three years ago. The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is in an area that has been under Russian control since early in Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and is not in service. It needs reliable power to cool its six shutdown reactors and spent fuel, to avoid any catastrophic nuclear incidents.

Kellogg, who is due to leave his post in January, was not present at the talks in Florida.

Separately, officials said the leaders of the United Kingdom, France and Germany would participate in a meeting with Zelenskyy in London on Monday.

As the three days of talks wrapped up, Russian missile, drone and shelling attacks overnight and Sunday killed at least four people in Ukraine.

A man was killed in a drone attack on Ukraine's northern Chernihiv region Saturday night, local offi-

cials said, while a combined missile and drone attack on infrastructure in the central city of Kremenchuk caused power and water outages. Kremenchuk is home to one of Ukraine's biggest oil refineries and is an industrial hub.

Kyiv and its Western allies say Russia is trying to cripple the Ukrainian power grid and deny civilians access to heat, light and running water for a fourth consecutive winter, in what Ukrainian officials call "weaponizing" the cold.

Three people were killed and 10 others wounded Sunday in shelling by Russian troops in Ukraine's Kharkiv region, according to the regional prosecutor's office.

Trump hosts the Kennedy Center Honors recognizing Stallone, Kiss, Gaynor and others

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and HILLEL ITALIE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Sunday hosted the Kennedy Center Honors and praised Sylvester Stallone, Kiss, Gloria Gaynor, Michael Crawford and George Strait, the slate of honorees he helped choose, as being "legendary in so many ways."

"Billions and billions of people have watched them over the years," Trump, the first president to command the stage, said to open the show.

The Republican president said the artists, recognized with tribute performances during the show, are "among the greatest artists and actors, performers, musicians, singers, songwriters ever to walk the face of the Earth."

Since returning to office in January, Trump has made the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, which is named after a Democratic predecessor, a touchstone in a broader attack against what he has lambasted as "woke" anti-American culture.

Trump said Saturday that he was hosting "at the request of a certain television network." He predicted the broadcast scheduled for Dec. 23 on CBS and Paramount+, would have its best ratings ever.

Before Trump, presidents watched the show alongside the honorees. Trump skipped the honors altogether during his first term.

Asked how he got ready for the gig, Trump said as he moved along the red carpet with his wife, first lady Melania Trump, that he "didn't really prepare very much."

"I have a good memory, so I can remember things, which is very fortunate," the president said. "But just, I wanted to just be myself. You have to be yourself."

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, one of several Cabinet secretaries attending the ceremony, said his boss "is so relaxed in front of these cameras, as you know, and so funny, I can't wait for tonight." Lutnick arrived with his wife, a member of the Kennedy Center's board.

Trump appeared on stage three times to open and close the show, and after intermission. He also talked up each artist in prerecorded videos that played before their tributes.

Trump was both gracious and critical in the comments he delivered from the stage, lavishing the honorees with effusive praise but at times showing a mean streak. After returning from intermission, he said he'd toured some of the construction projects he has launched to renovate the performing arts center. And he said it was a "fantastic" night.

"Well, we're really having a good time tonight," Trump said. "So many people I know in this audience. Some good. Some bad. Some I truly love and respect. Some I just hate."

Since 1978, the honors have recognized stars for their influence on American culture and the arts. Members of this year's class are pop-culture standouts, including Stallone for his "Rocky" and "Rambo" movies, Gaynor for her "I Will Survive" feminist anthem and Kiss for its flashy, cartoonish makeup and onstage displays of smoke and pyrotechnics.

Strait is a leader in the world of country music and Crawford, a Tony Award-winning actor, is best known for starring in "Phantom of the Opera," the longest-running show in Broadway history.

Trump said persistence is a trait shared by the honorees, several of whom had humble beginnings.

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"Some of them have had legendary setbacks, setbacks that you have to read in the papers because of their level of fame," he said from the stage. "But in the words of Rocky Balboa, they showed us that you keep moving forward, just keep moving forward."

He said many of the politicians, celebrities and others in the audience shared the trait, too.

"I know so many of you are persistent," Trump said in his opening. "Many of you are miserable, horrible people. You are persistent. You never give up. Sometimes I wish you'd give up, but you don't."

The ceremony was expected to be emotional for the members of Kiss. The band's original lead guitarist, Ace Frehley, died in October after he was injured during a fall. During the tribute to Kiss, a lone red guitar that emitted smoke was placed on stage in remembrance of Frehley, who was known for having a smoke bomb in his instrument.

The program closed with a rousing performance by Cheap Trick of Kiss' "Rock and Roll All Nite" that brought the audience to its feet.

Stallone said receiving the honor was like being in the "eye of a hurricane."

"This is an amazing event," he said on the red carpet. "But you're caught up in the middle of it. It's hard to take it in until the next day. ... but I'm incredibly humbled by it."

Crawford also said it was "humbling, especially at the end of a career."

Gaynor said it "feels like a dream" to be honored. "To be recognized in this way is the pinnacle," she said after arriving.

Mike Farris, an award-winning gospel singer who performed for Gaynor, called her a dear friend. "She truly did survive," Farris said. "What an iconic song."

Trump has taken over the Kennedy Center

Trump upended decades of bipartisan support for the center by ousting its leadership and stacking the board of trustees with Republican supporters, who elected him chair. He has criticized the center's programming and the building's appearance — and has said, perhaps jokingly, that he would rename it as the "Trump Kennedy Center." He secured more than \$250 million from Congress for renovations of the building.

Asked Sunday night about a possible renaming, Trump said it would be up to the board. Still, he joked at one point about the "Trump Kennedy Center."

Presidents of each political party have at times found themselves face to face with artists of opposing political views. Republican Ronald Reagan was there for honoree Arthur Miller, a playwright who championed liberal causes. Democrat Bill Clinton, who had signed an assault weapons ban into law, marked the honors for Charlton Heston, an actor and gun rights advocate.

During Trump's first term, multiple honorees were openly critical of the president. In 2017, Trump's first year in office, honors recipient and film producer Norman Lear threatened to boycott his own ceremony if Trump attended. Trump stayed away during that entire term.

Trump has said he was deeply involved in choosing the 2025 honorees and turned down some recommendations because they were "too woke." He said Sunday that about 50 names were whittled down to five. While Stallone is one of Trump's Hollywood "special ambassadors" and has likened Trump to George Washington, the political views of Sunday's other guests are less clear.

Honorees' views about Trump

Strait and Gaynor have said little about their politics, although Federal Election Commission records show that Gaynor has given money to Republican organizations in recent years.

Simmons spoke favorably of Trump when Trump ran for president in 2016. But in 2022, Simmons told Spin magazine that Trump was "out for himself" and criticized Trump for encouraging conspiracy theories and public expressions of racism.

Fellow Kiss member Paul Stanley denounced Trump's effort to overturn his 2020 election defeat to Democrat Joe Biden, and said Trump supporters who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, were "terrorists." But after Trump won in 2024, Stanley urged unity.

"If your candidate lost, it's time to learn from it, accept it and try to understand why," Stanley wrote on X. "If your candidate won, it's time to understand that those who don't share your views also believe they

are right and love this country as much as you do.”

Jeff Kent elected to baseball Hall of Fame, which again keeps doors shut for Bonds and Clemens

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Elected to baseball’s Hall of Fame more than 17 years after his final game, Jeff Kent couldn’t control his emotions.

“Absolutely unprepared. Emotionally unstable,” he said after Sunday’s vote announcement. “Thoughts are so far clouded.”

Kent received 14 of 16 votes from the contemporary era committee, two more than the 12 ballots needed for the 75% minimum. Steroids-tainted stars Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens were among seven players who fell short once again.

Kent will be inducted in Cooperstown, New York, on July 26 along with anyone chosen by the Baseball Writers’ Association of America, whose balloting will be announced on Jan. 20.

“I hugged my wife after the the phone call had come in,” Kent said, his voice cracking, “and I told her that a lot of the game had come rushing back to me at that moment. Similar to my retirement speech, my farewell speech that I did in LA, it reminds me of the ‘no crying in baseball.’ Well, I was bawling when I left the game because all that emotion just overcomes you.”

A five-time All-Star second baseman, Kent hit .290 with 377 homers and 1,518 RBIs over 17 seasons with Toronto (1992), the New York Mets (1992-96), Cleveland (1996), San Francisco (1997-2002), Houston (2003-04) and the Los Angeles Dodgers (2005-08).

His 351 home runs as a second baseman are the most by a player at that position. Kent’s most productive seasons were with the Giants, joined in the lineup by the record-setting Bonds.

“I think I’ve turned the double play better than anybody in the game during my era,” Kent said.

Carlos Delgado received nine votes, followed by Don Mattingly and Dale Murphy with six each. Bonds, Clemens, Gary Sheffield and Fernando Valenzuela each received fewer than five votes and can’t appear on the ballot again until 2031.

Bonds and Clemens also fell short in 2022 in their 10th and final appearances on the BBWAA ballot. Bonds denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs and Clemens maintains he never used PEDs.

“Barry was a good teammate of mine. He was a guy that I motivated and pushed,” Kent said. “We knocked heads a little bit. He was a guy that motivated me at times, in frustration and love, at times both. ... If you’re talking about moral code and all that, I’m not a voter and I’m trying to stay away from all of that the best I can because I don’t, I really don’t have an opinion.”

Kent’s relationship with the Giants became strained when he broke a bone in his left wrist during spring training in 2002. Kent told team athletic trainer Stan Conte he got hurt while washing his truck the previous day but Giants general manager Brian Sabean said three weeks later “there’s mounting evidence from all sorts of eyewitnesses that says he fell off a motorcycle popping wheelies.”

Kent scuffled with Bonds in the dugout that June 25 during a game in San Diego.

Kent received 15.2% in his first BBWAA appearance in 2014 and a high of 46.5% in the last of his 10 times on the ballot in 2023.

“The moments seemed to pass by in not utter disappointment but just disappointment, frustration a little bit that I wasn’t better recognized,” Kent said.

Kent was drafted by Toronto and four months after his debut was traded to the Mets for David Cone, who helped the Blue Jays win the World Series.

“The rap for me probably started out in the wrong direction in New York,” Kent said. “There was this perception when I left New York and came to the West Coast that ‘he wasn’t a good middle infielder,’ and that was so false.”

The Hall in 2022 restructured its veterans committees for the third time in 12 years, setting up panels to

consider the contemporary era from 1980 on, as well as the classic era. The contemporary baseball era holds separate ballots for players and another for managers, executives and umpires.

Each committee meets every three years. Contemporary managers, executives and umpires will be considered in December 2026, classic era candidates in December 2027 and contemporary era players again in December 2028.

Under a change announced by the Hall last March, candidates who received fewer than five votes are not eligible for that committee's ballot during the next three-year cycle. A candidate who is dropped, later reappears on a ballot and again receives fewer than five votes would be barred from future ballot appearances.

The December 2027 vote is the first chance for Pete Rose to appear on a Hall ballot after baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred decided in May that Rose's permanent suspension ended with his death in September 2024. The Hall prohibits anyone on the permanent ineligible list from appearing on a ballot.

Netanyahu says Israel and Hamas will enter ceasefire's second phase soon

By MELANIE LIDMAN and KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel and Hamas are "very shortly expected to move into the second phase of the ceasefire," after Hamas returns the remains of the last hostage held in Gaza.

Netanyahu spoke during a news conference with visiting German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and stressed that the second phase, which addresses the disarming of Hamas and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, could begin as soon as the end of the month.

Hamas has yet to hand over the remains of Ran Gvili, a 24-year-old police officer who was killed in the Hamas-led Oct. 7, 2023, attack that sparked the war. His body was taken to Gaza.

The ceasefire's second stage also includes the deployment of an international force to secure Gaza and forming a temporary Palestinian government to run day-to-day affairs under the supervision of an international board led by U.S. President Donald Trump.

A senior Hamas official on Sunday told The Associated Press the group is ready to discuss "freezing or storing or laying down" its weapons as part of the ceasefire in a possible approach to one of the most difficult issues ahead.

Netanyahu says second phase will be challenging

Netanyahu said few people believed the ceasefire's first stage could be achieved, and the second phase is just as challenging.

"As I mentioned to the chancellor, there's a third phase, and that is to deradicalize Gaza, something that also people believed was impossible. But it was done in Germany, it was done in Japan, it was done in the Gulf States. It can be done in Gaza, too, but of course Hamas has to be dismantled," he said.

The return of Gvili's remains — and Israel's return of 15 bodies of Palestinians in exchange — would complete the first phase of Trump's 20-point ceasefire plan.

Hamas says it has not been able to reach all remains because they are buried under rubble left by Israel's two-year offensive in Gaza. Israel has accused the militants of stalling and threatened to resume military operations or withhold humanitarian aid if all remains are not returned.

A group of families of hostages said in a statement that "we cannot advance to the next phase before Ran Gvili returns home."

Meanwhile, Israeli military Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir on Sunday called the so-called Yellow Line that divides the Israeli-controlled majority of Gaza from the rest of the territory a "new border."

"We have operational control over extensive parts of the Gaza Strip and we will remain on those defense lines," Zamir said. "The Yellow Line is a new border line, serving as a forward defensive line for our communities and a line of operational activity."

Germany says support for Israel is unchanged

Merz said Germany, one of Israel's closest allies, is assisting with the implementation of the second phase

by sending officers and diplomats to a U.S.-led civilian and military coordination center in southern Israel, and by sending humanitarian aid to Gaza.

The chancellor also said Germany still believes that a two-state-solution is the best possible option but that "the German federal government remains of the opinion that recognition of a Palestinian state can only come at the end of such a process, not at the beginning."

The U.S.-drafted plan for Gaza leaves the door open to Palestinian independence. Netanyahu has long asserted that creating a Palestinian state would reward Hamas and eventually lead to an even larger Hamas-run state on Israel's borders.

Netanyahu also said that while he would like to visit Germany, he hasn't planned a diplomatic trip because he is concerned about an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court, the U.N.'s top war crimes court, last year in connection with the war in Gaza.

Merz said there are currently no plans for a visit but he may invite Netanyahu in the future. He added that he is not aware of future sanctions against Israel from the European Union nor any plans to renew German bans on military exports to Israel.

Germany had a temporary ban on exporting military equipment to Israel, which was lifted after the ceasefire began on Oct. 10.

Israel kills militant in Gaza

The Israeli military said it killed a militant who approached its troops across the Yellow Line.

Gaza's Health Ministry says Israeli forces have killed more than 370 Palestinians since the start of the ceasefire, and that the bodies of six people killed in attacks had been brought to local hospitals over the past 24 hours.

In the original Hamas-led attack in 2023, the militants killed around 1,200 people and took more than 250 others hostage. Almost all the hostages or their remains have been returned in ceasefires or other deals.

Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed at least 70,360 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which operates under the Hamas-run government. The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and combatants, but says that nearly half the dead have been women and children. The ministry is part of Gaza's Hamas government and its numbers are considered reliable by the U.N. and other international bodies.

Indiana grabs top seed in College Football Playoff. Alabama and Miami make it, Notre Dame left out

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

Nobody paying attention over the past 24 months would be surprised to see Indiana leading the way into this year's College Football Playoff.

But anyone paying attention over the last 24 hours knew the only sure thing beyond the Hoosiers was that the playoff selection committee was destined to get picked apart when it released the pairings for this season's 12-team bracket on Sunday.

Most of that second-guessing came from Notre Dame, which was passed over in favor of Alabama and Miami for two of the bracket's bubble spots. The Fighting Irish dropped two notches in the CFP rankings over the last two weeks, to No. 11, despite a 10-game winning streak, winning their finale by 29 points and simply sitting on the couch Saturday.

"There is no explanation that could possibly be given to explain the outcome," Irish athletic director Pete Bevacqua told Yahoo Sports, hours after the bracket was revealed and Notre Dame said it would skip bowl season altogether. "We feel like the playoff was stolen from our student-athletes."

Notre Dame's loss was Alabama's gain. The Crimson Tide didn't move an inch the CFP rankings despite a 28-7 loss to No. 3 Georgia that looked worse than that.

No. 10 Miami didn't play, either, but the Hurricanes' 27-24 win over Notre Dame in Week 1 played a role once the teams were grouped right next to each other after BYU lost its game on Saturday and dropped one spot.

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"Everyone can spin the metrics in favor of the team or teams they support," committee chairman Hunter Yurachek said. "You're always going to have controversy. That's why we debated for so long, 9, 10 and 11, into the early-morning hours, and woke up at sunrise to do the same thing — make sure we got it right."

The committee's other key decision was choosing James Madison over Duke for the final spot. The selection left the Atlantic Coast Conference champion out of the mix, but didn't fully exclude the ACC because Miami made it.

The rest of the field includes No. 2 seed Ohio State, No. 3 Georgia and No. 4 Texas Tech, all of which joined Indiana in getting first-round byes.

The Hoosiers moved up to No. 1 with their 13-10 win over the Buckeyes on Saturday — their first Big Ten title since 1967 — and the teams' 1-2 positioning sets up a possible rematch in the national title game Jan. 19.

Then it was No. 5 seed Oregon, followed by Mississippi, Texas A&M, Oklahoma, Alabama, Miami, American champion Tulane and James Madison of the Sun Belt.

The playoffs start Dec. 19 with No. 9 Alabama at No. 8 Oklahoma. On Dec. 20, it's No. 10 Miami at No. 7 Texas A&M, No. 11 Tulane at No. 6 Ole Miss and No. 12 James Madison at No. 5 Oregon.

The winners move to the quarterfinals, which will feature Ohio State in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Eve, then Texas Tech in the Orange Bowl, Indiana in the Rose Bowl and Georgia in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1.

A costly miss for Notre Dame

It was a particularly costly and painful snub for the Fighting Irish.

They lost their first two games of the season — one to Miami, the other to Texas A&M — by a combined four points. They did not play a tough schedule the rest of the way; it was ranked 44th, compared to sixth for Alabama but 45th for Miami. But the Irish won all those games easily.

It also hurts the pocketbook. Where conferences split \$4 million for each team they place into the first round, Notre Dame — as an independent — would have banked the full amount for itself.

Yurachek said the committee had not previously considered Miami's Aug. 31 win over Notre Dame because there were always other teams in the mix, namely Alabama and BYU. But when BYU lost, the Irish and Hurricanes ended up right next to each other, which made that Miami win more important. Yurachek directed the committee to go back and rewatch it.

"Really, how Miami's defense dominated Notre Dame's running game, where for the rest of the season, their running game dominated most of the teams they played," Yurachek said when asked what the committee saw in that game.

Alabama back in after snub last year

Alabama (10-3) is in despite three losses. Those who believe the Tide deserve it will look at these factors: — An eight-game winning streak after a shocking 14-point, season-opening loss to Florida State that included a 24-21 victory at Georgia for a season split while, for instance, BYU lost both its games against Texas Tech.

— Ignoring the above, there was the "you can't lose ground for playing in the title game" argument. Last year, Alabama had three losses and was passed over for SMU, which was coming off a loss in the ACC title game. Using the same logic, someone other than the Tide needed to go this time.

Duke's argument falls on deaf ears

Duke tried to make a compelling argument that its seven wins over Power Four teams, including the victory over Virginia in the ACC title game, made it more deserving than James Madison for that fifth and final automatic spot for conference champs.

But the Blue Devils had five losses. And Virginia was ranked four (now nine) spots lower than Miami, the ACC's best team by many measurements.

James Madison's playoff game against a mega-team from a mega-conference — Oregon — will suss out whether teams like that should be playing for the title.

History, however, might look back on Duke's win if league title games are ever eliminated from the schedule due to their growing irrelevance. Other than eliminating BYU (but not Alabama) and flip-flopping Indiana and Ohio State, this year's set of games in the Power Four meant next to nothing.

Benin's president condemns a foiled coup bid and says mutineers are 'fleeing'

By VIRGILE AHISSOU and OPE ADETAYO Associated Press

COTONOU, Benin (AP) — Benin President Patrice Talon on Sunday condemned an attempted coup that was foiled by the country's army in his first public comments since sporadic gunfire was heard in parts of the administrative capital, Cotonou.

A group of soldiers appeared on Benin's state TV earlier Sunday to announce the dissolution of the government in an apparent coup, which would have been the latest of many in West Africa. The group called itself the Military Committee for Refoundation.

Later, Interior Minister Alassane Seidou announced in a video on Facebook that the attempted coup had been "foiled," but Talon, whose location was unclear, did not comment.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to express my condolences to the victims of this senseless adventure, as well as to those still being held by the fleeing mutineers," the president said in a televised address to the nation that ended his silence. "I assure them that we will do everything in our power to find them safe and sound."

The coup attempt is the latest in a string of military takeovers and attempted takeovers that have rocked West Africa. Last month, a military coup in Guinea-Bissau removed former President Umaro Embalo after a contested election in which both he and the opposition candidate declared themselves winners.

Talon did not provide figures on casualties or hostages in Sunday's attempted coup.

"In the early morning of Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, a small group of soldiers launched a mutiny to destabilize the state and its institutions," Seidou said. "Faced with this situation, the Beninese Armed Forces and their leadership, true to their oath, remained committed to the republic."

The regional bloc, the Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS, said it ordered the deployment of troops from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Ghana to support Benin's army to "preserve constitutional order and the territorial integrity of the Republic of Benin."

ECOWAS earlier called the attempted coup "a subversion of the will of the people of Benin."

Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu praised the Nigerian armed forces for their involvement in restoring the government in Benin. In a statement by the Nigerian government's spokesperson, Bayo Onanuga said Benin's government made two separate requests for air and ground forces.

"It took some hours before the government's loyal forces, assisted by Nigeria, took control and flushed out the coup plotters from the National TV," Onanuga said in the statement.

Local media reported the arrest of 13 soldiers who took part in the coup earlier on Sunday, citing sources close to the presidency. It remained unclear if Lt. Col. Pascal Tigri, the coup leader, had been apprehended. Gunfire was heard and soldiers were seen patrolling in some locations in Cotonou, but the city has been relatively calm since the coup attempt was announced.

The Military Committee for Refoundation earlier said that Tigri was appointed president of the military committee.

Following its independence from France in 1960, the West African nation witnessed multiple coups. Since 1991, the country has been politically stable following the two-decade rule of Marxist-Leninist Mathieu Kérékou.

The signal to the state television and public radio, which was cut off, was later restored.

Talon has been in power since 2016 and is due to step down next April after a presidential election.

Talon's party pick, former Finance Minister Romuald Wadagni, is the favorite to win the election. Opposition candidate Renaud Agbodjo was rejected by the electoral commission on the grounds that he did not have sufficient sponsors.

In January, two associates of Talon were sentenced to 20 years in prison for an alleged 2024 coup plot.

Last month, the country's legislature extended the presidential term of office from five to seven years,

keeping the term limit at two.

Nobel literature laureate Krasznahorkai delivers rare lecture in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Hungarian László Krasznahorkai, who won the Nobel Prize in literature for his surreal and anarchic novels that combine a bleak world view with mordant humor, gave a lecture in Stockholm on Sunday in one of his rare public appearances.

The lecture was part of the Nobel week that is underway in Stockholm and Oslo with laureates holding news conferences and giving speeches before they are awarded the prestigious prizes.

Krasznahorkai's lecture, which he gave in Hungarian, ranged across topics such as old and new angels, human dignity, hope or the lack thereof, rebellion and his observations of a clochard — or tramp — on the Berlin subway.

He introduced his lecture, according to the English translation, by saying that "on receiving the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature, I originally wished to share my thought with you on the subject of hope, but as my stores of hope have definitely come to an end, I will now speak about angels."

As opposed to "the angels of old," the new angels, Krasznahorkai said, "have no wings, but they also have no message, none whatsoever. They are merely here among us in their simple street clothes, unrecognizable if they so wish.

"They just stand there and look at us, they are searching for our gaze, and in this search there is a plea for us, to look into their eyes, so that we ourselves can transmit a message to them, only that unfortunately, we have no message to give," the author writes in sad, yet poetic prose.

Expressing himself in his long, winding trademark sentences full of apocalypse but without full stops, he says it comes as a shock when he "detects the horrific story of these new angels that stand before me, the story that they are sacrifices, sacrifices: and not for us, but because of us, for every single one of us, because of every single one of us, angels without wings and angels without a message, and all the while knowing that there is war, war and only war, war in nature, war in society, and this war is being waged not only with weapons, not only with torture, not only with destruction: of course, this is one end of the scale, but this war proceeds at the opposite of the scale as well, because one single bad word is enough."

When the Nobel judges announced the award for Krasznahorkai in October, they described the 71-year-old as "a great epic writer" whose work "is characterized by absurdism and grotesque excess."

"Krasznahorkai's work can be seen as part of a Central European tradition," the Nobel Prize organization said. "Important features are pessimism and apocalypse, but also humor and unpredictability."

His novels include "Satantango," "The Melancholy of Resistance," "War and War," "Baron Wenckheim's Homecoming" and "Herscht 07769."

Last year's winner was South Korean author Han Kang. The 2023 winner was Norwegian writer Jon Fosse, whose work includes a seven-book epic made up of a single sentence.

Meanwhile, the director of the Norwegian Nobel Institute, Kristian Harpviken, said Saturday that Venezuelan Peace Prize laureate and opposition leader María Corina Machado will come to Oslo this week to receive her award in person.

The 58-year-old, who won for her struggle to achieve a democratic transition in the South American nation, has been in hiding and has not been seen in public since January.

Harpviken told Norwegian public broadcaster NRK that Machado was expected to personally pick up the prize on Wednesday.

"I spoke with the Peace Prize winner last night, and she will come to Oslo," Harpviken said, according to NRK.

The Nobel Prize award ceremonies will be held Wednesday on the Dec. 10 anniversary of founder Alfred Nobel's death in 1896. The award ceremony for peace is in Oslo and the other ceremonies are in Stockholm.

Democratic governors say the party's midterm strategy must focus on voters' pocketbook concerns

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Democratic governors met this weekend in Arizona, looking to parlay last month's big victories for the party in New Jersey and Virginia into campaigns for next year's midterms, when a majority of governor's seats will be up for election.

Those elections helped Democrats zero in on what they see as a strategy to help grow their ranks in office and recover from big losses in 2024, when voters put Donald Trump back in the White House and gave Republicans majorities in both houses of Congress.

The plan is to focus intently on making life more affordable, a message they hope will work even in some conservative-leaning states.

"We have to be laser focused on people's everyday concerns and how hard life is right now for the American people," said Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, the new chairman of the Democratic Governors Association and a possible candidate for president in 2028. "Everybody wants the economy of tomorrow, but paying the bills today is absolutely critical."

He and other governors said Democrats can use the affordability message as a cudgel against Trump without making him the central focus of their campaigns.

"Yes, we can judge a president, and we should judge this president," Beshear said. "But we never judge those voters."

Democrats hone in on costs

The meeting of Democratic governors comes as blue states have been under fire from the Trump administration, which is exercising power in novel ways against the president's perceived enemies.

Trump has deployed the National Guard in California, Oregon and Illinois over the objections of their Democratic governors. His administration has demanded detailed voter data and threatened to cut off food assistance for states that don't provide information to support his immigration crackdown.

Heading into a primary season in which factions will battle over the future of the party, Democratic governors largely sang from the same sheet over the weekend. A dozen candidates and sitting governors all said they plan to talk extensively about the costs of housing, child care, utilities and groceries during Trump's second term.

But the unified focus on affordability papers over real divisions in the party's ranks over how aggressively to confront Trump, who won all of the presidential battleground states last year, and how to deal with the rising costs that are squeezing Americans.

On the same day Democratic moderates with national security credentials, Mikie Sherrill in New Jersey and Abigail Spanberger in Virginia, won their governor's races, Democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani won election as New York mayor. All ran on promises to tackle affordability, but they offered very different visions for how to deliver.

The affordability strategy isn't without risk. Economic conditions could change, making concerns about prices less salient or urgent.

And Democrats could be setting themselves up for disappointment down the road if they win in 2026 but are unable to bring down costs to voters' satisfaction, allowing Republicans to capitalize on the same buyer's remorse Democrats are now seeking to stoke.

For Democratic incumbents seeking reelection, they can't rest on fighting the Trump administration, said two-term Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico. They need to show results.

"Deliver for me. But don't forget to fight this," said Lujan Grisham, who is barred by term limits from seeking reelection. "They do want both, and finding ways to cross-cut those and marry that I think is going to be a winning set of messages."

Affordability also becomes a focal point for Trump

After the New Jersey and Virginia elections last month, the White House began shifting its message to

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focus more on affordability. Trump, who has not done much domestic travel during his second term, is scheduled to visit Pennsylvania on Tuesday to highlight his efforts to reduce inflation.

The president has talked more about affordability recently, and he reduced tariffs on beef and other commodities that consumers say cost too much. But Trump also has said the economy is better and consumer prices lower than reported by the media.

"The word affordability is a Democrat scam," he said during a Cabinet meeting last week.

He continues to blame his Democratic predecessor, former President Joe Biden, for the increase nationwide in inflation rates that occurred this year after his return to the White House. Overall, inflation is tracking at 3% annually, up from 2.3% in April when Trump rolled out a sweeping set of import taxes.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Sunday said the administration will be intent on reducing inflation, after tackling immigration and pushing to have interest rates cut.

"I expect inflation to roll down strongly next year," he said on CBS's "Face the Nation."

Democratic governors and candidates were largely aligned in the conclusion that many voters in 2024 didn't feel as if their party was focused on their concerns or shared their anger at a system they believe is failing average Americans.

"I think if there was any failure in the presidential election, it's we forgot what real people care about," said Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek, who is expected to seek a second term next year.

"We've got to listen to people," said Keisha Lance Bottoms, the former mayor of Atlanta who is running for Georgia governor.

Democrats believe some red states could be in play

Once Spanberger takes office in January, Democrats will control 24 governor's offices, a significant improvement from the low point of just 16 following the 2016 election but still slightly behind the Republicans' 26 seats.

Thirty-six states will hold elections for governor next year.

Among the hardest-fought contests will be in swing states that flipped between supporting Biden in 2020 and Trump in 2024. Those include Arizona, where Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs is seeking a second term, and Nevada, where Republican Gov. Joe Lombardo is up for reelection. Wisconsin, Michigan and Georgia all have open seats that are widely expected to attract a large field of candidates and big spending.

The retirement of Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly in Kansas, an overwhelmingly Republican state in presidential contests, gives the GOP the upper hand there. But Democrats are talking about expanding the field by competing in states such as Iowa or Ohio, where the party used to be competitive but has struggled in the Trump era.

Gina Hinojosa, a Texas lawmaker running for governor in the nation's second-most populous state, is making the case to Democratic donors that investing in Texas will be crucial to her party's hopes of winning power in Washington before the 2030 census. Her state is projected to pick up at least four House seats and Electoral College votes at the expense of blue states such as California and Illinois.

"If we don't flip before the end of the decade, there won't be Democratic control of Congress or the White House," Hinojosa said. "Because the math doesn't work."

Records reviewed by AP detail online monitoring, arrests in New Orleans immigration crackdown

By JIM MUSTIAN and JACK BROOK Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — State and federal authorities are closely tracking online criticism and protests against the immigration crackdown in New Orleans, monitoring message boards around the clock for threats to agents while compiling regular updates on public "sentiment" surrounding the arrests, according to law enforcement records reviewed by The Associated Press.

The intelligence gathering comes even as officials have released few details about the first arrests made last week as part of "Catahoula Crunch," prompting calls for greater transparency from local officials who say they've been kept in the dark about virtually every aspect of the operation.

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"Online opinions still remain mixed, with some supporting the operations while others are against them," said a briefing circulated early Sunday to law enforcement. Earlier bulletins noted "a combination of groups urging the public to record ICE and Border Patrol" as well as "additional locations where agents can find immigrants."

Immigration authorities have insisted the sweeps are targeted at "criminal illegal aliens." But the law enforcement records detail criminal histories for less than a third of the 38 people arrested in the first two days of the operation.

Local leaders told the AP those numbers — which law enforcement officials were admonished not to distribute to the media — undermined the stated aim of the roundup. They also expressed concern that the online surveillance could chill free speech as authorities threaten to charge anyone interfering with immigration enforcement.

"It confirms what we already knew — this was not about public safety, it's about stoking chaos and fear and terrorizing communities," said state Sen. Royce Duplessis, a Democrat who represents New Orleans. "It's furthering a sick narrative of stereotypes that immigrants are violent."

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security did not respond to questions about the intelligence gathering and referred the AP to a prior news release touting "dozens of arrests." The agency has not released an accounting of the detainees taken into custody or their criminal histories.

Few initially arrested had violent criminal records

DHS has publicly detailed only six arrests stemming from the operation — all people with criminal histories — including a man they vaguely said was convicted of "homicide" and another convicted of sexual assault. The agency, which has several hundred agents on the ground in southeast Louisiana, has said it aims to make at least 5,000 arrests in the region over an operation expected to last up to two months.

"Americans should be able to live without fear of violent criminal illegal aliens harming them, their families or their neighbors," DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said.

DHS and Republican leaders have framed the crackdown as targeting the most violent offenders. But the records reviewed by the AP identify only nine of the 38 people arrested in the first days as having criminal histories that rose beyond traffic violations — information the intelligence bulletins warn "should not be distributed to the media."

New Orleans City Council President J.P. Morrell said the stated goals of the operation to arrest violent offenders did not align with the reality of what is taking place.

"There's literally no information being given to the city of New Orleans whatsoever," Morrell said. "If the goal was for them to come here and augment existing law enforcement, to pursue violent criminals or people with extensive criminal histories, why wouldn't you be more transparent about who you've arrested and why?"

Morrell and other officials have said the crackdown appears to be a dragnet focused on people with brown skin, citing viral videos of encounters such as masked agents chasing a 23-year-old U.S. citizen returning home from the grocery store.

Law enforcement officials have been carefully tracking such footage and public reaction. "For some supporters, the videos with sounds of children crying in the background as their parents are placed under arrest, is weighing heavy on their hearts," one briefing stated.

Authorities monitoring public sentiment and protests

The records also shed new light on cooperation among state and federal authorities in an operation welcomed by Louisiana's Republican Gov. Jeff Landry. Both the FBI and Customs and Border Protection have stationed agents at the Louisiana State Analytical and Fusion Exchange, an intelligence and data sharing center that is closely following discussions on the online forum Reddit that local residents have used to exchange information about the immigration raids.

One briefing noted that some "have gone so far as to accuse agents of racially profiling Hispanic areas specifically." Another flagged social media posts suggesting agents "are not keeping with the mission of targeting criminal immigrants only." And a third pointed out that critics of the raids "bring up past hur-

ricanes and the work done by immigrants" in their aftermath.

"The chatter is slower during the night, mainly just commenting on posts from earlier in the day," one of the briefings states. "Once daylight arrives and agencies are back out, the chatter and new posts will pick back up."

The briefings have identified no threats to law enforcement, but the fusion center has sought to debunk what it called false reports that a pedestrian was fatally struck by law enforcement. "It has been confirmed that this actually did not occur," the center told law enforcement on Saturday.

One briefing described an incident involving "suspicious persons/protesters" who showed up early Saturday at an ICE facility in St. Charles Parish, where records show the detainees were expected to be processed.

Some local officials said they had been unaware of the state's role in the online monitoring. Louisiana State Police pledged "operational support" to immigration authorities and warned the public that troopers will arrest anyone who assaults a federal agent or causes criminal damage to property.

"The Louisiana State Police remains vigilant in monitoring social media activity related to protests, activism and other forms of public response," Trooper Danny Berrincha, a state police spokesperson, wrote in an email to the AP. "Through the LSP Fusion Center, we actively track developments and facilitate the sharing of information and communication among our partner agencies."

The fusion center also has tracked the tools used by protesters to foil federal immigration enforcement, highlighting social media links to whistle handouts, trainings on filming federal agents and the emergence of a hotline for reporting arrests. The surveillance extended to activist discussions about immigration authorities' presence near an elementary school and recapped demonstrations inside the New Orleans City Council chambers and elsewhere.

"They can monitor me all they want," said Rachel Taber, an organizer with the New Orleans-based grassroots advocacy group Union Migrante, which shares crowdsourced reports and videos of the federal immigration enforcement operations. "We are not doing anything illegal."

Beth Davis, a spokesperson for Indivisible NOLA, which has organized some of the trainings described in the law enforcement briefings, said it was sad authorities seemed preoccupied with law-abiding citizens. "That they feel threatened by a bunch of community organizers that have nothing other than phones and whistles blows my mind."

Judge deals setback to Justice Department effort to seek new indictment against Comey

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge has dealt a setback to Justice Department efforts to seek a new indictment against former FBI Director James Comey, temporarily barring prosecutors from using evidence they had relied on when they initially secured criminal charges.

The ruling Saturday night from U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly does not preclude the department from trying again soon to indict Comey, but it does suggest prosecutors may have to do so without citing communications between Comey and a close friend, Columbia University law professor Daniel Richman.

Comey was charged in September with lying to Congress when he denied having authorized an associate to serve as an anonymous source for media coverage about the FBI. In pursuing the case, prosecutors cited messages between Comey and Richman that they said showed Comey approving of Richman interacting with journalists for certain FBI-related coverage.

The case was dismissed last month after a different federal judge ruled that the prosecutor who filed the charges, Lindsey Halligan, was unlawfully appointed by the Trump administration. But that ruling left open the possibility that the government could try again to seek charges against Comey, a longtime foe of President Donald Trump. Comey has pleaded not guilty, denied having made a false statement and accused the Justice Department of a vindictive prosecution.

After the case was thrown out, lawyers for Richman sought a court order to bar prosecutors from continued access to his computer files, which the Justice Department obtained through search warrants in 2019 and 2020 as part of a media leak investigation that was later closed without charges.

Officials searched the files for communications between Comey and Richman they could use to build the case against Comey. But Richman and his lawyers say prosecutors exceeded the scope of the warrants, illegally held onto communications they should have destroyed or returned, and conducted new, warrantless searches of the data.

Kollar-Kotelly on Saturday night granted Richman's request for a temporary restraining order, instructing the department "not to access the covered materials once they are identified, segregated, and secured, or to share, disseminate, or disclose the covered materials to any person, without first seeking and obtaining leave of this Court."

She gave the Justice Department until Monday afternoon to certify that it is in compliance with the order. She said her order would remain in effect through this coming Friday, "or until dissolved by further order of this Court, whichever comes first."

"Petitioner Richman has also shown that, absent an injunction, he will be irreparably harmed by the ongoing violation of his Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable seizures arising from the Government's continuing retention of the image of his computer and related materials," she wrote in granting Richman's request.

A Justice Department spokesperson declined to comment Sunday on the ruling and what it meant for revived charges against Comey.

It is not clear that the Justice Department could secure new charges against Comey even if it could rely on Richman's communications. Comey's lawyers have said the statute of limitations on such a case — the congressional testimony at issue was given on Sept. 30, 2020, or more than five years ago — has expired.

A separate attempt by the Justice Department to file a new indictment against New York Letitia James, another perceived Trump adversary who was also charged by Halligan, failed last week when a grand jury refused to sign off on charges.

Soon no Pearl Harbor survivors will be alive. People turn to other ways to learn about the bombing

By AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Survivors of the 1941 Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor have long been the center of a remembrance ceremony held each year on the military base's waterfront.

But today only 12 are still alive — all centenarians — and this year none were able to make the pilgrimage to Hawaii to mark the event Sunday.

That means no one who attended had firsthand memories of serving during the attack, which killed more than 2,300 troops and catapulted the U.S. into World War 2. The development is not a surprise and is an evolution of an ongoing trend. As survivors fade, their descendants and the public are increasingly turning to other ways of learning about the bombing.

"The idea of not having a survivor there for the first time — I just, I don't know — it hurt my heart in a way I can't describe," said Kimberlee Heinrichs, whose 105-year-old father Ira "Ike" Schab had to cancel plans to fly in from Oregon after falling ill.

Survivors have been present every year in recent memory except for 2020, when the Navy and the National Park Service closed the observance to the general public because of coronavirus pandemic health risks.

"I can still see what was happening."

The ceremony began with a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m. local, the same time the attack began on Dec. 7, 1941. Solemn rituals followed.

Fighter jets flew overhead in "missing man formation," in which one jet peels off to symbolize those lost. Survivors typically present wreaths to honor the dead, though active duty troops have assumed this job

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in recent years. Survivors also would rise to salute active duty sailors who themselves salute as their ship passes the USS Arizona Memorial, which sits above submerged hull of the battleship sunk in the attack.

About 2,000 survivors attended the 50th anniversary event in 1991. A few dozen have showed in recent decades. Last year, only two made it. That is out of an estimated 87,000 troops stationed on Oahu that day.

Many survivors were jovial despite the occasion, happy to catch up with old friends and pose for photographs. Even so, harrowing recollections were seldom far from their minds.

In 2023, Harry Chandler gazed across the water while telling an Associated Press reporter how he was raising the flag at a mobile hospital in the hills above the base when he saw Japanese planes fly in and drop bombs. Chandler and his fellow Navy hospital corpsmen jumped in trucks to help the injured.

He spoke of seeing the Arizona explode, and of hearing sailors trapped on the capsized USS Oklahoma desperately tapping on their ship's hull to summon rescue. He helped care for Oklahoma sailors after crews cut holes in the battleship.

"I can still see what was happening," Chandler said. He died the next year at a senior living center in Tequesta, Florida.

Lessons from the past

The bombing has long held different meanings for different people, the historian Emily S. Rosenberg wrote in her book "A Date Which Will Live: Pearl Harbor in American Memory."

Some say it highlights the need for a well-prepared military and a vigilant foreign policy. To some it evokes then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt administration's "ineptitude or deceit" and the unfair scapegoating of the military. Others focus on the "treachery" of Japan or the heroic acts of individual troops, she wrote.

Asked what he wanted Americans to know about Pearl Harbor, Chandler said: "Be prepared."

"We should have known that was going to happen. The intelligence has to be better," he said.

Lou Conter, who was Arizona's last living survivor when he died last year at 102, told the AP in 2019 he liked to attend to remember those who lost their lives.

"It's always good to come back and pay respect to them and give them the top honors that they deserve," Conter said.

Heinrichs' father has been six times since 2016. The former tuba player on the USS Dobbin likes to go not only to remember those killed but also in place of his late band mates; his three brothers who fought in World War II; and the now-deceased Pearl Harbor survivors he has met.

Recording the remembrances before the survivors are gone

Retired National Park Service Pearl Harbor historian Daniel Martinez said the circumstances resemble the early 20th century when Civil War veterans were dying in increasing numbers. Awareness grew that soon they wouldn't be able to share their stories of Gettysburg and other battles, he said.

Martinez knew something similar could happen with Pearl Harbor survivors and recorded their oral histories. During a 1998 convention, he conducted interviews 12 hours a day for three days. The Park Service today has nearly 800 interviews, most on video.

"They remain as a part of the national memory of a day that changed America and changed the world," Martinez said.

The Park Service shows some in its Pearl Harbor museum and aims to include more after renovations, said David Kilton, the agency's Pearl Harbor interpretation, education and visitor services lead.

The Library of Congress has collections from 535 Pearl Harbor survivors, including interviews, letters, photos and diaries. Over 80% are online. They are part of the library's Veterans History Project of first-hand recollections of veterans who served in World War I onward. Many were recorded by relatives, Eagle Scouts and other amateurs interested in documenting history.

The Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors gives presentations in schools and marches in parades to share the stories of their families. The California chapter has added six new members this year, including two great-grandchildren of survivors.

"When they're all gone, we're still going to be here," said Deidre Kelley, the group's president. "And it's our intent to keep the memory alive as long as we're alive."

Key GOP senator says he has no objection to releasing video of strike that killed two survivors

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

A video of a U.S. military strike on an alleged drug boat in the Caribbean that killed two survivors of the initial attack shows "nothing remarkable," the Republican who leads the Senate Intelligence Committee said Sunday, and he would not oppose its public release if the Pentagon were to declassify it.

Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, who backs President Donald Trump's campaign against suspected drug smugglers, is partially aligning himself with Trump and top Democrats in favor of releasing the video of the Sept. 2 attack. It was the first in what has become a monthlong series of American strikes on vessels near Venezuela that the administration says were ferrying drugs. At least 87 people have been killed in 22 known strikes.

But Cotton, among the top lawmakers on national security committees who were briefed Thursday by the Navy admiral commanding those strikes, is splitting with Democrats over whether military personnel acted lawfully in carrying out a second strike to kill the two survivors. The nine others aboard the boat also were killed.

"I think it's really important that this video be made public. It's not lost on anyone, of course, that the interpretation of the video ... broke down precisely on party lines," said Connecticut Rep. Jim Himes, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee. He said he has spent "years looking at videos of lethal action taken, often in the terrorism context, and this video was profoundly shaking."

When Trump was asked Wednesday whether he would release the video of that follow-on strike, he told reporters, "I don't know what they have, but whatever they have we'd certainly release. No problem." Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said in a Fox News interview Saturday at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California that officials were reviewing the video. "Whatever we were to decide to release, we'd have to be very responsible" about it.

"That boat was still a valid target," Cotton said, arguing that releasing the video would prove that the two survivors of the initial strike remained a threat.

"It's not gruesome. I didn't find it distressing or disturbing," he said, explaining why he does not have a problem with releasing all the footage. "It looks like any number of dozens of strikes we've seen on jeeps and pickup trucks in the Middle East over the years." He added that "there's nothing remarkable on that video, in my opinion."

The classified sessions on Capitol Hill came after The Washington Post reported that Adm. Frank "Mitch" Bradley had ordered a follow-on attack that killed those survivors, to comply with Hegseth's demands. Bradley told lawmakers there was no "kill them all" order from Hegseth, but a video of the entire series of attacks left some lawmakers with serious questions. Legal experts have said killing survivors of a strike at sea could be a violation of the laws of military warfare.

Rep. Adam Smith of Washington, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, and Himes are among those who have seen the video and they disputed Cotton's characterization.

"I have no doubt that these guys were involved in the running of drugs. ... But in that instance, these guys were about to die," Himes said.

Smith added: "It did not appear that these two survivors were in any position to continue the fight."

Himes said lawmakers are aware of the partisan divide.

Some legal experts have disputed that the United States is in an official armed conflict with Venezuela, raising questions about the legalities of using American military personnel for what would amount to law enforcement activities that require due process. Other experts have said that, regardless of the terms of engagement, international law does not allow further attacks on defenseless survivors of a previous attack. Specifically, Pentagon protocols say that firing upon the shipwrecked is illegal.

There have been questions and criticism of the mission raised by lawmakers from both parties on Capitol Hill, with inquiries ongoing.

Bradley told lawmakers in a closed session that he ordered the second attack on the wreckage of a boat

that was carrying cocaine because it was believed that bales of the drug were still in the hull of the boat.

Cotton said Sunday that two final victims were "not in a shipwrecked state" or "floating helplessly in the water" but instead were "sitting or standing on top of a capsized boat." Because they were "not incapacitated," he said, "that boat, its cargo ... remained valid targets."

Smith, who saw the same video, said, "The boat was clearly incapacitated. A tiny portion of it remained capsized, the bow of the boat. They had no communications device. Certainly, they were unarmed."

Cotton was on NBC's "Meet the Press," Smith was on ABC's "This Week" and Himes appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Democrats see an opening to win the Miami mayor's race in the latest test of the US political mood

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — It has been nearly three decades since a Democrat held the mayor's office in Miami, a span of futility the party is hoping to reverse during a special runoff election this week in one of the last electoral showdowns before next year's midterms.

While it is a local race, this election has become the latest test of the nation's political mood nearly a year into President Donald Trump's second term.

Trump and other big-name Florida Republicans, including Gov. Ron DeSantis and Sen. Rick Scott, have weighed in for the conservative candidate, former city manager Emilio Gonzalez, in the otherwise nonpartisan race. Nationally known Democrats, including former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, have offered support on behalf of Eileen Higgins, a Democrat who served on the county commission before winning a runoff spot last month.

An upset for the Democrats on Tuesday would give the party an additional burst of momentum heading into a crucial election year when control of Congress will be at stake, especially in a region that has become increasingly friendly turf for Republicans and where Trump plans to build his presidential library.

Higgins, who had represented a district that leans conservative and includes the Cuban enclave of Little Havana, proudly wears the label of "La Gringa," a term Spanish speakers use for white Americans. A Spanish speaker herself, Higgins has focused her campaign relentlessly on local issues such as the cost of housing while capitalizing on national ones, including the treatment of immigrants under the Trump administration in a city with sizable Hispanic and foreign-born populations.

"I have been a Democrat serving in a primarily Republican district, and all I have done is work for the people," she told The Associated Press.

Democrats will try to break Republicans' grip on power

Miami is Florida's second most populous city, behind Jacksonville, but is the epicenter of the state's diverse culture and is among the nation's most prominent international destinations, giving its mayor an outside platform.

The city of 487,000 is part of Miami-Dade County, which Trump flipped last year, handily defeating Democrat Kamala Harris after losing the county to Democrat Joe Biden in 2020. A loss for Gonzalez would be perceived in Florida as a setback for the GOP and Trump.

Christian Ulvert, Higgins' campaign manager, said early returns of mail ballots are encouraging. About 44% had been cast by registered Democrats as of Thursday, a day before early in-person voting began, compared with about 30% by registered Republicans.

"What you're seeing is great Democratic enthusiasm and turnout that matches that enthusiasm," he said.

Higgins, who would be the first non-Hispanic mayor of Miami in almost 30 years if elected, said she is confident she will receive support not only from Democrats, but also from unaffiliated voters and some Republicans because of her work as an elected official.

Her pitch to voters includes finding city-owned land that could be turned into affordable housing and cutting unnecessary spending. She was asked during a recent forum sponsored by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce if she would try to turn the more ceremonial role of mayor into a full-time job and not take

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on other work, something that raised ethical concerns for the current mayor, term-limited Francis Suarez.

"I do not have outside employment now. I was a full-time commissioner. I'm going to be a full-time mayor," Higgins said as the interviewer continued to press her about whether that meant not accepting any outside employment.

In a blunt-talking style, Higgins responded sternly: "All right, do I have to say it more clearly? No! It's a full-time job."

Republicans worry as Latino support wavers

While Latino voters nationally have traditionally leaned Democratic, Republicans in Florida have found strong backing among Cuban, Venezuelan and Nicaraguan immigrants, who resist socialist inclinations likened to the ones from the governments they fled. Trump tapped into those sentiments in winning Miami-Dade County last year, a turnaround from his 30 percentage point loss there to Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Yet some Florida Republicans began sounding the alarm after November's elections, when Democrats secured wins in nationally watched governor's races in New Jersey and Virginia. Both winning candidates had strong performances with nonwhite voters, and the Democratic winner in the New Jersey race received two-thirds of the Hispanic vote, according to the AP Voter Poll.

Those results were largely seen as a reflection of concerns over rising prices and the Trump administration's aggressive immigration policies.

U.S. Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar, a Republican whose district includes the city of Miami, called the elections elsewhere a "wake-up call." Ileana Garcia, a Florida state senator who in 2016 founded the group Latinas for Trump, has said about immigration arrests that "what we are witnessing is inhumane."

Gonzalez, a former director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services under Republican President George W. Bush, said during a debate sponsored by Miami's CBS affiliate that he supported immigration arrests against those who committed crimes. But he demurred when the moderator said most of those arrested had not committed violent offenses: "But this is a federal issue," Gonzalez said. "This is not an issue that has to do with the mayor of Miami."

Higgins has spoken about Miami's signing on to a federal program that delegates immigration authority to local police, county sheriffs and state agencies and said she would find legal options to unwind that decision to rebuild trust between residents and law enforcement.

"When we start to enforce whatever shenanigans is coming out of the federal government to just randomly pick people up, we could erode that trust," she said.

Florida Democrats hope to kickstart their climb back to relevancy

Higgins has received support from Florida Democrats looking to show the party still has a foothold in the formerly swing state.

Some Democrats who could be considering a presidential run in 2028 also are backing her campaign. Buttigieg encouraged voters in a video to make a plan to vote for her, U.S. Sen. Ruben Gallego of Arizona joined her Sunday for early voting stops and former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel is scheduled to appear at a rally for her Monday.

Many of the local issues at play in the race resonate nationally, including income inequality and one of the nation's least affordable housing markets.

Gustavo Ascani, a 30-year-old Miami voter, said the city has long-standing problems that need addressing. He said he has not decided whom he will vote for, but said tackling homelessness and traffic is a priority for him.

"Maybe Republicans have overlooked, after having locally been in power for so long, certain issues that are important for the people in Miami," Ascani said.

Robin Peguero, a former prosecutor who is running for the chance to challenge Salazar for her congressional seat, said voters' concerns center around affordability, an issue that has become a focal point of both parties after Democrats' wins in New Jersey and Virginia.

That includes the sharp health insurance premium spikes expected to start Jan. 1 after subsidies under the Affordable Care Act expire. The Obama-era health law remains popular in South Florida, and recent

polling shows most people who will be affected by the increases blame Trump and Republicans.

"It's kitchen table issues, whether it's an election for local officials or whether there is an election for the president," Peguero said. "It's a rejection of what is happening in this country."

Trump slams pardoned Democratic congressman as 'disloyal' for not switching parties

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

Donald Trump is angry that Rep. Henry Cuellar is running again as a Democrat rather than switch parties after the president pardoned the Texas congressman and his wife in a federal bribery and conspiracy case.

Trump blasted Cuellar for "Such a lack of LOYALTY," suggesting the Republican president might have expected the clemency to bolster the GOP's narrow House majority heading into the 2026 midterm elections.

Cuellar, in a television interview Sunday after Trump's social media post, said he was a conservative Democrat willing to work with the administration "to see where we can find common ground." The congressman said he had prayed for the president and the presidency at church that morning "because if the president succeeds, the country succeeds."

Citing a fellow Texas politician, the late President Lyndon Johnson, Cuellar said he was an American, Texan and Democrat, in that order. "I think anybody that puts party before their country is doing a disservice to their country," he told Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures."

Trump noted on his Truth Social platform that the Democratic President Joe Biden's administration had brought the charges against Cuellar and that the congressman, by running once more as a Democrat, was continuing to work with "the same RADICAL LEFT" that wanted him and his wife in prison — "And probably still do!"

"Such a lack of LOYALTY, something that Texas Voters, and Henry's daughters, will not like. Oh' well, next time, no more Mr. Nice guy!" Trump said. Cuellar's two daughters, Christina and Catherine, had sent Trump a letter in November asking that he pardon their parents.

Trump explained his pardon he announced Wednesday as a matter of stopping a "weaponized" prosecution. Cuellar was an outspoken critic of Biden's immigration policy, a position that Trump saw as a key alignment with the lawmaker.

Cuellar said he has good relationships within his party. "I think the general Democrat Caucus and I, we get along. But they know that I'm an independent voice," he said.

A party switch would have been an unexpected bonus for Republicans after the GOP-run Legislature redrew the state's congressional districts this year at Trump's behest. The Texas maneuver started a mid-decade gerrymandering scramble playing out across multiple states. Trump is trying to defend Republicans' House majority and avoid a repeat of his first term, when Democrats dominated the House midterms and used a new majority to stymie the administration, launch investigations and twice impeach Trump.

Yet Cuellar's South Texas district, which includes parts of metro San Antonio, was not one of the Democratic districts that Republicans changed substantially, and Cuellar believes he remains well-positioned to win reelection.

Federal authorities had charged Cuellar and his wife with accepting thousands of dollars in exchange for the congressman advancing the interests of an Azerbaijan-controlled energy company and a bank in Mexico. Cuellar was accused of agreeing to influence legislation favorable to Azerbaijan and deliver a pro-Azerbaijan speech on the floor of the U.S. House.

Cuellar has said he his wife were innocent. The couple's trial had been set to begin in April.

In the Fox interview,, Cuellar insisted that federal authorities tried to entrap him with "a sting operation to try to bribe me, and that failed."

Cuellar still faces a House Ethics Committee investigation.

Bullet-pocked marker memorializing 1918 lynching goes on display in Atlanta

By MICHAEL WARREN Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — A historical marker from the site of a 1918 lynching that was repeatedly vandalized in recent years is now safely on display in Atlanta in an exhibit that opens Monday.

It memorializes an event that some people in rural southern Georgia have tried hard to erase: the killing of Mary Turner by a white mob that was bent on silencing her after she demanded justice for the lynching of her husband, Hayes Turner, and at least 10 other Black people.

Pocked with bullet holes and cracked at its pedestal by an off-road vehicle, the Georgia Historical Society marker reads in part: "Mary Turner, eight months pregnant, was burned, mutilated, and shot to death by a mob after publicly denouncing her husband's lynching the previous day. ... No charges were ever brought against known or suspected participants in these crimes. From 1880-1930, as many as 550 people were killed in Georgia in these illegal acts of mob violence."

Now each word damaged by bullets is projected on a wall, and visitors hear those words spoken by some of Turner's six generations of descendants.

"I'm glad the memorial was shot up," great-granddaughter Katrina Thomas said Saturday night after her first look at the exhibit in the National Museum for Civil and Human Rights. "Millions of people are going to learn her story. That her voice is continuing years and years after, it shows history does not disappear. It lives and continues to grow."

Americans learned about these lynchings in 1918 because they were investigated in the immediate aftermath by Walter White, who founded the Georgia chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and would become an influential voice for civil rights nationwide. A light-skinned Black man who could pass for white, he interviewed eyewitnesses and provided names of suspects to the governor of Georgia, according to his report in the NAACP's publication, *The Crisis*.

Georgia was among the most active states for lynchings, according to the Equal Justice Initiative's catalog of more than 4,400 documented racial terror lynchings in the U.S. between Reconstruction and World War II. The organization has placed markers at many sites and built a monument to the victims in Montgomery, Alabama.

The nation's first anti-lynching legislation was introduced in 1918 amid national reaction to deaths of Mary and Hayes Turner and their neighbors in Georgia's Brooks and Lowndes counties. It passed the House in 1922, but Southern senators filibustered it and another century would pass before lynching was made a federal hate crime in 2022.

"The same injustice that took her life was the same injustice that kept vandalizing it, year after year," said Randy McClain, the Turners' great-grandnephew. He grew up in the same rural area where the lynchings happened but did not know much about them or discover his family connection until he was an adult.

"Here it feels like a very safe space," McClain said. "She's now finally at rest, and her story can be told. And her family can feel some sense of vindication."

Man arrested after pepper spray attack during robbery at London's Heathrow Airport parking garage

LONDON (AP) — Police arrested a man at London's Heathrow Airport on Sunday after a crowd of people were hit with pepper spray during a robbery at a parking garage that caused several hours of travel disruptions.

Five people were taken by ambulance to a hospital and another 16, including a 3-year-old girl, were treated at the scene, officials said. None of the injuries was believed to be serious.

The incident in the Terminal 3 garage on the outskirts of London happened when a group of four men stole a woman's suitcase in an elevator and sprayed her with an irritant, Metropolitan Police said.

Passenger Tom Bate said he saw three young men in black with their heads covered run from the eleva-

tor and then he experienced a burning sensation in his throat and immediately began hacking.

"Everyone in the room was coughing," he told Sky News. "It was one of the weirdest things I've ever experienced."

Police said the robbery victim and the assailants knew each other and the crime was not being investigated as terrorism.

Bate said he initially feared the worst as a large group of officers carrying guns — a rarity in the U.K. where most police don't carry weapons — ran past him shouting.

"It was absolutely terrifying and I 100% believed that I was in a terrorist attack for a few moments," he said.

He said an officer pointed a gun at a man and ordered him to the ground to arrest him.

A 31-year-old man was held on suspicion of assault. Police were searching for the other suspects who left the scene.

The incident caused several hours of delays for passengers trying to get to and from the airport.

Bad reviews didn't scare off the 'Five Nights at Freddy's 2' audience. It even broke a record

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

"Five Nights at Freddy's" has powered up the box office once again. The sequel opened in 3,412 theaters in the U.S. and Canada this weekend and far surpassed expectations with \$63 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Seemingly immune to widely negative reviews, "Five Nights at Freddy's 2" notched the biggest opening ever for the weekend after Thanksgiving, which usually is a more muted buffet of leftovers. It's also the biggest opening of the year for a PG-13 rated movie and the second biggest horror opening, behind "The Conjuring: Last Rites." The movies and the game are about a family restaurant, Freddy Fazbear's Pizza, whose anthropomorphic robots turn murderous at night.

"There's been a lot of doom and gloom about the industry overall, but this movie helped drive the industry to the biggest first weekend post-Thanksgiving ever," said Jim Orr, who heads domestic distribution for Universal.

The first film, also a Blumhouse production, was a surprise hit two years ago. It opened to \$80 million in October 2023, despite also being available to stream on Peacock. Universal decided to open the sequel exclusively in theaters. With a reported production price tag of only \$36 million, "Five Nights at Freddy's 2" is on its way to being another smash. It's another reminder of the potential massive upside of theatrical releases as many in the industry and out wonder what Netflix's acquisition of Warner Bros. will mean for moviegoing.

The sequel, written by the game's creator Scott Cawthon, saw the return of cast members like Josh Hutcherson, Matthew Lillard and Elizabeth Lail as well as director Emma Tammi. Reviews were dismal, even worse than the first. Mark Kennedy, in his zero star review for The Associated Press, called it an "incoherent mess." But horror fans have been known to turn out for opening weekends regardless of reviews. This audience had a decidedly more positive take. According to PostTrak polling data, 70% of ticket buyers said they would "definitely" recommend "Five Nights at Freddy's 2" to their friends.

Paul Dergarabedian, the head of marketplace trends for Comscore, said that the teen video gamer audience is sometimes underestimated and this weekend proves once again that given the right film, will come out to the movie theater for that communal experience with fellow fans.

It was also enough to push the more family-friendly "Zootopia 2" into second place in its second weekend in theaters, where it added \$43 million in North America. But the Disney film isn't hurting after its record Thanksgiving opening. With \$219 million from 52 territories internationally, including China, the running global total is an eye-popping \$915.8 million. It's officially pushed Walt Disney Studio releases over the \$5 billion mark globally — the only studio to do so this year.

"Wicked: For Good," also a Universal release, landed in third place in its third weekend with \$16.8 million

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from 3,985 theaters, brining its domestic total just shy of \$297 million.

Fourth place went to Gkids' anime "Jujutsu Kaisen: Execution" which opened to an estimated \$10.2 million, while Lionsgate's "Now You See Me: Now You Don't" rounded out the top five with \$3.5 million, pushing its running global total to \$210 million.

"Kill Bill: The Whole Bloody Affair" was close behind with \$3.3 million from 1,198 theaters. Quentin Tarantino combined "Kill Bill: Vol. 1" and "Vol. 2" into a four hour and 35-minute epic (including a 15 minute intermission). The Lionsgate release got a rare A+ CinemaScore from an audience that was 72% male. According to the studio, most of the 70mm and 35mm showings were sold out. Due to the demand for the film prints, the studio is exploring an extended run. "Kill Bill" star Lucy Liu had a big weekend at New York's AMC Lincoln Square where the independent drama "Rosemead" made \$50,243 from one screen.

A filmed version of the Tony-winning revival of "Merrily We Roll Along," starring Jonathan Groff, Daniel Radcliffe and Lindsay Mendez and released by Sony Pictures Classics, opened just outside of the top 10 with \$1.2 million from 1,084 screens.

The running annual domestic box office just this weekend surpassed \$8 billion. Since the pandemic, it's only surpassed \$9 billion once, in 2023, when "Barbie" topped the year. Prior to 2020, it would regularly hit \$11 billion.

"It's not impossible, but every movie is going to have to overperform in some way if we're going to get to the \$9 billion threshold," Dergarabedian said.

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

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

1. "Five Nights at Freddy's 2," \$63 million.
2. "Zootopia 2," \$43 million.
3. "Wicked: For Good," \$16.7 million.
4. "Jujutsu Kasen: Execution," \$10.2 million.
5. "Now You See Me: Now You Don't," \$3.5 million.
6. "Kill Bill: The Whole Bloody Affair," \$3.3 million.
7. "Eternity," \$2.7 million,
8. "Hamnet," \$2.3 million.
9. "Dhurandhar," \$1.9 million.
10. "Predator: Badlands," \$1.9 million.

McLaren driver Lando Norris clinches his first F1 title at season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

By JEROME PUGMIRE AP Auto Racing Writer

McLaren driver Lando Norris held his nerve but could not hold back the tears after clinching his first Formula 1 title at the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday.

Red Bull driver and defending champion Max Verstappen won the race with Norris placing third behind his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri in second, which allowed Norris to finish two points ahead of Verstappen in the season-long standings.

"It's incredible. It is pretty surreal. I've dreamed of this for a long, long time," said the 26-year-old Norris, who started his F1 career as a test and reserve driver with McLaren. "I feel like I did my part for the team this year and I'm very proud of myself for that. I'm even more proud for everyone who I hopefully made cry."

Norris became Britain's 11th F1 champion, a racing journey that began with kart racing when he was eight years old. The first of his 11 F1 race wins came last year, when he finished second overall in the standings.

Piastri was also in contention for his first F1 title and finished third in the standings, 13 points behind Norris, who ended the season with seven wins and 423 points.

Norris became the first British champion since Lewis Hamilton won his record-equaling seventh title in

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2020, and also denied Verstappen a fifth straight title.

"Oh God. I've not cried in a while. It's a long journey. First of all, I want to say a big thanks to my guys, my parents," Norris said a few minutes after the race. "I now know what Max feels like a little bit. I want to congratulate him and Oscar, too."

Norris entered the three-way battle 12 points ahead of Verstappen and 16 ahead of Piastri, who also won seven races but none since the Dutch GP on Aug. 31.

Verstappen started from pole position with Norris on the front row beside him and Piastri third on the grid. The Dutchman needed Norris to be fourth or lower and Norris had to finish outside the top five if Piastri won.

Verstappen's astounding late-season charge came close to unseating both McLaren drivers after they had shared the lead throughout the season and then were undone by driver and team-strategy errors.

Verstappen's title chances were dramatically improved with two races to go after Norris and Piastri were disqualified in Las Vegas.

But even Verstappen's season-leading eighth win and 71st of his career could not stop Norris, who kept his composure on Sunday, having been under severe pressure in recent weeks.

"Oscar and Lando have been awesome all year," McLaren CEO Zak Brown told broadcaster Sky. "This Max guy is pretty hard to beat."

The McLaren motorhome erupted with joy when Norris clinched it and Brown congratulated Norris on the team radio in his usual jovial manner.

"Lando, this is Zak from McLaren. Is this the world champion hotline? You did it! You did it! Awesome," Brown said.

Norris didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He did both.

"Oh my God, thanks so much. I love you guys. Thanks for everything," Norris said and then broke down in tears.

After crossing the line, Norris stayed in his car for a few moments, visibly emotional. His parents were on the side of the track and he went over to hug them before celebrating with his McLaren engineers and mechanics.

Piastri was looking to become the first Australian champion since Alan Jones in 1980, but his failure to win a race after Zandvoort cost him.

"When things have been good this year, I've felt unstoppable," Piastri said. "Ultimately, I've learnt a lot about myself. I think that will only help me going forward."

Norris praised Piastri, saying "at some point he will get the better of me, as he is an incredible driver."

Pole position was crucial on the 58-lap circuit in Abu Dhabi, where overtaking is hard, and so it proved again as Verstappen joined the long list of race winners from pole since 2015.

Charles Leclerc finished fourth for Ferrari ahead of George Russell (Mercedes) and Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin) in sixth.

Verstappen gets away

Verstappen made a clean start with Piastri overtaking Norris, while the slick Leclerc was soon behind Norris.

Norris changed tires on Lap 17 but was caught behind some traffic and had Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Yuki Tsunoda ahead of him in third spot, which in turn allowed Leclerc to close on Norris.

Tsunoda penalized

Norris overtook Tsunoda on Lap 23 but went very wide and off track limits. Race stewards gave Tsunoda a 5-second time penalty for zig-zagging in front of Norris, who was cleared.

Tsunoda reacted angrily when informed he had moved more than once in front of Norris when defending his position.

Slick Leclerc

Norris pitted again on Lap 41, with Verstappen overtaking Piastri moments later to take the lead. Piastri came in a lap later but Norris still held the cards because both McLarens had covered an eventual second

tire change for Verstappen.

The main threat for Norris was Leclerc and he was about 4 seconds behind him with 10 laps left.

"Is Charles catching him or not?" Verstappen asked his race engineer.

Leclerc couldn't get closer, meaning Norris could coast to the title.

A fire at a popular nightclub in India's Goa state kills 25

NEW DELHI (AP) — A fire ripped through a popular nightclub in India's Goa state, killing 25 people, including tourists, the state's chief minister said Sunday.

The blaze occurred just past midnight in Arpora village in North Goa, a party hub, some 25 kilometers (15-miles) from the state capital, Panaji.

Goa's Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said most of the dead were the club's kitchen workers, as well as three to four tourists. Six people were injured and are in stable condition, he said. All the bodies have been recovered.

The fire was caused by a gas cylinder blast and has been extinguished, the Press Trust of India news agency reported, quoting local police. However, witnesses told the agency that the fire began on the club's first floor, where nearly 100 tourists were on the dance floor. Several rushed to the kitchen below in the chaos and got trapped along with staff, it said.

Fatima Shaikh said the commotion began as flames erupted, according to the news agency. "We rushed out of the club only to see that the entire structure was up in flames," she said.

The nightclub, located along the Arpora River backwaters, had a narrow entry and exit that forced the firefighters to park their tankers about 400 meters (1,300 feet) away, delaying the efforts, the news agency said.

Sawant said the club had violated fire safety regulations. The state government ordered an inquiry to determine the exact cause of the fire and responsibility, he said, adding that authorities would act against the club management and officials who allowed it to operate despite the violations.

Local village council official Roshan Redkar told the news agency that authorities had earlier issued a demolition notice for the club, which didn't have construction permit from the government. But higher officials rolled back the order, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a social media post called the fire "deeply saddening" and said he spoke with Sawant. Modi said the government "is providing all possible assistance" while offering condolences to the victims' families.

Accidents, particularly involving gas cylinders and electric short circuits, aren't uncommon in India and often result in casualties, underlining the need for authorities to implement stringent safety protocols.

"This is not just an accident; it is a criminal failure of safety and governance," Rahul Gandhi, a top leader of India's main opposition Congress party, wrote in a social media post. He called for a transparent probe to "fix accountability and ensure such preventable tragedies don't occur again."

The western coastal state of Goa is one of India's most popular tourist destinations, known for its sandy beaches.

AI-powered police body cameras, once taboo, get tested on Canadian city's 'watch list' of faces

By MATT O'BRIEN and GARANCE BURKE Associated Press

Police body cameras equipped with artificial intelligence have been trained to detect the faces of about 7,000 people on a "high risk" watch list in the Canadian city of Edmonton, a live test of whether facial recognition technology shunned as too intrusive could have a place in policing throughout North America.

But six years after leading body camera maker Axon Enterprise, Inc. said police use of facial recognition technology posed serious ethical concerns, the pilot project — switched on last week — is raising alarms far beyond Edmonton, the continent's northernmost city of more than 1 million people.

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A former chair of Axon's AI ethics board, which led the company to temporarily abandon facial recognition in 2019, told The Associated Press he's concerned that the Arizona-based company is moving forward without enough public debate, testing and expert vetting about the societal risks and privacy implications.

"It's essential not to use these technologies, which have very real costs and risks, unless there's some clear indication of the benefits," said the former board chair, Barry Friedman, now a law professor at New York University.

Axon founder and CEO Rick Smith contends that the Edmonton pilot is not a product launch but "early-stage field research" that will assess how the technology performs and reveal the safeguards needed to use it responsibly.

"By testing in real-world conditions outside the U.S., we can gather independent insights, strengthen oversight frameworks, and apply those learnings to future evaluations, including within the United States," Smith wrote in a blog post.

The pilot is meant to help make Edmonton patrol officers safer by enabling their body-worn cameras to detect anyone who authorities classified as having a "flag or caution" for categories such as "violent or assaultive; armed and dangerous; weapons; escape risk; and high-risk offender," said Kurt Martin, acting superintendent of the Edmonton Police Service. So far, that watch list has 6,341 people on it, Martin said at a Dec. 2 press conference. A separate watch list adds 724 people who have at least one serious criminal warrant, he said.

"We really want to make sure that it's targeted so that these are folks with serious offenses," said Ann-Li Cooke, Axon's director of responsible AI.

If the pilot expands, it could have a major effect on policing around the world. Axon, a publicly traded firm best known for developing the Taser, is the dominant U.S. supplier of body cameras and has increasingly pitched them to police agencies in Canada and elsewhere. Axon last year beat its closest competitor, Chicago-based Motorola Solutions, in a bid to sell body cameras to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Motorola said in a statement that it also has the ability to integrate facial recognition technology into police body cameras but, based on its ethical principles, has "intentionally abstained from deploying this feature for proactive identification." It didn't rule out using it in the future.

The government of Alberta in 2023 mandated body cameras for all police agencies in the province, including its capital city Edmonton, describing it as a transparency measure to document police interactions, collect better evidence and reduce timelines for resolving investigations and complaints.

While many communities in the U.S. have also welcomed body cameras as an accountability tool, the prospect of real-time facial recognition identifying people in public places has been unpopular across the political spectrum. Backlash from civil liberties advocates and a broader conversation about racial injustice helped push Axon and Big Tech companies to pause facial recognition software sales to police.

Among the biggest concerns were studies showing that the technology was flawed, demonstrating biased results by race, gender and age. It also didn't match faces as accurately on real-time video feeds as it did on faces posing for identification cards or police mug shots.

Several U.S. states and dozens of cities have sought to curtail police use of facial recognition, though President Donald Trump's administration is now trying to block or discourage states from regulating AI.

The European Union banned real-time public face-scanning police technology across the 27-nation bloc, except when used for serious crimes like kidnapping or terrorism.

But in the United Kingdom, no longer part of the EU, authorities started testing the technology on London streets a decade ago and have used it to make 1,300 arrests in the past two years. The government is considering expanding its use across the country.

Many details about Edmonton's pilot haven't been publicly disclosed. Axon doesn't make its own AI model for recognizing faces but declined to say which third-party vendor it uses.

Edmonton police say the pilot will continue through the end of December and only during daylight hours.

"Obviously it gets dark pretty early here," Martin said. "Lighting conditions, our cold temperatures during the wintertime, all those things will factor into what we're looking at in terms of a successful proof of concept."

Martin said about 50 officers piloting the technology won't know if the facial recognition software made a match. The outputs will be analyzed later at the station. In the future, however, it could help police detect if there's a potentially dangerous person nearby so they can call in for assistance, Martin said.

That's only supposed to happen if officers have started an investigation or are responding to a call, not simply while strolling through a crowd. Martin said officers responding to a call can switch their cameras from a passive to an active recording mode with higher-resolution imaging.

"We really want to respect individuals' rights and their privacy interests," Martin said.

The office of Alberta's information and privacy commissioner Diane McLeod said she received a privacy impact assessment from Edmonton police on Dec. 2, the same day Axon and police officials announced the program. The office said Friday it's now working to review the assessment, a requirement for projects that collect "high sensitivity" personal data.

University of Alberta criminology professor Temitope Oriola said he's not surprised that the city is experimenting with live facial recognition, given that the technology is already ubiquitous in airport security and other environments.

"Edmonton is a laboratory for this tool," Oriola said. "It may well turn out to be an improvement, but we do not know that for sure."

Oriola said the police service has had a sometimes "frosty" relationship with its Indigenous and Black residents, particularly after the fatal police shooting of a member of the South Sudanese community last year, and it remains to be seen whether facial recognition technology makes policing safer or improves interactions with the public.

Axon has faced blowback for its technology deployments in the past, as in 2022, when Friedman and seven other members of Axon's AI ethics board resigned in protest over concerns about a Taser-equipped drone.

In the years since Axon opted against facial recognition, Smith, the CEO, says the company has "continued controlled, lab-based research" of a technology that has "become significantly more accurate" and is now ready for trial in the real world.

But Axon acknowledged in a statement to the AP that all facial recognition systems are affected by "factors like distance, lighting and angle, which can disproportionately impact accuracy for darker-skinned individuals."

Every match requires human review, Axon said, and part of its testing is also "learning what training and oversight human reviewers must have to mitigate known risks."

Friedman said Axon should disclose those evaluations. He'd want to see more evidence that facial recognition has improved since his board concluded that it wasn't reliable enough to ethically justify its use in police cameras.

Friedman said he's also concerned about police agencies greenlighting the technology's use without deliberation by local legislators and rigorous scientific testing.

"It's not a decision to be made simply by police agencies and certainly not by vendors," he said. "A pilot is a great idea. But there's supposed to be transparency, accountability. ... None of that's here. They're just going ahead. They found an agency willing to go ahead and they're just going ahead."

Steve Smith's brilliance propels Australia to a victory in the 2nd test and a 2-0 Ashes lead

By JOHN PYE AP Sports Writer

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Steve Smith took a brilliant reflex catch to swing momentum, got into a heated exchange with Jofra Archer and then slogged the winning runs Sunday as Australia beat England again to take a 2-0 Ashes lead.

Set a target of 65 for victory in the second test after dismissing England for 241 in the second innings, Australia raced to an eight-wicket win late on Day 4 as storms brewed in and around the stadium.

Archer was bowling around 150 kph (93 mph) under the lights and it only fired up Smith.

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"The adrenaline was pumping at the end of the end, yeah. Jofra was bowling pretty quick," Smith said. "It was a huge win. Great to go 2-nil up."

There were some theatrics involving the Australia captain and England's strike pace bowler, with Smith ducking under a short ball and then critiquing Archer for bowling "fast when there's nothing going on, champion." He then hit a four and a six to bring up 1,000 test runs at the Gabba.

With Australia at 63-2 and needing just two runs to win the day-nighter, Smith hit a six to seal it and finished unbeaten on 23 from nine deliveries.

"Not really too sure what he said, and not sure what I said," Smith told a post-match news conference. "It's not any of your business, either," he added, laughing. "So we'll leave it out there."

Bazball shelved

Day 4 was a tale of two captains.

England skipper Stokes curbed his attacking instincts, dispensing with Bazball and pragmatically setting about reviving England's Ashes prospects.

England had resumed Sunday at 134-6, and took an hour and 36 minutes — 18.2 overs — to erase the first-innings deficit.

The Australian attack bowled a tight line and length and mixed it up with some short-pitch deliveries in an attempt to entice the usually aggressive England batters to have a go.

Stokes (50) and Will Jacks (41) resisted the temptation for the entire first session, knowing that a wicket would expose the tailenders. It was a completely different approach to England's usual attack-at-all costs mentality that has attracted wide criticism in the first two Ashes tests so far.

The seventh-wicket pair put on a 96-run stand to get England to the brink of the night session, but that ended when Smith — Australia's stand-in captain — took a stunning one-hander diving to his left at slip off Michael Naser's bowling to dismiss Jacks.

That was the momentum changer. The subsequent slide happened quickly, with England losing its last four wickets for 17 runs and Naser finishing with a five-wicket haul.

Stokes reached his 50 from 148 balls, the second-slowest half-century of his career. It was only four balls behind the 152 he took to make 50 at Headingley in 2019, where he scored an unbeaten 135 to guide England to one-wicket Ashes victory.

This time, he didn't go on. The 34-year-old was incredibly caught behind by wicketkeeper Alex Carey standing up to the stumps to Naser (5-42).

Stokes twirled his bat in the air in disbelief before striding back to the pavilion. Smith took two more catches as England's lower-order crumbled.

Australia won the series-opening test on Day 2. At least the second test went four.

"Very disappointing," Stokes said. "A lot of it, to me, comes down to not being able to stand up to the pressure of this format when the game is on the line. In small passages we've been able to bring the game back into some kind of control, and then we've let it slip away."

England has been criticized for its bowling attack failing to hit the right lengths consistently, for its dropped catches and for its top-order again throwing away wickets chasing fast and furious runs.

"We need to think a bit harder and a little bit deeper about those moments," Stokes said, "and show a little bit more fight when it's needed."

Starc performance

Australian pace spearhead Mitchell Starc was voted player of the match for the second time in the series, following his 10-wicket haul in Perth with six wickets in England's first innings in Brisbane and then scoring a team-high 77 as Australia took a 177-run first-innings lead.

He took another two wickets late on Day 3, increasing his series haul to 18.

The series continues

The third test starts Dec. 17 at the Adelaide Oval with England needing a win to have any chance of reclaiming the Ashes. The fourth test starts Boxing Day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Sydney will host the fifth test from Jan. 4.

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Today in History: December 8, U.S. enters World War II

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Dec. 8, the 342nd day of 2025. There are 23 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Imperial Japan a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Also on this date:

In 1980, rock star and former Beatle John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by Mark David Chapman.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty at the White House calling for the destruction of intermediate-range missiles.

In 2012, Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel became the first freshman to win the Heisman Trophy.

In 2014, the U.S. and NATO ceremonially ended their combat mission in Afghanistan, 13 years after the Sept. 11 terror attacks sparked their invasion of the country to topple the Taliban-led government.

In 2016, John Glenn, whose 1962 flight as the first U.S. astronaut to orbit the Earth made him an American hero and propelled him to a long career in the U.S. Senate, died in Columbus, Ohio, at 95.

In 2017, Japanese pitching and hitting star Shohei Ohtani announced that he would sign with the Los Angeles Angels.

In 2022, Russia freed WNBA star Brittney Griner in a high-profile prisoner exchange with the U.S. that released Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout. Griner had been detained for nearly 10 months.

In 2024, insurgents completed their occupation of the Syrian capital of Damascus as a half-century of Assad family rule swiftly crumbled. Russian state media reported that President Bashar Assad was in Moscow after fleeing the rebel advance.

Today's Birthdays: Flutist James Galway is 86. Author Bill Bryson is 74. Actor Kim Basinger (BAY'-sing-ur) is 72. Commentator and columnist Ann Coulter is 64. Actor Wendell Pierce is 63. Actor Teri Hatcher is 61. Basketball Hall of Famer Teresa Weatherspoon is 60. Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Mussina is 57. Actor Dominic Monaghan is 49. NASCAR driver Ryan Newman is 48. Singer Nicki Minaj is 43. Country singer Sam Hunt is 41. Actor AnnaSophia Robb is 32.

Here are the NFL scores from Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025:

Buffalo Bills 39, Cincinnati Bengals 34

Pittsburgh Steelers 27, Baltimore Ravens 22

Seattle Seahawks 37, Atlanta Falcons 9

Tennessee Titans 31, Cleveland Browns 29

Miami Dolphins 34, New York Jets 10

New Orleans Saints 24, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 20

Jacksonville Jaguars 36, Indianapolis Colts 19

Minnesota Vikings 31, Washington Commanders 0

Denver Broncos 24, Las Vegas Raiders 17

Green Bay Packers 28, Chicago Bears 21

Los Angeles Rams 45, Arizona Cardinals 17

Houston Texans 20, Kansas City Chiefs 10

Monday's Game:

Philadelphia Eagles at Los Angeles Chargers (Dec. 8)