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Community Calendar

Tuesday, Oct. 13

Senior Menu: Beef stew, fruited Jello, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cereal.

School Lunch: Scalloped potatoes with ham, bun.

School Board Meeting, 7 a.m., GHS Library Conference Room

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.

Fifth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 4 p.m., Elementary Gym

Community Bond Issue Meeting — Bristol, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

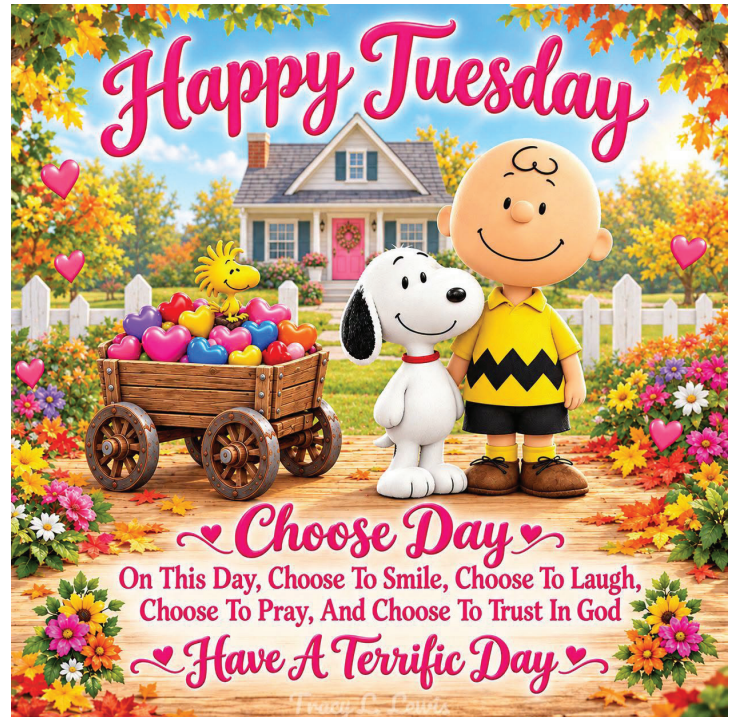
Senior Menu: Chicken bacon ranch pasta, broccoli, fruit, whole wheat bread.

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School Breakfast: Breakfast bento box.

School Lunch: Chicken and noodles, peas.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.

Region 1A Cross Country Meet at Webster Golf Course (Girls varsity, 11 a.m.; Boys varsity, 2 p.m.; JV times TBA)

Fourth Grade GBB Practice, 5:30 p.m., Elementary School

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 15

Senior Menu: Goulash, corn, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cheese breakfast bake.

School Lunch: Flat bread sub, chips.

Volleyball at Deuel (JH at 4 p.m., C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity at 7:15 p.m.)

GT GBB Fall Skills, 6-8 p.m., Arena

Sixth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 8 p.m., Arena

Friday, Oct. 16

Senior Menu: Roast pork, baked potato, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Fruit buckle.

School Lunch: Meatballs, green beans.

Football at Aberdeen Roncalli, 7 p.m., Dacotah Bank Stadium

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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.

Rep. Omar's Home Search

Homeland Security Investigations agents searched the Washington, DC, home of Rep. Ilhan Omar (D, MN-5) yesterday. The raid occurred 22 days before the Nov. 3 midterm elections, despite long-standing Justice Department guidance advising prosecutors to refrain from publicly investigating candidates within 60 days of an election.

Omar has represented Minnesota's 5th District, which includes Minneapolis, since 2019 and is seeking a fifth term this cycle. She was born in Somalia in 1982, arrived in the US as a refugee at age 12, and became a naturalized citizen in 2000. The search was reportedly part of a yearslong investigation into alleged immigration fraud stemming from paperwork her late father completed when she was a child. The Trump administration has repeatedly questioned Omar's immigration status and alleged she married her brother to help him obtain citizenship. She has denied all accusations.

Polls predict Omar has a 99% probability of winning reelection in November over the Republican nominee John Nagel.

Russell Brand on Trial

British comedian and YouTuber Russell Brand appeared in a London court yesterday for the start of a trial on rape, sexual assault, and indecent assault charges involving six women.

Brand, 51, faces seven charges for events that allegedly occurred between 1999 and 2009, including raping a woman during a British Labour Party conference. The charges came after a 2023 investigative documentary examined sexual assault allegations made against the comedian by multiple women from 2006 to 2013 (watch trailer, warning—sensitive). Brand, who denies any wrongdoing, has been barred from making revenue on YouTube since the documentary spurred an investigation into his conduct. However, his account gained 140,000 subscribers and his videos saw 31% more likes over the following four months.

After starting his career at the BBC and MTV, Brand more than doubled his YouTube following in 2021 by voicing COVID-19 skepticism. He now boasts roughly 6.6 million followers and continues to post conspiracy theories about topics ranging from 9/11 to Jeffrey Epstein.

Historic Food Market Fire

A fire destroyed Paris' oldest covered food market early yesterday. It is not clear what started the fire at the popular tourist destination, which sits at the heart of the city's historic neighborhood, Le Marais.

The Enfants Rouges ("red children") market was founded in 1615, during the reign of King Louis XIII. In the late 1700s, the market was named after a nearby orphanage whose children wore red uniforms. In the 1980s and '90s, residents blocked a plan to turn Enfants Rouges—then in disrepair—into a parking lot; the market reopened as a food court in 2000. This year, Food & Wine named it among the world's top 10 global market destinations. All 17 stalls were destroyed in yesterday's fire.

Separately, a cyberattack caused refrigerators at two French supermarket chains—Intermarché and Coopérative U—to defrost, the retailers said yesterday. More than 200 shops were affected.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

FBI investigates "Cruel Intentions" actress Selma Blair for allegedly assaulting flight attendants, attempting to open aircraft door midflight; publicist cites a medical emergency. Blair was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2018.

Collin Gosselin, known for appearing alongside his seven siblings in "Jon & Kate Plus 8," alleges his mother verbally and physically abused him as a child.

Actor RJ Mitte, who played Walter White Jr. in "Breaking Bad," dies at age 34.

LIV golfers will not be allowed on the European-based DP World Tour in 2027, barring them from competing on Europe's team in next year's Ryder Cup.

Science & Technology

Meta debuts advanced AI models, Muse Wonder and Muse Wonder Full, claiming they outperformed advanced OpenAI and Anthropic models on several tests.

Google unveils Fitbit Edge, a lower-profile wearable fitness monitor that tracks movement and offers workout plans using Gemini AI assistant.

Researchers identify sudden shifts in bone health, liver and kidney function, and blood chemistry during menopause.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed (S&P 500 -0.1%, Dow +0.4%, Nasdaq -0.4%) as oil prices rise and investors prepare for big bank earnings this week.

Nobel Prize in economics is awarded to American-born economists Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford for theories on how to stabilize economies after shocks, such as inflation and energy crises.

Delta postpones nonstop service to Riyadh until March following a series of deadly attacks by Iran-backed Houthis.

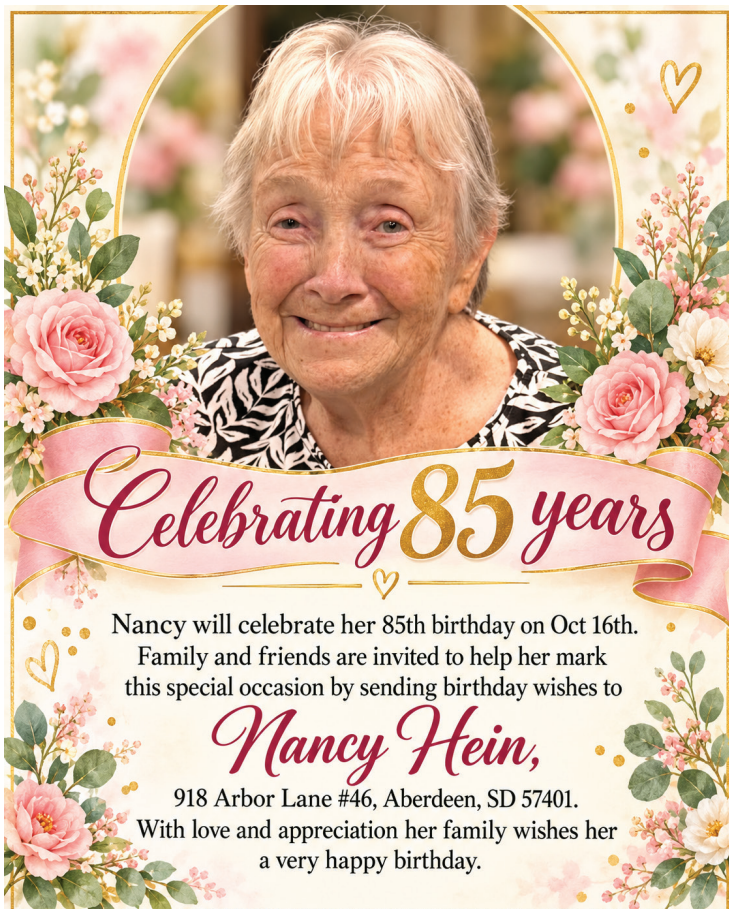
Getty Images to file for bankruptcy and go private.

Politics & World Affairs

British government accuses Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps of directing suspected plot on UK airbase used by the US that was thwarted, freezes assets of IRGC senior leader.

Sixth measles-related death is reported in Pennsylvania, after state surpassed 1,000 recorded cases last week out of 4,000 nationally.

Pope Leo XIV undergoes surgery today to remove what the Vatican called an early-stage lung nodule.



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Groton Area rallies past Britton-Hecla in four-set volleyball victory

Groton Area overcame a slow start and a determined Britton-Hecla squad Monday night in Britton, rallying from a first-set loss to defeat the Braves, 3-1, in volleyball action. The Tigers won by scores of 24-26, 25-21, 25-18 and 25-20.

The victory improved Groton Area's record to 12-10, while Britton-Hecla fell to 13-4.

The Braves controlled much of the opening set, jumping out to a 3-0 lead before extending their advantage to 11-5. Groton Area battled back to within one point at 11-10, but Britton-Hecla regained control and built a 20-14 lead.

The Tigers weren't finished, however, rallying to tie the set at 24. Britton-Hecla answered with the final two points, with Kennady Van Lith delivering the winning ace serve for a 26-24 victory.

Groton Area found its rhythm in the second set. After Britton-Hecla scored the opening point, the Tigers took a 2-1 lead and maintained the advantage for much of the set. The Braves battled back to tie the score at 18, but Groton responded with two consecutive points to regain a 20-18 lead and went on to win, 25-21.

The third set belonged to the Tigers. After the teams exchanged the opening two points, Groton Area moved ahead and never trailed again, pulling away for a 25-18 victory.

Groton Area also controlled much of the fourth set, although the Braves continued to challenge. Britton-Hecla's only lead came at 2-1, and the teams battled through five ties, the last coming at 12-12. The Tigers then put together a decisive six-point run to open an 18-12 advantage and finished off the match with a 25-20 victory.

Groton Area coach Chelsea Hanson said the Tigers' biggest improvement came from their ability to settle into their rotations and establish an offensive rhythm after a difficult opening set.

"We didn't really make a lot of adjustments between the first set and second set," Hanson said. "It was just getting in rhythm."

Hanson explained that the team faced some uncertainty before the match because Chesney Weber wasn't feeling well, forcing the coaching staff to consider different lineups and rotations.

"We didn't know if Chesney was going to be able to play," Hanson said. "We were trying to kind of scramble through."

Although the changes might not have been obvious to spectators, Hanson said moving players into different positions affects everything from serving rotations to offensive responsibilities.

"We just had our lumps in the first set, but I thought we bounced back really nice," Hanson said.

One of the biggest bright spots for Groton Area was its blocking performance.

Elizabeth Cole finished with eight blocks, including four solo and four assisted blocks, putting her just one shy of the school record of nine. Hanson said the coaching staff was reviewing one questionable block that could potentially tie the record.

"We've spent just enough amount of time on our blocking, and we blocked so well tonight," Hanson said. "We were actually counting because you had Libby Cole for eight blocks. We did as well, but the school record is nine."

Hanson said she planned to review the game film to determine whether the additional block should be credited.

The Tigers also received balanced production from their hitters.

Tevan Hanson led Groton Area with 13 kills and one ace serve, while Taryn Traphagen added 11 kills, two solo blocks and two assisted blocks. Kella Tracy contributed eight kills, one solo block and one assisted block, while Cole added eight kills to her strong blocking performance.

Makenna Krause recorded seven kills and four assisted blocks. Chesney Weber had one kill and three ace serves, while Abby Fjeldheim added one kill, one ace serve and one block.

Coach Hanson particularly praised Krause and Tracy for their ability to compete at the net despite being among the shorter players on the floor.

"McKenna and Kella are only like 5-6, but you would not know it," Hanson said, noting their jumping ability and quickness.

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Hanson said the Tigers' balanced offense makes them more difficult to defend because opponents cannot concentrate solely on stopping Traphagen.

"The nice thing is if they can slow her down, but we have five other people that can score, that makes us really tough to beat," Hanson said.

Groton Area recorded 11 kills, two ace serves and five blocks in the opening set, accounting for 18 of its 24 points. The Tigers increased their offensive production in the second set with 17 kills, two ace serves and one block, earning 20 of their 25 points.

In the third set, Groton had nine kills, four ace serves and three blocks for 16 earned points. The Tigers finished the fourth set with 11 kills and two blocks, accounting for 13 of their 25 points.

Britton-Hecla also presented challenges with its hitting, blocking and defensive play.

Madelynn Micko led the Braves with 11 kills, two solo blocks and one assisted block. Chellon Pruitt added 11 kills and two ace serves, while Daynika Zuehlke contributed eight kills and 15 digs.

Jaelee Grupe finished with eight kills, two solo blocks, one assisted block, 28 assists and 15 digs. Adalynn Schmieg added five kills, Tiana Tank had four kills, and Brynlee Schmieg recorded 14 digs. Kennady Van Lith finished with three ace serves.

The Braves recorded nine kills, four ace serves and one block in the opening set. Britton-Hecla had its strongest offensive set in the second with 16 kills and two ace serves, accounting for 18 of its 21 points. The Braves had nine kills in the third set and nine kills and two blocks in the fourth.

Hanson credited Britton-Hecla for its defensive effort and ability to keep rallies alive.

"I thought they defended really well," Hanson said. "I thought they got their hands on a lot of balls that were all but down."

Hanson said Britton-Hecla could be a potential regional tournament opponent, making Monday's matchup particularly valuable.

"They're a good team. They're fun to compete against," Hanson said.

One area Hanson wants to improve is serving consistency. She said the Tigers committed too many service errors, something that could become costly against stronger opponents.

"Your ace-to-error ratio should be one-to-one at least," Hanson said. "Against good teams, you just can't do it."

Despite those concerns, Hanson was pleased with the improvement in blocking, hitting and the number of players contributing offensively.

"These are the things that we have to do to survive at the end of the season," Hanson said.

The coach also reflected on the Tigers' challenging schedule, which included several difficult opponents during the first weeks of the season. She said the early losses tested the team's confidence but provided opportunities to develop combinations and prepare for postseason competition.

"It was really tough to keep energy up. It was hard to keep morale up," Hanson said. "But we knew once we got into October that our schedule was going to make a change and that we had a chance to be very successful."

Hanson emphasized that the team's ultimate goal remains reaching the state tournament.

"We only have to win three games at the right time to make it to the state tournament," Hanson said. "Our goal is just getting ourselves prepared for battle so that whenever and whoever we face at the end of October, beginning of November, that we're ready to go."

Groton Area travels to Deuel on Thursday before competing Saturday in the Miller Tournament, where eight teams will be divided into two pools based on seeding.

Groton Area sweeps junior varsity match

Groton Area also picked up a two-set victory in junior varsity action, defeating Britton-Hecla, 25-18 and 25-15.

Abby Fjeldheim led the Tigers with 10 kills and four ace serves, while Kinley Sandness added six kills. Libby Cole contributed four kills, Brooklyn Spanier had two kills and one ace serve, and Tori Schuster recorded one ace serve.

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For Britton-Hecla, Koryn Jones had four kills, while Adalynn Schmieg added one kill and three ace serves.

Tigers win C match in straight sets

Groton Area completed the evening sweep with a 25-17, 25-20 victory in the C match.

A decisive 10-point run highlighted the opening set. With the score tied at 10, the Tigers scored 10 consecutive points to take a commanding 20-10 lead before finishing with a 25-17 victory.

Brynlee Dunker led Groton Area with eight kills and three ace serves, while Charli Jacobsen added seven kills and one ace serve. Mya Moody contributed seven ace serves and two kills, and Maycee Moody had three kills and one ace serve.

Riley Stoltenberg finished with five kills, while Sophia Fliehs added an ace serve.

For Britton-Hecla, Gabriella Hawkinson recorded four ace serves and one kill, while Alexys Olson added three ace serves and one kill.

Class ▾

1A ▾

		Season			Seed Pts
#	Name	W	L	PCT	<u>PTS</u>
1	 Aberdeen Roncalli	13	5	.722	44.111
2	 Groton Area	12	10	.545	42.227
3	 Britton-Hecla	13	4	.765	41.625
4	 Webster Area	9	8	.529	40.941
5	 Milbank	7	10	.412	39.471
6	 Redfield	5	15	.250	37.850
7	 Sisseton	2	14	.125	36.625



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Independent US Senate candidates from Plains states say they would not caucus with either party

BY JOSHUA HAIAR

Three independent U.S. Senate candidates from Great Plains states said Monday they will not caucus with Republicans or Democrats if elected, while the National Republican Senatorial Committee accused them of being Democrats in disguise.

Brian Bengs of South Dakota, Seth Bodnar of Montana and Dan Osborn of Nebraska made the commitment during a virtual press conference.

Bengs, a Hot Springs resident and military veteran who formerly worked as a professor and park ranger, is running his second U.S. Senate campaign in South Dakota. He ran as a Democrat against Republican Sen. John Thune in 2022 and received 26% of the vote. This time, he is running as an independent against Republican Sen. Mike Rounds in the Nov. 3 election. A Democratic nominee dropped out of the race.

Bengs and the other two candidates criticized corporate influence in Washington and said they would support policies from both parties if they benefit the people of their states.

"South Dakotans deserve a senator who answers to them, not to national party leaders in Washington," Bengs said.

Meanwhile, the National Republican Senatorial Committee issued a statement dismissing the pledges.

"The Fake Independent circus is fooling nobody," said Committee National Press Secretary Bernadette Breslin. "Bengs, Osborn, and Bodnar are Democrats who would caucus with Democrats and fight for the radical left's agenda if elected to the U.S. Senate."

Rounds' campaign spokesperson Rob Skjonsberg echoed that sentiment in a statement to South Dakota Searchlight.

"Their policies are consistent with Bernie and AOC — they're not fooling anyone," Skjonsberg's statement said, referencing independent U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who has caucused with Democrats, and U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-New York.

The Republican committee also alleged that senators who do not caucus with either party would lose access to Senate committee positions, limiting their ability to represent constituents.

The candidates acknowledged that remaining independent could complicate efforts to secure committee assignments but argued their votes could carry significant weight in a closely divided Senate, which could allow them to negotiate for committee assignments.

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 as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe files lawsuit to shut down Dakota Access Pipeline

BY JACK DURA

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe on Friday filed a new lawsuit to try to shut down the Dakota Access oil pipeline, continuing a decadelong battle over the project.

The tribe filed the case in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and three federal officials of

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those agencies. The lawsuit seeks to overturn the Army Corps' May record of decision granting an easement for the pipeline's river crossing upstream of the tribe's reservation, among other actions.

"For ten years, Standing Rock's concerns about this pipeline have not changed, and for ten years we have fought to protect our water, our Treaty rights, and our people," Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman Steve Sitting Bear said in a statement. "The Army Corps has now chosen to move forward without addressing those concerns. Until this pipeline is shut down, we will continue to defend what generations before us protected for our children."

In 2016 and 2017, thousands of people gathered near the project's Missouri River crossing to demonstrate against the pipeline, which the tribe views as a threat to its water supply from a potential rupture.

In 2020, a federal judge ordered a more rigorous environmental review of the pipeline's river crossing. In May, the Army Corps issued its record of decision granting the crucial easement for the pipeline, which has continuously operated since mid-2017.

The tribe said the final environmental impact statement issued by the Army Corps in December 2025 does not resolve issues surrounding the safety of the pipeline, spill response, threats to the tribe's sole source for drinking water, treaty rights and the federal government's obligations to the tribe.

The tribe also expressed concerns about the pipeline potentially increasing capacity to 1.1 million barrels of oil per day which the tribe said would change operational risks related to spill volume and emergency shutdown, according to court papers.

"We should not have to live with unanswered questions about the safety of our water," Sitting Bear said.

The pipeline transports an average of 500,000 to 525,000 barrels of oil per day from North Dakota's Bakken oil field to Illinois. The environmental review considered a capacity of up to 1.1 million barrels per day. The pipeline's operational capacity is 750,000 barrels per day, North Dakota Pipeline Authority Director Justin Kringstad said.

The federal pipeline safety agency declined to comment on the lawsuit. Officials with the Army Corps and pipeline developer Energy Transfer did not return emails seeking comment Friday.

State and industry officials have said the pipeline is safe and needed infrastructure for transporting oil from North Dakota, the No. 3 oil-producing state in the U.S. Energy Transfer has said the pipeline is among the safest in the world, complies with regulations and crosses at least 95 feet below the riverbed.

The tribe argues a spill would threaten the health and welfare of the Standing Rock community. The lawsuit also seeks to rescind the federal pipeline safety agency's approvals of spill response plans, and block the transport of oil through the river section until spill response plans meet federal law, according to court documents.

"The Tribe files this action to require the defendant agencies to respect the Treaty rights and sovereignty of the Tribe and to protect the waters of the Missouri River and the ancestors resting at the water's edge," the tribe said in court papers.

In 2024, Standing Rock filed a federal lawsuit against the Army Corps over its ongoing environmental review. In 2025, a judge dismissed the case. The tribe appealed, but dropped its appeal earlier this year.

Other court cases still linger in connection with the protests, including Energy Transfer's lawsuit against several Greenpeace organizations and a Dutch lawsuit brought by Greenpeace International against the pipeline developer.

Last month, tribal citizens, council members and others who were at the protests attended a first-time renewable energy event at Standing Rock and reflected on the decade since the demonstrations and how they have moved forward, despite not blocking the pipeline.

North Dakota Monitor reporter Michael Achterling contributed to this story. Mary Steurer also contributed to this story.

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

Jack Dura is a North Dakota Monitor reporter based in Bismarck. His coverage areas include state government, elections, politics and courts. He can be reached at jdura@northdakotamonitor.com.

Cornell case highlights the patchwork of state laws governing intoxication, sexual consent

In 19 states, statutes limit mental incapacity only to cases of involuntary intoxication
BY AMANDA WATFORD

A former Cornell University student's allegations of gang rape in 2024 have renewed attention on a difficult area of sexual assault law.

A person can be awake, responsive and even able to move during a sexual encounter while still being so intoxicated or impaired that they cannot understand what is happening or make an informed decision about sex.

But whether that person is considered legally incapable of consenting can depend on the state and, in some cases, on how the person became intoxicated.

"There are a lot of very good laws on the books," said Renée Williams, CEO of the National Center for Victims of Crime. "The problem is that nobody knows how to enforce them, including district attorneys, and enforcement varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, even within the same state."

In New York, where Cornell is located, criminal law distinguishes between mental incapacitation caused by a substance administered without a person's consent — such as being "roofied" — and other forms of intoxication. That can leave prosecutors relying on other provisions of the state's sexual assault laws when someone voluntarily drinks alcohol or uses drugs and later becomes severely impaired.

The legal debate comes amid years of scrutiny over sexual assault and safety on college campuses, particularly around fraternity and sorority life, where alcohol and drugs are often part of the social environment. The Cornell case has brought those broader concerns back into focus while New York state lawmakers consider changes to the state's sexual assault laws.

Across the country, sexual assault statutes vary in how they define incapacity, what level of impairment can make someone legally unable to consent and what prosecutors must prove about the accused person's knowledge of the victim's condition.

Nineteen states, including New York, currently have statutes that limit the definition of mental incapacity in sexual assault law only to cases of involuntary intoxication, such as when someone is drugged against their will, according to experts.

More than half of states also set time limits for prosecuting sexual assault. But those statutes of limitations vary by state and offense, and they can make prosecution more difficult when a case is reported years after an alleged assault, according to a review of state laws by NBC News.

Legislation on the issue has been before New York lawmakers for years, but the Cornell case has renewed attention on proposed changes to the state's sexual assault laws. Two measures that passed the state Senate unanimously earlier this year would broaden how the law addresses intoxication and incapacity, and change the definition of "physically helpless."

The legislature has already adjourned for the year, but both measures were stalled in the Assembly after they failed to garner enough support for passage. Since the case came to light, the Assembly has formed a 15-member working group to examine the state's sexual assault laws ahead of the 2027 session.

Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul, who has assigned the state's attorney general to investigate the case independently, has said lawmakers could consider changes to state law early next year.

Some possible changes have drawn pushback from some criminal defense attorneys, including the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, who have raised concerns about whether the proposed language would provide enough guidance about when someone is too intoxicated to legally consent.

"Claims that a loophole exists are not supported by the law, and proposals based on that premise risk creating confusion while eroding fundamental due process protections and increasing the risk of wrongful convictions," the organization said in an emailed statement to Stateline.

What happened at Cornell

The allegations date to October 2024, when the young woman, identified in court documents as Jane Doe, was a student at Cornell. She alleged that she was sexually assaulted by members of the Chi Phi

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fraternity, naming seven men in connection with the incident.

She said in her lawsuit that she drank alcohol at a local bar, then felt pressured by two of the defendants to snort ketamine while at a party at the fraternity chapter house, and that it was her first time doing the drug. She also wrote that she was "plied" with marijuana and "Jamaican Liquor."

All of the men have denied the allegations, according to hundreds of pages of confidential investigative files obtained by The New York Times. Jane Doe filed a civil lawsuit in September naming the fraternity members, the fraternity, Cornell University, a local bar and her sorority, Tri Delta, as defendants. A Snapchat screenshot in the lawsuit shows a message to all Chi Phi fraternity members encouraging them to join the encounter.

Jane Doe reported the alleged assault to Cornell police in November 2024. In an interview with police, she described being severely intoxicated and said she was confident she had been raped. The subsequent criminal investigation did not result in charges.

Tompkins County, New York, District Attorney Matthew Van Houten has defended his office's decision, saying the evidence available to prosecutors did not establish a prosecutable case under New York law, and that his office had not received the full transcript of the woman's interview with police. The New York Times reported last week that a condensed version of the police statement sent to the DA's office omitted that she reported being raped.

Under Cornell's disciplinary process, two of the men were expelled, two suspended, two given lesser sanctions and one, a graduate, barred from campus. The Chi Phi fraternity chapter was closed in 2024.

But university proceedings and criminal prosecutions operate under different standards. For prosecutors, the issue is whether they can establish the elements of a specific sexual offense under New York's criminal statutes.

That makes the state's definitions of consent and incapacity central to the case.

Defining incapacity

The details of New York's penal law offer a window into how seemingly narrow distinctions in legislative language can have significant implications for the outcome of a sexual assault case.

The state's criminal code identifies several circumstances in which a person is considered incapable of consenting to sexual activity.

One is physical helplessness. A person is physically helpless when they are unconscious or otherwise physically unable to communicate unwillingness to an act.

Another is mental incapacitation, which New York defines as being temporarily incapable of appraising or controlling one's conduct because of an intoxicating substance administered without the person's consent.

Those definitions can create challenges in cases involving intoxication. Erin Murphy, an expert on sexual assault laws and a law professor at New York University, said the physical-helplessness standard can be difficult to apply to someone who is severely intoxicated but still conscious.

"The failure to express unwillingness continuously means that they were not physically helpless," Murphy said, describing current law. "Someone can kind of fall through the cracks."

New York law also raises questions about what the person accused of the crime knew about the other person's condition. And a defendant's own intoxication can also be relevant.

One of the men accused in the Cornell case said he was "a victim of sexual misconduct" because Jane Doe had performed oral sex on him when he was "too incapacitated" to consent, according to the university's investigative files obtained by The New York Times.

Voluntary intoxication

One of the most significant distinctions in New York's law is that its definition of mental incapacitation only applies when an intoxicating substance was administered without the person's consent, such as when someone is unknowingly drugged.

That does not make sex with a voluntarily intoxicated person automatically legal. Other provisions of New York's sexual assault laws address forcible compulsion and cases in which a person clearly expresses that they do not consent.

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Still, the distinction has fueled what some lawmakers and victim advocates call a “voluntary intoxication loophole.” But others, including the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, deny there is a loophole.

“Proposed legislation that would brand someone a rapist if their partner is voluntarily intoxicated and later claims a crime was committed because they were “incapable of appraising or controlling their conduct” is simply too vague to be fairly enforced,” the association said in an emailed statement.

Murphy said the challenge for lawmakers is drawing a line between someone who is intoxicated but still capable of making consensual decisions and someone whose impairment leaves them unable to consent.

“Any indication they were conscious or unwilling kind of works against them under physical helplessness,” Murphy said, referring to how New York’s laws are currently written.

That line can be particularly difficult to establish when a person has little or no memory of a sexual encounter. Alcohol, marijuana and ketamine — substances Jane Doe said she consumed before and during the alleged assault — can affect memory, judgment and perception.

Prosecutors will likely have to rely on text messages, photographs, videos, witness accounts and other evidence to establish Jane Doe’s condition, Murphy said.

Dr. Chinmoy Gulrajani, a psychiatry professor at the University of Minnesota who has studied intoxication and consent laws across the U.S., said a person’s effort to reconstruct an incident afterward can also introduce another complication. Talking with friends or other witnesses about what happened may help fill gaps in memory, but those conversations can also influence how a person remembers or interprets the encounter, and, in turn, how they report it to authorities.

“To actually figure out what actually went down and what the exact facts were can be a challenge for the legal system,” Gulrajani said.

Because a person’s condition can change during an encounter, prosecutors and juries may have to assess the evidence moment by moment, including what the accused person knew about the other person’s condition.

Varied approaches across the states

New York is also not the only state wrestling with this issue.

A national comparison is complicated because states define consent, incapacity, intoxication and sexual offenses differently. Some statutes focus on whether the victim was “mentally incapacitated.” Others use terms such as “incapable,” “impaired” or “unable to resist.” Some expressly address intoxication, while others rely on broader definitions or case law.

A 2022 research article published in the Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law found significant variation among state statutes and cautioned that courts can interpret similarly worded laws differently.

In 2021, when the review of state statutes was conducted, 21 states appeared to limit mental incapacity to involuntary intoxication only — though two states, Michigan and Texas, have since changed their laws.

Another 25 states now recognize incapacity from either voluntary or involuntary intoxication. And six states address the issue through case law rather than statutory language, according to the research article.

“Lawmakers need to understand that a person who is mentally incapacitated due to intoxication is a vulnerable person,” said Gulrajani, the Minnesota psychiatry professor and an author of the research article. “It does not matter whether they ingested the chemical of their own volition, or it was forced on them, or they were deceived into taking it.”

Minnesota changed its law in 2021 after its Supreme Court overturned a sexual misconduct conviction involving a victim who had voluntarily become intoxicated.

The state legislature amended the law so that the victim’s intoxication could establish incapacity regardless of whether the alcohol or drugs had been voluntarily consumed.

Michigan adopted similar language in 2023, following years of pressure to pursue other major legislative changes to better support survivors of sexual violence.

In Texas, lawmakers added a provision in 2025 that expressly defines as sexual assault a situation in

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which a person knows someone is so intoxicated or impaired by a substance that they are incapable of consenting.

Stateline reporter Amanda Watford can be reached at awatford@stateline.org.

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

Amanda Watford (née Hernández) is a national reporter covering criminal justice and public safety for Stateline. Her reporting focuses on how states are reshaping approaches to policing, crime victims' services, corrections, courts, drug policy, gun violence and more.

US senators from both parties blast Trump order to import Russian diesel as illegal

BY JACOB FISCHLER

The Trump administration's order to allow import of Russian diesel violates a 2022 law banning Russian energy imports while the country's war with Ukraine is ongoing, according to a bipartisan group of U.S. senators.

Following an Oct. 9 call between President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control lifted sanctions against the "import sale, delivery, offloading, or importation" of Russian diesel. Prices of diesel have skyrocketed in recent months during Trump's war in Iran.

The administration did not consult with Congress before lifting the sanctions, which is required by the 2022 law, six senators said Sunday in a statement.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee ranking Democrat Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Democrat Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Republicans Susan Collins of Maine, John Curtis of Utah, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Thom Tillis of North Carolina called on Trump to "immediately reverse course."

"Congress explicitly banned Russian energy imports in 2022 to prevent American dollars from financing Putin's brutal war against Ukraine," they wrote. "Congress was clear: the U.S. should not import oil from Russia until it ends its aggression against Ukraine and ceases threats against our NATO Allies."

"President Trump's decision to allow Russian diesel imports to the U.S. runs directly counter to that law," the group added.

U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, a Texas Democrat who sponsored the 2022 law blocking imports of Russian energy products, also said in a Monday statement the administration's move was illegal.

"Trump is directly violating that law, lifting sanctions to permit the first Russian diesel imports into the United States since the law took effect, without satisfying the specific legal conditions it requires," he wrote. "He illegally rewards his pal Putin while once again blaming Zelensky for not capitulating to Putin. Meanwhile, every day Putin murders more Ukrainian civilians."

Broad support for law

The law passed the Senate unanimously and the House 413-9 before President Joe Biden signed it in April 2022, shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine.

It allows for the president to lift sanctions on Russian energy imports, after consultation with Congress, if Russia has withdrawn from Ukraine, recognized Ukraine's right to independence and poses no immediate threat to any NATO members.

Throughout his second term, Trump has attempted to use trade policy, including an aggressive tariffs schedule, to extract concessions from foreign governments.

But reopening Russian energy imports appears to break with that record. Trump did not announce any accommodation Russia provided to reenter the U.S. market, instead framing the move explicitly in domestic economic terms.

"Between our TOTAL CONTROL of the Strait of Hormuz, and this great announcement on Russian Energy, Diesel Prices for Americans and, indeed, the World, will be COMING DOWN, IN RECORD NUMBERS,

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AND FAST," he wrote on social media Friday. "Lower prices for Americans, especially our Great Farmers, Ranchers, and Truckers, is my Greatest Priority. This is a very big and important announcement."

The agreement is in effect until April 7, 2027.

The nationwide average price for a gallon of diesel last week was \$6.20, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That marks a \$2.49 increase, or 67%, from a year ago.

The price of fuel, including diesel, and other consumer goods is among the top campaign issues for the Nov. 3 midterm elections.

Diesel prices are particularly important in farm states like Iowa, Kansas and Texas. Democrats in U.S. Senate races in those generally red states are polling unusually well this year.

Spokespeople for the White House and Treasury Department did not respond to messages seeking comment Monday.

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

US House Dem leaders condemn Homeland Security raid on home of Rep. Ilhan Omar

BY ASHLEY MURRAY

WASHINGTON — Democratic leaders in the U.S. House condemned a "deeply disturbing" raid early Monday at the District of Columbia home of Rep. Ilhan Omar, a Minnesota Democrat who has long been a target of verbal attacks by President Donald Trump and Republicans.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., Democratic Whip Katherine Clark, D-Mass., and House Democratic Caucus Chair Pete Aguilar, D-Calif., called the morning raid by Department of Homeland Security officials "egregious."

The House minority leaders said the search of Omar's home "raises serious questions about the continued corrupt weaponization of the federal government against Donald Trump's adversaries."

"For years Donald Trump and far-right extremists have relentlessly targeted Congresswoman Omar with vile personal attacks and baseless accusations," Jeffries, Clark and Aguilar said in a statement posted on social media Monday. "Now, less than 30 days before the midterm election, his violent mass deportation machine has descended upon the home of a duly elected Member of Congress and her family."

Omar, a Somali-born American and one of four Muslims in Congress, represents a deep-blue district.

Fox News first published a report on the raid just after 7:30 a.m. Eastern, and cited two sources who told the network the operation was related to an investigation of Omar's immigration paperwork. Omar was resettled as a refugee in the United States with her family at the age of 12 in 1995 and was later naturalized as a U.S. citizen.

A Department of Justice official, asked for comment on the raid, told States Newsroom: "Homeland Security Investigations executed a judicially authorized search warrant secured by the Department of Justice. This enforcement action is part of an ongoing federal criminal investigation."

Omar said in a post on social media Monday that she "will not be silenced."

"I'm ok. Make no mistake: this is an attempt to target political enemies and weaponize federal law enforcement. For ten years, Trump has targeted me with baseless lies and smear campaigns. This is just the latest escalation in his campaign of political intimidation," she wrote on X.

Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., wrote in a statement on X that the president is "grossly abusing his power."

"He has repeatedly attacked her, Somali Americans, and Minnesotans. @Ilhan has done nothing to justify a pre-dawn raid ahead of the election. I stand with my sister always," Tlaib wrote.

Trump, without evidence, has accused Omar of being connected to a \$242 million fraud scheme involving pandemic-era funds meant for hunger programs, as well as other fraud investigations in the state, and has called for her to be deported.

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"There is 19 Billion Dollars in Minnesota Somalia Fraud. Fake 'Congresswoman' Ilhan Omar, a constant complainer who hates the USA, knows everything there is to know. She should be in jail, or even a worse punishment, sent back to Somalia, considered one of the absolutely worst countries in the World. She could help to MAKE SOMALIA GREAT AGAIN!" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform on Jan 18.

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

Trump heads West in latest swing to bolster GOP in rocky lead-up to midterms

BY ARIANA FIGUEROA

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump this week will journey out West in an effort to galvanize support for Republican candidates three weeks before the midterm elections and convince voters to support his party amid low presidential approval ratings.

As the deeply unpopular war in Iran enters month eight, resulting in spiking prices at the gas pump and skyrocketing fertilizer prices for the agriculture industry, Trump is scheduled to rally in Alaska on Tuesday and Arizona and Montana on Wednesday, following stops earlier this month in GOP-friendly states that kicked off the last weeks before the election. On Friday, Trump is expected to campaign in Georgia.

Presidents typically sustain electoral losses in midterm election years and in addition, Trump's approval rating is currently hovering around 37% percent, according to an analysis by The New York Times.

Those low approval rates, and polls, have shifted several Senate races to toss-ups.

The Cook Political Report with Amy Walter rates Alaska, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Ohio and Texas as toss-up Senate races. Republicans are not only trying to maintain the House, but their 53-seat majority in the Senate as well.

The president's travel also follows a federal judge's ruling over the weekend that ordered the Trump administration to stop airing ads funded by taxpayer dollars that portrayed Trump in a favorable manner. Trump used about \$20 million in Department of Homeland Security funds to pay for the ads.

Trump's comes after a campaign rally in Tennessee over the weekend. During his remarks in Clarksville, he focused on accusing Democrats of being communists and socialists.

On Monday, Trump is heading to Youngstown, Ohio to deliver remarks. GOP Sen. Jon Husted, who was appointed to fill out the term of Vice President JD Vance, is in a tight race against former Ohio Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown.

Trump is not only in Ohio to support Husted, but also to throw his support behind gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, who is up against Democrat Amy Acton.

Vance is also hitting the campaign trail this week. On Wednesday, he'll visit Georgia and on Thursday will make another stop in Michigan.

Trump is also likely to bring up in his campaign rallies Monday's joint Department of Justice and Homeland Security Investigations raid of Minnesota Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar's house in Washington, D.C. It's a rare move from the Justice Department only several weeks out from the election, given the department generally doesn't conduct such raids unless in extreme circumstances.

She, along with the broader Somali community in Minnesota, are regularly targeted by the president and disproportionately accused of widespread fraud. Recently, the president used violent rhetoric in a social media post that called on Minnesotans to "fight back" against Somali immigrants.

The president directed DHS to Minneapolis, where there is a large Latino and Somali refugee population. A months-long aggressive deportation drive there resulted in then-Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem stepping down from her position after federal immigration officials shot and killed two U.S. citizens, Alex Pretti and Renee Good.

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

Summit pipeline ruling in North Dakota called a win for local control

BY JEFF BEACH

A North Dakota judge ruled Friday that state rules on where infrastructure such as pipelines can be built do not automatically trump local zoning ordinances.

The ruling comes from a case in which a group of landowners and Emmons and Burleigh counties sued the Public Service Commission and pipeline developer Summit Carbon Solutions.

Bismarck attorney Derrick Braaten, who represented Emmons County, said the ruling is a win for local government authority and its ability to set rules on how far a pipeline route must be from homes and other buildings, which is known as a setback.

"It's really significant because what the judge is saying is that he agrees with the local government that the statute preserves local control and there's still a place for local control," Braaten said.

Braaten said the ruling goes beyond pipelines. The Legislature in 2025 copied the language that had applied to pipelines and used it to give the PSC authority over power lines as well.

Preemption of local zoning was an issue during PSC hearings on the JETx power line that is to run from Jamestown to Ellendale.

South Central District Court Judge Jackson Lofgren's order says the pipeline route permit that the PSC issued to Summit in November 2024 remains in place. However, the court says the PSC must address problems identified in the ruling.

Issues the PSC need to address include:

Public welfare: The PSC must better explain why it thinks the pipeline route will not impair public welfare. An attorney for the PSC argued in July it was not responsible for safety, with pipeline safety standards enforced by a federal agency. But Braaten said the judge's ruling is clear that the state agency can and should address safety when considering the effect of a pipeline route on public welfare.

Alternate route: The judge said the PSC did not adequately address why it felt an alternate route through southern Burleigh County had been sufficiently analyzed.

Plume model: Summit created a model for how carbon dioxide might disperse if there were a rupture in its high-pressure pipeline. The PSC agreed with Summit that the information should not be made public. The judge ruled that a redacted version of the model should be made public or the PSC should better explain why the information should not be made public in light of evidence that Summit had given some members of the public access to the model.

Local ordinances: The PSC must make a determination on whether setbacks set by Emmons and Burleigh counties were unreasonable. If deemed unreasonable, then state rules apply.

A spokesperson for the PSC said Friday its legal team was reviewing the judge's findings but would need time to determine the agency's next steps.

Summit Carbon Solutions did not return an email Friday afternoon seeking comment.

The future of Summit's project in North Dakota remains unclear. The Iowa-based company's original plan was to gather carbon emissions from ethanol plants in five states and use a network of pipelines to bring the CO₂ to western North Dakota for permanent underground storage.

But the company has been unable to obtain a permit for a pipeline through South Dakota to get to North Dakota.

In addition, Lofgren ruled a North Dakota law allowing the underground storage was unconstitutional, echoing a ruling in a different court. An appeal seeking to retain access to some of that storage is pending with the North Dakota Supreme Court.

Summit has developed an alternative plan to use underground storage in Wyoming.

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

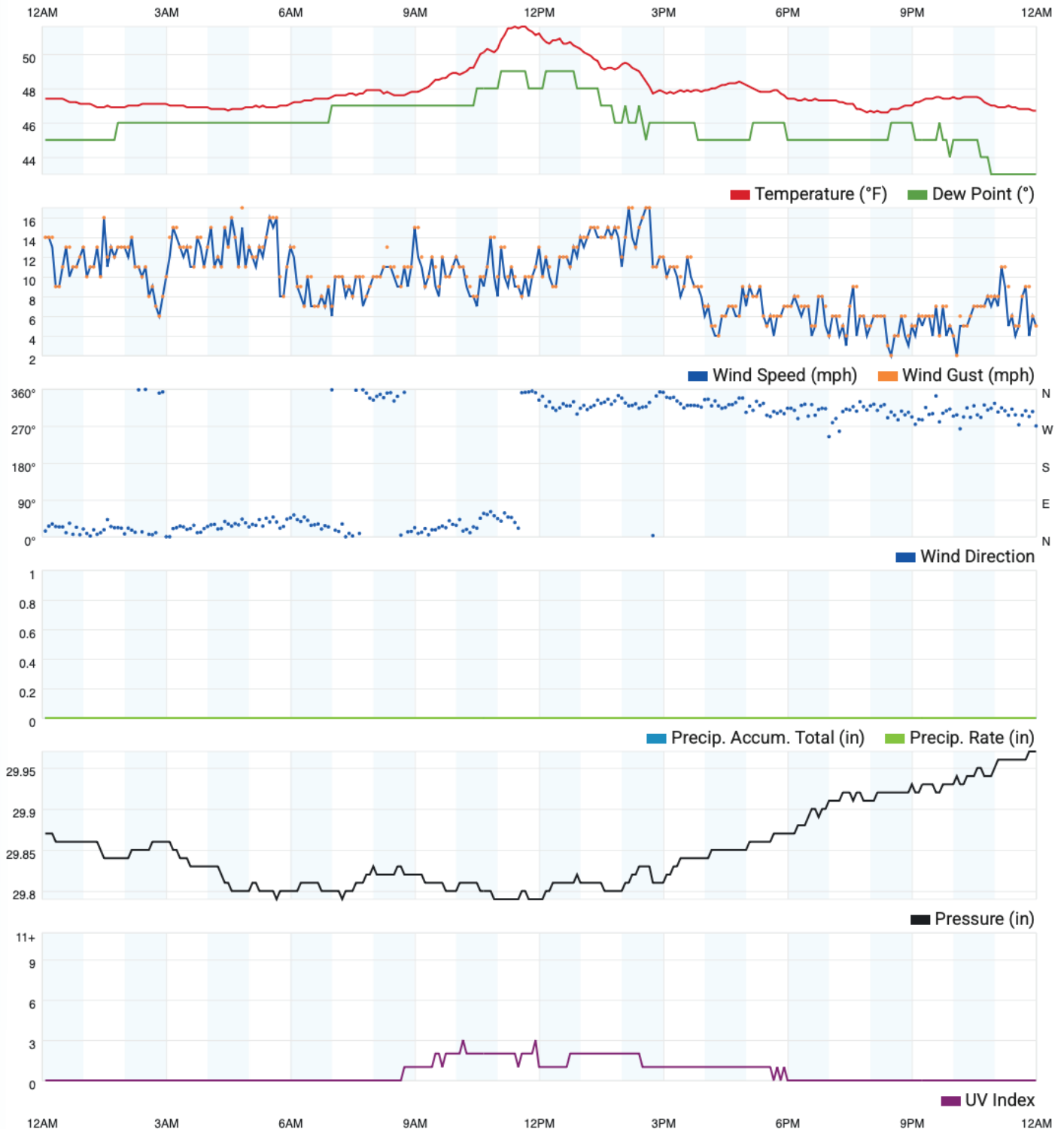
North Dakota Monitor Deputy Editor Jeff Beach is based in the Fargo area. His interests include agriculture, renewable energy and rural issues.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

October 12, 2026



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Today



High: 53 °F

Chance
Showers

Tonight



Low: 33 °F

Mostly Cloudy
then Patchy
Frost

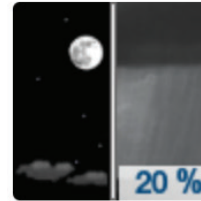
Wednesday



High: 59 °F

Patchy Frost
then Sunny

Wednesday
Night



Low: 35 °F

Mostly Clear
then Slight
Chance
Showers

Thursday



High: 64 °F

Mostly Cloudy
then Mostly
Sunny and
Breezy

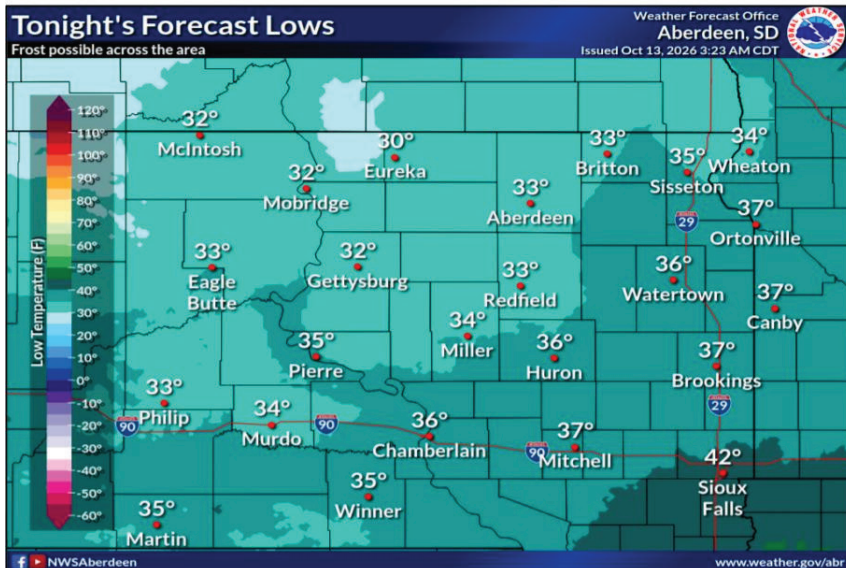


Frost/Freeze Possible Tonight?

October 13, 2026
3:34 AM CDT

Lows forecast in the low to mid 30s tonight

- Frost formation will **largely depend on cloud cover**. Forecast is for partly cloudy skies tonight.
- Less clouds = colder temps and frost more likely.
- More clouds = slightly warmer than forecast temps and less likely to see frost.



Surface high pressure will build over the region tonight, with light winds, partly cloudy skies, and chilly temperatures. Forecast lows are in the low to mid 30s for many areas, which may lead to frost or freeze conditions. There is still some uncertainty in cloud cover tonight, which will play a part in just how cold temperatures will get by Wednesday morning.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 51 °F at 11:36 AM

Low Temp: 47 °F at 4:09 AM

Wind: 20 mph at 1:19 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 87 in 1958

Record Low: 10 in 1909

Average High: 61

Average Low: 35

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.98

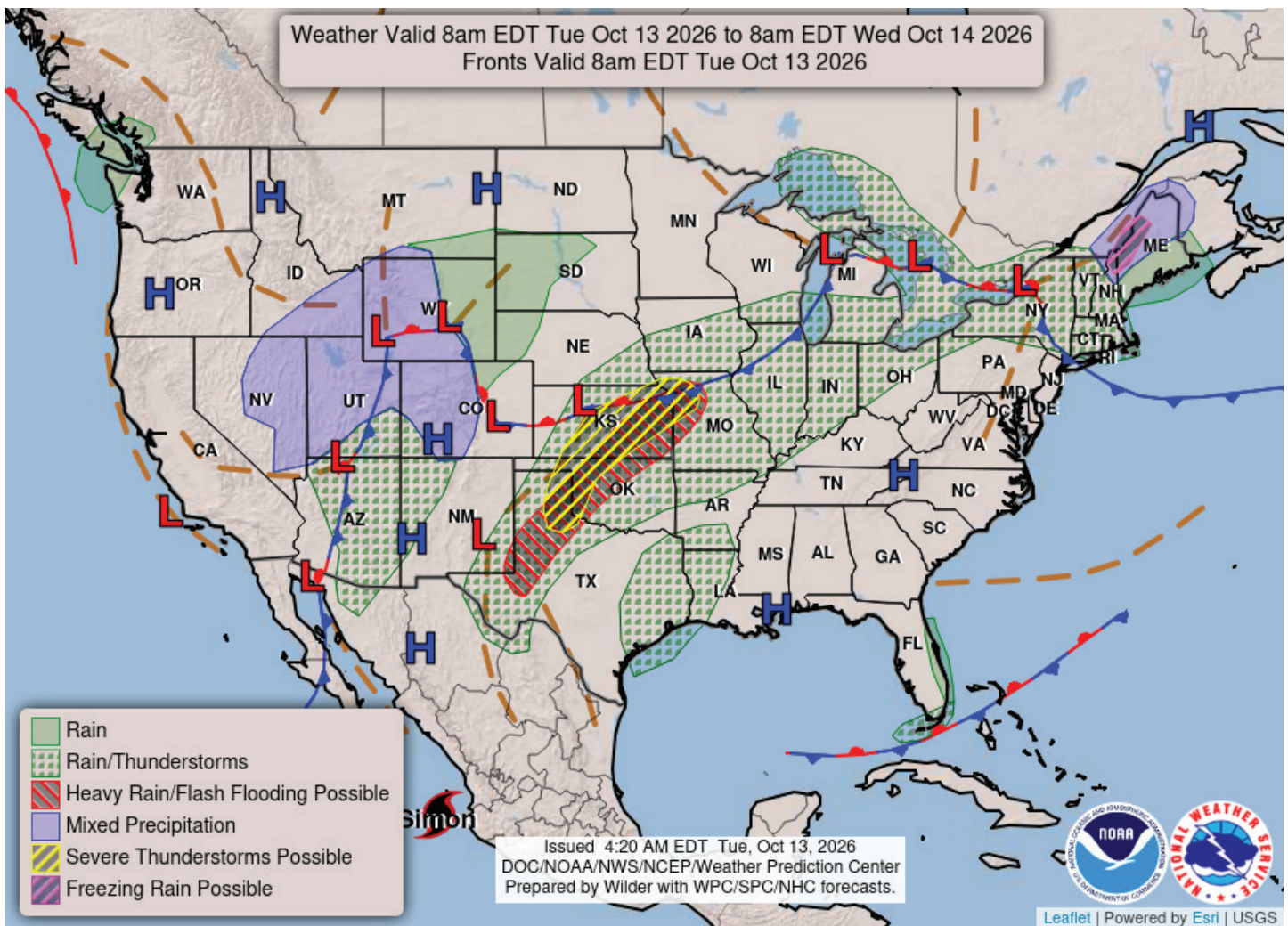
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 19.31

Precip Year to Date: 22.08

Sunset Tonight: 6:50 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:47 am



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Today in Weather History

October 13, 1966: Late season thunderstorms brought hail and high winds to southeast South Dakota, causing extensive damage to some soybean fields. The greatest damage was in the Garretson area. The strong winds also damaged many utility lines along with many farm structures. Lightning struck a church at Lake Andes, and the resulting fire destroyed it. The storms occurred from late on the 13th to the morning of the 14th.

1846 — A great hurricane tracked across Cuba, Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia and Pennsylvania. The hurricane inflicted major damage along its entire path, which was similar to the path of Hurricane Hazel 108 years later. The hurricane caused great damage at Key West FL, and at Philadelphia PA it was the most destructive storm in thirty years. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1983: Severe weather in Falls Church, VA, produced 2-3 tornadoes and caused \$1 million in damages.

1986 — Four tornadoes struck southeastern Virginia late in the night causing three million dollars damage. Tornadoes at Falls Church VA caused a million dollars damage. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders)

1987 — Fifteen cities in the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Record lows included 34 degrees at Meridian MS, 28 degrees at Paducah KY, and 26 degrees at Beckley WV. Another surge of arctic air entered the north central U.S. bringing snow to parts of Wyoming and Colorado. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — A total of forty-three cities in the eastern U.S. and the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date, including Elkins WV and Marquette MI where the mercury dipped to 18 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — Sixteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 80s and low 90s from the Southern and Central Plains to the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast. Evansville IND and North Platte NE reported record highs of 91 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2006: The October 2006 Buffalo storm was an unusual early-season lake effect snowstorm that hit the Buffalo, New York area, and other surrounding areas of the United States and Canada. Downtown Buffalo reported 15 inches from this event. Depew and Alden record 24 inches, the most from this lake effect storm.

2011: Three tornadoes hit central and Eastern Virginia on this day. One of the EF1 tornadoes caused damage to the Sylvania Plantation home that was built in 1746. The storm peeled the roof off the house.



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Galatians 5:1-6: 1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.

4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

Citizens in many countries believe they are free because their governments allow them to worship, speak, and travel. Yet despite the liberties a constitution may guarantee, countless people from those lands live in bondage. That's because true freedom isn't something that can be legislated. Rather, it is the ability to live a righteous life in the mercy, grace, goodness, and power of God. True freedom means ...

Through Jesus, we are redeemed from sin. God has adopted us into His family, and we are able to walk with Him in truth.

Our hope is secure. We can live with joy and confidence since we trust the Lord to care for us today and always.

God has enabled us to become all He intended. His Spirit guides and empowers us to carry out His will (John 16:13).

Through grace, we're freed to relate in a godly way. We can love and forgive others in God's strength because we have experienced the same from Him.

This is the paradox of the Christian life: We are set free from bondage to sin, yet we joyfully give ourselves over to serving Christ. It's in that surrender—not in striving or performing—that we discover what it means to live in true freedom.

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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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.12.26

16 40 43 51 54 1

TOP PRIZE:
\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 18 Mins 30 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.09.26

2 7 16 63 70 8

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$385,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 3 Mins 30 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.12.26

4 22 26 40 45 8

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$2,200,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 18 Mins 30 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.10.26

3 8 10 31 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$87,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 33 Mins 30 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.12.26

23 25 51 53 54 16

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 2 Mins 30 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.12.26

22 28 38 51 69 9

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$562,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 2 Mins 30 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Avon def. Menno, 25-20, 25-12, 25-7
Bennett County def. White River, 25-6, 25-14, 25-11
Canton def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-22, 25-11, 25-22
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Iroquois-Lake Preston, 20-25, 25-23, 25-12, 25-20
Gayville-Volin High School def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-14, 25-12, 25-4
Groton def. Britton-Hecla, 24-26, 25-21, 25-18, 25-20
Hamlin def. DeSmet, 25-14, 25-11, 25-11
Lemmon High School def. New England, N.D., 25-12, 25-15, 25-11
Lennox def. Garretson, 25-22, 25-15, 25-8
Mobridge-Pollock def. Ipswich, 25-18, 25-14, 28-26
North Central def. Strasburg, N.D., 25-15, 25-10, 25-22
Sanborn Central-Woonsocket def. Howard, 25-13, 25-12, 25-12
Tri-Valley def. Baltic, 23-25, 25-11, 25-17, 25-18

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

Many GOP states have imposed new voting rules this year, some mirroring Trump's midterm proposals

By GARY FIELDS and JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

President Donald Trump has pushed Congress to pass a proof-of-citizenship law, signed an executive order seeking a national voter ID requirement and tried to limit mail voting through U.S. Postal Service changes.

None of those moves succeeded in time to affect this year's midterm elections. It's a different matter in the states.

More than three dozen voting laws passed in Republican-controlled states are taking effect for the first time this year, many of them containing elements of Trump's stalled proposals. They include changes to what IDs are acceptable to register for the first time and requirements to show proof of citizenship, an issue the Republican president has tried but failed to get through Congress.

"Trump's attacks on our elections are deeply damaging, but they are not happening in isolation," said Sophia Lin Lakin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Voting Rights Project. "Across the country, states are also advancing restrictions that make it harder for eligible voters to cast a ballot."

Republican lawmakers who support the tighter voting laws, especially around voter ID, describe them as common sense changes that help build trust in elections.

Trump and other Republicans have been pushing for more restrictive rules since the president's false claims of widespread fraud in his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden. Trump's false claims have resonated with Republican voters, a majority of whom believe Biden was not legitimately elected despite all evidence to the contrary. Trump lost dozens of court challenges, his own attorney general found no evidence of widespread fraud, and reviews, audits and recounts in the battleground states where he contested his loss all affirmed Biden's victory.

Among the changes confronting voters as early voting gets underway: Students in New Hampshire can no longer use student IDs; Utah voters returning mail ballots must include more information on the envelope; and some voters in Mississippi might need birth certificates or passports to verify their identities.

Changes to voter ID requirements are challenged

New Hampshire state Rep. Donald McFarlane said he sponsored the bill to eliminate student IDs as acceptable for voting because colleges don't have the same controls when issuing those cards as govern-

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ment agencies.

"The change removes a special exception and applies the same government-issued ID standard to all voters," he said, adding that his bill had bipartisan support.

Students, he said, can still get state IDs free of charge.

The new requirements have not gone unchallenged.

In South Dakota, the ACLU has filed a lawsuit seeking to halt a new law that includes requiring voters registering for the first time to present the most common forms of ID — driver's licenses, Tribal IDs and non-driver state IDs. They must be presented in person at places that accept registration.

"Proof of citizenship in itself is not terrible," said Kathryn Johnson, president of the League of Women Voters of South Dakota.

Her concern is the requirement to present the IDs in person.

"We're kind of a remote state, so sometimes it takes a drive, and you have to coordinate, you have to take off work, and all of these kinds of things," she said.

Some Democrats also have expressed support for voter ID during recent debates. Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro said he was open to the idea as long as it wasn't based on "conspiracy theories." When legislatures change their state's voting laws, they typically give election offices and voters time to adjust. Trump wanted federal voter ID and proof-of-citizenship legislation to take effect immediately, forcing election officials and voters to comply in the middle of the midterms.

Ohio seeks to scrub voter rolls

Ohio has a proof of citizenship requirement in effect for the first time this year for those registering to vote or updating their voter registration information at a Bureau of Motor Vehicles location. The state also eliminated its four-day grace period for mail ballots, which now must be received at local election offices by Election Day.

Yet the biggest concern for voting rights groups is an ongoing purge of the state's voter rolls. The databases used to check citizenship against voter registration lists can be outdated, said Freda Levenson, legal director of the ACLU of Ohio, which has sued to overturn the law.

"Vast numbers of perfectly eligible voters are vulnerable to being disenfranchised," she said.

Republican state Sen. Theresa Gavarone, one of the primary sponsors of the bill, challenged the ACLU's legal action and said the problem it addresses is a real one.

"In the past two years, hundreds of noncitizens have been removed from Ohio's voter rolls," she said in an email. "Every single vote cast by a noncitizen disenfranchises a lawful Ohio voter."

Voters have mixed views on the changes

Outside an early voting center in Wayne County, Ohio, retired steel worker Dan Walter, an independent voter, said he opposes requiring documentary proof of citizenship to vote.

"It's to keep people from voting, it sounds to me like," he said.

His wife, Jody, a retired aerospace executive and a Democrat, said she felt the same way about Ohio's new requirement for registering to vote.

"A driver's license doesn't prove citizenship, and that's all they ask for now," she said. "It's going to be an obstacle for so many people."

Genia Fortune had a different view. A nurse, the Millersburg resident described herself as an independent and said she voted for President Barack Obama, a Democrat, and later for Trump. She believes Trump's false claims that the 2020 election was stolen and sees requiring documentary proof of citizenship as a necessary precaution.

"I just feel like you need to be a citizen and show proof of ID," she said.

Voting and election laws have become a regular target for legislatures

The Trump administration has pushed multiple strategies to influence this year's midterm elections, most of them stymied by Congress or the courts.

Chris Diaz, director of legislative tracking at the Voting Rights Lab, said the group has seen several versions of the Republican president's proposals passed by his allies in the states.

A recently released report by the group highlighted some of the key areas drawing Republican lawmak-

ers' attention, including mail balloting, voter ID and the hunt for noncitizens on voter rolls.

Noncitizen voting has been a focus of the Trump administration despite it being a rare problem. The U.S. Department of Justice recently announced it had brought charges in roughly 90 cases for various types of election misconduct, including 50 against people who are alleged to have voted as noncitizens. The U.S. had 227 million registered voters for the 2024 presidential election.

The Brennan Center for Justice has identified nearly 40 laws in 21 states taking effect this election season that will make it harder for eligible voters to register, stay on the rolls or cast ballots.

The report from the center, part of the New York University School of Law, found that many of the new laws target subsets of voters.

"What I want voters to take away from this is that elections are still run by the states and there are still people in many states who are trying to make it harder for you to vote," said Sean Morales-Doyle, senior director of the center's Voting Rights and Elections Program. "But that's all the more reason to go make a plan to vote and participate."

Selma Blair accused of attacking 2 flight attendants and assaulting a police officer and nurse

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, RIO YAMAT and ANDREW DALTON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Selma Blair was arrested after she was accused of injuring two flight attendants on a trip from Los Angeles to New York. She was also accused of kicking a police officer taking her to the hospital and kicking a nurse once she got there.

She pleaded not guilty Monday night to two counts of assault for state charges involving the officer and the nurse. And she faces separate federal charges based on what happened on the flight, which her representatives say was brought on by a severe medical emergency.

Blair, 54, was detained by police at around 11 p.m. Sunday after the Delta Air Lines jet parked at the gate at John F. Kennedy International Airport, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said in a statement.

Blair and one of the flight attendants were taken to a hospital for evaluation, the Port Authority said.

A police officer taking her to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center said in charging documents that while she was securing Blair to a stretcher, Blair pulled a leg from the straps and kicked her repeatedly around the face, neck and chest, causing serious pain and substantial swelling. Later, a nurse moving Blair said the actor kicked her in the chest, causing substantial pain.

She was arraigned on two counts of second-degree assault late Monday at a court in Queens, where her lawyer entered a not guilty plea on her behalf. She appeared to cry as she stood in court in handcuffs, wearing jeans and a white hooded sweatshirt.

Her attorney Shawn Barnes told a judge her actions were not intentional. He said the actor, who has multiple sclerosis, missed several doses of "a powerful medication that controls severe neurological symptoms," according to the New York Daily News and New York Post.

He said she had gotten on the flight in Los Angeles after a heavy workload, and hit her head during the flight. He said these factors along with the altitude led to "a state of severe confusion and disorientation."

The judge set her bail at \$20,000 cash or \$60,000 bond and set the next hearing for January. She left court with her lawyers.

Details of what happened aboard the aircraft weren't immediately disclosed by the airline, police or the FBI, which was investigating, but Delta said in a statement it "has zero tolerance for unruly or unlawful behavior, as the safety of our customers and crew always comes first."

In air traffic communications, the Delta pilot asked the tower to have medical personnel waiting at the gate to treat bite marks and a bloody nose, but said ambulances were not necessary.

"It sounds like the disruptive passenger also bashed her head on the bulkhead or something like that," the pilot told the tower, according to audio posted on the ATC app. "So we'll obviously have to get her potentially checked out as well as involved with law enforcement."

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The FBI also issued Blair a notice charging her with assault related to her actions aboard the aircraft, according to a federal law enforcement official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly about the matter.

Those charges will be handled through the petty violations court in federal court in Brooklyn. No date has been set for Blair's appearance.

It's not the first time Blair has had issues aboard a plane. In 2016, Blair apologized for making statements she later regretted during a flight from Cancun to Los Angeles. She said she had mixed alcohol with medication, causing her to black out.

Blair had major roles in films including 1999's "Cruel Intentions," 2001's "Legally Blonde" and 2004's "Hellboy."

In recent years, she has advocated for disability rights after getting her multiple sclerosis diagnosis in 2018. In 2023, she joined President Joe Biden at the White House to celebrate the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Houthi rebels say airstrikes targeted them in Yemen, and other Mideast developments

By The Associated Press undefined

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels on Tuesday again blamed Saudi Arabia for airstrikes overnight that targeted areas along Yemen's northern border with the kingdom and its western coastline. Saudi Arabia did not immediately respond to the claim, but the strikes came hours after air raid sirens blared in the Saudi capital and explosions were heard.

Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Tuesday. Read our full coverage here.

Houthis say airstrikes hit areas in Yemen under their control

The rebel-run al-Masirah satellite television said Tuesday two airstrikes hit the Houthi-held Red Sea island of Kamaran, while a third hit Qanawis district, 55 kilometers (34 miles) northwest of the port city of Hodeida.

The station also reported airstrikes in the province of Jawf, which borders Saudi Arabia.

Al-Masirah blamed Saudi Arabia for the strikes, but didn't provide further details.

The rebels also said they shot down a Saudi drone over the Houthi stronghold province of Saada, which is in northern Yemen on the border with Saudi Arabia.

There was no immediate comment from Saudi Arabia.

The strikes came hours after Saudi Arabia sounded air raid sirens Monday evening in the capital, Riyadh, and residents heard explosions.

The Houthis also said they fired a ballistic missile toward King Khalid International Airport, which has been hammered by a string of deadly attacks in recent days.

Egypt, Iran foreign ministers discuss Mideast de-escalation

Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty on Tuesday called for an immediate halt to Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Abdelatty said during a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, that there was "no justification for these attacks and they cannot be accepted."

Abdelatty also urged prioritizing diplomacy and finding a political solution to the conflict between Iran and the U.S. to avert "further escalation and instability" in the region, according to the Egyptian readout of the call.

Qatar's emir urges greater Gulf coordination on security

Qatar's emir on Tuesday called for closer security coordination among Gulf countries as the conflict between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia escalates, following months of Iranian attacks across the region during its war with the U.S. and Israel.

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani also called for stepped-up efforts to secure maritime routes in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz and energy infrastructure, which have been a main target of attacks since the Iran-U.S. war began on Feb. 28.

Speaking to the Shura Council, the Qatari emir also lashed out at Israel, accusing it of committing crimes in Gaza that constitute "genocide," a charge Israel vehemently denies.

The emir called for holding Israeli officials accountable.

Drones hit ships in Black Sea, sinking 1 and prompting rescue operations, Bulgaria says

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Drones struck two ships in the Black Sea off Bulgaria on Tuesday, sinking one and prompting emergency rescue operations, Prime Minister Rumen Radev said.

Rescuers evacuated all 15 crew members from one ship, the Maltese-flagged Chelsea 3, with five receiving treatment for minor injuries, Radev said in a video posted to social media.

The crew, which included seven Ukrainian citizens and eight Azerbaijan citizens, reported the ship's deck and hull were hit by three aerial drones.

One crew member from the sunken vessel was rescued, Radev added, without providing details about the others aboard. The strikes on the two ships occurred 20 miles and 21 miles (32 and 34 kilometers) from the Bulgarian coast.

During an emergency meeting of Bulgaria's Security Council on Tuesday, Radev called the attacks "absolutely unacceptable" and said Bulgaria was seeking NATO and European Union assistance.

While authorities do not possess clear evidence on who was responsible for the drone attacks, "logic, as I have already stated, indicates that the result is in favor of the Russian Federation," Radev said.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha in a post on X on Tuesday blamed Russia for the attacks.

"Russia's latest attack on commercial vessels near Bulgaria's territorial waters, which injured Ukrainian and Azerbaijani citizens, once again demonstrates Moscow's deliberate disregard for civilian lives and maritime security in the Black Sea," Sybiha wrote.

He said that Ukraine is urging its partners to step up pressure on Russia, strengthen sanctions and take decisive action to hold it accountable and protect freedom of navigation.

"The Black Sea is a lifeline for global food security. Russia is attacking it to weaponize hunger and hold the world hostage. This must be met with strength," Sybiha wrote.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen "strongly condemned" the drone incidents and said the Black Sea "has become another front of escalation" in Russia's war in Ukraine.

"This is unacceptable. I strongly condemn the drone attacks on merchant ships near Bulgaria's coast. Putting the lives of the crew in grave danger and threatening security in the Black Sea," she said in a post on X.

"We stand with Bulgaria and thank its rescuers for their swift response. Those responsible should be held accountable."

The attacks came exactly a week after sea and aerial drones attacked two other commercial vessels in Bulgaria's exclusive economic zone in the Black Sea. A Togo-flagged ship sank, while a Bulgarian ferry evacuated the 18-member crew of a Pulau-flagged vessel.

Ukraine's military did not conduct any operations near the locations of last week's drone strikes, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who pointed the finger at Russia.

A day earlier, a Turkish-owned cargo ship carrying corn caught fire following a drone attack and later sank in the Black Sea off the coast of Romania. Two people died and 11 crew members were rescued, Romanian authorities said.

Russia did not immediately comment on Tuesday's incident.

Radev said he would summon the Russian ambassador to Bulgaria, Eleonora Mitrofanova, for a conversation Tuesday.

Experts urge parents to prepare kids for possible livestreamed execution

By LAURIE KELLMAN and REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

This is not an article about politics, capital punishment or whether the Fort Hood shooter deserves to be executed in public for his crimes.

Instead, it's focused on the unprecedented parental challenge of handling the near-certain prospect that children will hear of or see footage of the Dec. 3 U.S. execution by firing squad of Nidal Malik Hasan if the Trump administration follows through with plans to livestream the event.

The danger stretches beyond the broadcast itself, because history shows graphic video from the event could be clipped, copied and pushed into children's social feeds even if the original stream is restricted.

Experts suggest that grownups who care about children start by setting aside matters of politics and public policy — like the Nov. 3 U.S. midterm elections and the debate over capital punishment. Focus instead on how witnessing someone's death by firing squad might land with young viewers — and how best to reassure and protect them.

Here are some guidelines that might help.

Keep empathy for kids in mind — and facts at hand

Mis- and disinformation reach children, too. It's important for parents to have credibility with them, especially because their real, unspoken question might be: Are we safe? Have in hand some basic facts about the case and state them gently.

"It will be easier to have a position, share your family's values, and discuss things with a potentially overwhelmed child once you've taken the time to gather accurate, up-to-date info and assess your child's needs," according to Common Sense Media, which advises parents on entertainment and technology.

Trump approved Hasan's execution by firing squad Dec. 3 at Fort Hood. A few days later, the Pentagon announced the event would be livestreamed.

"People need to understand that there's serious consequences for these types of things," Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told Real America's Voice, a conservative outlet.

Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, was convicted of killing 13 people there in 2009 when he walked into a medical building where soldiers were getting checkups and opened fire with a laser-sighted handgun. He said it was an effort to stop them from going to Afghanistan and killing his fellow Muslims. He made almost no effort to defend himself at trial. The U.S. military has not carried out the death penalty since 1961.

The last widely recognized public execution took place on Aug. 14, 1936. Kentucky, the last state to permit them, outlawed the practice in 1938.

Stay updated on the plans

Also, experts suggest, parents should stay updated on how a livestreamed execution would unfold. Many questions remained unanswered, such as whether the moment of death and its aftermath will be shown, whether any age restrictions will apply, and whether there will be a broadcast delay or a threshold for stopping the feed.

Be informed about the technology involved. While the government often uses YouTube to carry its livestreams, including those embedded within government websites, YouTube prohibits content that is "violent or gory" and "intended to shock or disgust viewers," and doesn't allow livestreams that show someone holding, handling or transporting a firearm.

YouTube does make exceptions in select cases for content it deems to be in an educational, documentary, scientific or artistic context or that it determines to be in the public's interest. In such cases, the content may be age-restricted. The company did not immediately respond to a request for comment regarding how its policies relate to the execution.

But the danger to kids spills beyond the live broadcast to unexpected exposure on social media in the form of memes, for example.

It's unclear whether the Trump administration is considering children in its decision-making. Emails over two days asking White House spokespeople for thoughts from the president and first lady Melania Trump

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on the prospect of children seeing the execution went unanswered. Trump said that he'll soon make a decision on the plan to livestream the event.

Assume kids will at least hear about the execution, if not see it

From the old-fashioned grapevine to social media, grisly news has a way of reaching school-aged children, experts agree. Consider their need for calm and age-appropriate guidance, they suggest.

"With young kids, parents should keep it short and focus on reassurance over explaining the events," said Jill Murphy, chief content officer at Common Sense Media. "Reassure them that they are safe. With teens, ask honestly what they have heard first, then ask whether they need to watch it."

Remember you are your child's parent, not their friend — and don't overexplain, advises Dr. David Rosenberg, chair of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Michigan. Answer the questions children ask, and don't be afraid to assert parental authority by, for example, restricting or banning a child's access to the footage.

"It's okay to say, 'I don't have all the answers. But here's what we know, you're safe, you're secure, this is what we believe,'" Rosenberg said.

"Where parents get into trouble is when they talk too much, and they usually do that because they're anxious and insecure," he added. "What makes a child feel safest, or an adolescent, is can I count on my parents to be calm in challenging situations and give me the information I need?"

Choosing to watch the footage, one physician said, doesn't necessarily indicate a child is psychologically ready to do so.

Timothy Lesaca, a Pittsburgh-area psychiatrist, cited a series of studies showing that repeatedly watching footage of events like the Boston Marathon bombings, at least part of an ISIS beheading video and the Oklahoma City bombing can be linked to post-traumatic stress, if not PTSD, in adults and children. He argues that making Hasan's execution public is a medical and public health issue.

"Ongoing anxiety, trouble sleeping or problems with daily life should be taken seriously," Lesaca wrote in KevinMD.com, an online publication by physicians.

Watch how this event interacts with existing conditions

The people most at risk of negative long-term effects are those who already have clinical depression or anxiety, or who have already been exposed to other traumatic situations, Rosenberg said. That's because repeat exposure to trauma can cause cumulative damage.

The part of the brain that handles executive decision-making, emotional regulation, impulsivity and empathy doesn't finish developing until around age 24, and so parents should consider having proactive conversations even with their older children who may be away at college or living on their own, Rosenberg said.

"We have to at least offer help in these circumstances to be the leaders, to be the decision-makers, to at least help them make informed decisions."

Pope Leo XIV is set to enter a Rome hospital for removal of a lung nodule

By NICOLE WINFIELD and COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Leo XIV was expected to be admitted to a Rome hospital Tuesday for the removal of a lung nodule, an operation that experts say will determine whether the lesion is malignant and if other treatment is needed.

Leo has offered a rare level of transparency about the first publicly disclosed major health problem of his 17-month papacy. He revealed the discovery of the small, localized nodule during his Sunday noon prayer and announced that he would have it removed.

The Vatican said Leo would be admitted to the Gemelli hospital late Tuesday morning, but there was no immediate word on the timing of the operation itself.

The surgery, which is usually performed under general anesthesia, will require a weeklong hospital stay and the Vatican on Monday canceled all Leo's audiences through Oct. 20.

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"These are things that can be treated very well, if the words he used reflect the clinical situation," said Dr. Lorenzo Spaggiari, director of thoracic surgery at the European Institute of Oncology, or EIO, in Milan, who is not involved in the pope's care but knows the team at Gemelli.

A churchman who saw Leo on Monday, Tokyo Cardinal Kikuchi Tsutomu, said Leo told him he felt fine and decided to have the surgery immediately so that he wouldn't have to alter his upcoming travel plans to Latin America.

But the decision clearly came as a surprise: While Gemelli has a specific papal apartment that past popes have used, complete with a private chapel on the 10th floor, Leo will actually be staying in a nearby room since the papal apartment is currently undergoing renovations, according to a person with knowledge of the plans, who asked for anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

Robotic technology could permit a biopsy before surgery

Spaggiari said he expected the team at Gemelli would perform a biopsy to determine whether Leo has lung cancer followed by the removal of a section or lobe of the lung where the nodule is located.

Both could be done using robotic techniques, and could be performed consecutively, under the same anesthesia, with different specialist teams, Spaggiari said.

A sophisticated robotic bronchoscopy technology called ION allows a biopsy on nodules as small as 3 millimeters (1/10 inch), Spaggiari said. Both the Gemelli and the EIO have the technology, which has been available in Italy for just two years.

Gemelli also has robotic surgical technology, allowing the operation to remove the nodule to proceed "using a minimally invasive technique," he said.

The technique involves the surgeon making four small incisions in the chest through which the instruments of the so-called da Vinci robot are inserted, he said. The surgeon then controls the robotic arms looking at a screen providing high-definition, 3D views of the surgical site.

"It's a very well-established technology. This is something we have been doing for 20 years," he said.

It wasn't known for certain what technique would be used on Leo. Gemelli has documented using both robotic procedures to diagnose and operate in under four hours.

The biopsy risk is "virtually zero," while the surgical risk is very small, carrying a 0.6% to 0.8% mortality rate for patients in otherwise good health with good heart and lung function, Spaggiari said.

Tests will determine whether more treatment is needed

During the surgery to remove the nodule and part of the lung, doctors would also remove lymph nodes that drain the segment or lobe. "If all those lymph nodes turn out to be negative, so stage one, then the outlook is very good," he said, adding that no other treatment would be necessary.

The nodule was discovered during regular checks, the Vatican has said, and Spaggiari said the pope has likely undergone other tests before being recommended for surgery.

"I think he has had a bit of luck. They found something that was asymptomatic — a lung nodule, possibly a tumor. He might call it something else; we call it luck," he said.

Recovery could allow November travel to South America

EIO advises patients not to fly for three weeks after surgery — which would give the pope just the interval needed to make his planned Nov. 6-17 trip to Uruguay, Argentina and Peru, depending on his recovery. The current itinerary for the trip is ambitious and the longest of his papacy to date, calling for Leo to clock just over 31,000 kilometers (19,000 miles) on a dozen flights and two helicopter rides, and a significant altitude change in Peru.

"I think the Holy Father is in excellent hands at Gemelli," Spaggiari said. "They have everything needed to keep the Holy Father alive for a long time."

Kikuchi, the Tokyo archbishop who is also head of the Vatican's charitable federation Caritas Internationalis, said Leo told him he felt no different than usual and was looking ahead to the trip.

"He has decided to undergo surgery soon in order to not change his plans for future overseas trips, so there is no need to worry, as it is not an emergency," Kikuchi wrote on the Facebook page of the Tokyo archdiocese.

An unusually open approach to papal health

The Vatican has for centuries zealously guarded the pope's health and has often sent out confusing information, or none at all, about papal illnesses. Pope Francis tried to change that by being upfront about his frailties and musing on his eventual death. But even during his pontificate, information was tightly controlled.

Leo's decision and reveal suggested an unusual level of transparency by the American pope, who revealed it in perhaps the most public way possible: at the end of his Sunday noon blessing, with thousands of people in St. Peter's Square.

"I really appreciated yesterday at the end of the Angelus, he himself said, 'This is what's going on — very transparent — and ask for prayers,'" said Quebec Cardinal Gérald Cyprien Lacroix at the Vatican.

A lung nodule is a small abnormal area measuring less than 3 centimeters (1.2 inches) that sometimes appears on a CT scan of the chest or abdomen. Often, the scans are done to investigate trauma or a lung infection, unrelated to a lung cancer screening. A nodule can be benign or malignant, and oftentimes surgical removal is recommended both to establish whether it is cancer and to treat a malignancy while it is still localized.

Oncologists say even if the nodule turns out to be cancerous, Leo's prognosis is "excellent" since it will have been removed at an early stage.

IMF raises its forecast for world growth this year but warns of risks from AI boom and debt

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday slightly upgraded its outlook for the world economy for this year, while warning of growing risks from rising debt, including the financial frenzy around artificial intelligence.

The IMF says it expects the global economy to grow at a 3.1% pace this year. That's up from its July forecast for 3.0% growth and well below the 3.5% expansion in 2025. Growth in 2027 should rebound to 3.4%, it said in its latest Economic Outlook.

The report, released as world economic and financial leaders gathered in Bangkok for the fall meetings of the IMF and World Bank, predicts that growth in the United States will remain steady at 2.3% in 2026 and 2027.

Collectively, advanced economies will grow 2.1% this year, up from 2.0% in 2025, and then slow to 1.9% growth next year, it said.

The forecasts are based on a nearly 41% increase in oil prices this year, at an average of \$96 a barrel. Global inflation is foreseen at 4.7% in 2026, falling to 4.1% next year. They also are based on the assumption that shipments of oil and gas through the Strait of Hormuz will resume by March, and that the boom in AI demand will moderate.

AI has uneven impacts

The boom in artificial intelligence is offsetting damage from sharply higher prices for oil and gas, IMF economists say, but it also carries risks.

Its benefits are not shared equally: the U.S. and China account for more than three-quarters of net demand for imports of computer chips and other AI-related equipment, the report said.

"The outlook is highly uneven," Silvana Tenreyro, the IMF's director of research, told reporters in Bangkok.

Growth is increasingly concentrated, with 32 countries accounting for 95% of global growth, the report said. That compares with 54 countries as of April.

"The global economy is not simply slowing or accelerating; rather, growth is being reallocated across countries according to their exposure to the war-induced supply shock and AI-related demand strength," it says.

Athanasios Vamvakidis, deputy director at the IMF's Monetary and Capital Markets Department, said an AI-related correction in stock markets is just one of the risks. Rising bond yields are another evolving

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problem, along with cyberthreats that could disrupt financial systems, he said.

Underscoring such concerns, sell-offs of AI-related shares swept through Asia on Tuesday, with South Korea's Kospi sinking as much as 7% before it closed 5.5% lower.

AI's effects on employment are another worry, "a slow moving tsunami, but a tsunami nonetheless," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said.

"The impact over time on jobs globally we estimate to be around 40% — jobs either augmented or downgraded or eliminated. And we are already seeing some of this impact," she said.

Debt remains a key concern for regional economies

The IMF chief is urging countries to do a better job of improving their national finances and taming mounting levels of debt.

That's especially crucial at a time of high borrowing costs, Tenreiro said.

Countries that are somewhat insulated from the energy shocks of the Iran war and that are benefiting from rapid adoption of AI are managing to keep growth on track. But developing economies and emerging markets more vulnerable to higher costs for oil and gas will see growth slow to 3.7% this year from 4.5% in 2025, the report says. It forecasts they will regain momentum next year, expanding at a 4.4% annual pace.

The situation is much worse in the Middle East and Central Asia, where those regions' economies are expected to contract this year before recovering to a 6.3% rate of growth in 2027.

The 21 European countries that share the euro currency are expected to grow by a meager 1.1% this year and 1.2% in 2027.

China, the world's No. 2 economy, is expected to expand 4.5% this year, down from 5% in 2025, in line with the government's official target.

India is once again forecast to be the world's fastest-growing major economy, advancing at a 7% clip, down from a sizzling 7.7% last year.

The IMF is a 191-nation lending organization that works to promote economic growth and financial stability and to reduce global poverty. At the meetings in Bangkok, finance ministers and central bank governors will assess the state of the world economy and discuss strategies to support financial stability and sustained growth.

Jury selection to begin in federal hate crimes trial over Buffalo, N.Y., supermarket shooting

By TERRY TANG Associated Press

For Wayne Jones, discussing the horrific supermarket shooting in Buffalo, N.Y., in which a white supremacist killed 10 people, including his mother Celestine Chaney, has taken over much of his life these past four years.

He can numbly list talking points for media and gun violence panels. But thinking about her absence each day is one reason why Jones would not want to see the shooter sentenced to death.

"I really think that he should just sit and have to think about it year after year after year and just be miserable," said Jones, who plans to attend the trial. "When I was younger, I probably was more prone to say 'kill him.' But, at this point, I mean, he's still got well another 20-30 years of appeals."

Jury selection is set to begin Tuesday in the federal trial in which Payton Gendron faces a potential death penalty. The attack at the Tops Friendly Market in 2022 is believed to be the deadliest hate-motivated shooting targeting Black people by a lone gunman in the last century.

Gendron is facing over two dozen federal hate crime charges and more than a dozen firearms charges. He is already spending life in prison after pleading guilty to state murder charges in a 2023 trial where he tearfully admitted to the crimes and renounced his past views.

His defense team is not going to dispute his guilt. Their sole objective is to ensure Gendron is spared from execution.

"Nothing will change the fact that Payton Gendron will die in prison," the federal public defender office

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said in a statement. "At trial, we will offer mitigating evidence about Payton that the jury needs to consider in making its decision. Nothing we say or do is intended to be disrespectful or insensitive to the victims, the survivors, or their loved ones."

Some victims' family members, however, are not totally against the death penalty.

"I've never been like out here like, 'Yay! Go for the death penalty.' That's never been me," said Buffalo Common Council member Zeneta Everhart, who ran for office over a year after her son, Zaire, survived the shooting. "Ten people died that day in an egregious way and in an awful, terrible, traumatic way."

Her son, now 25, and the two other survivors have had their lives irrevocably altered, she added.

How racist conspiracy theories played a role in the attack

On May 14, 2022, a then-18-year-old Gendron drove over 200 miles (320 kilometers) from his home in Conklin, a predominantly white and rural town, to Buffalo. He fired around 60 shots from a semiautomatic rifle at employees and shoppers. Video revealed Gendron apologized to a white store worker after shooting him in the leg. He surrendered to police as he exited the supermarket.

Investigators found past social media posts and other writings by Gendron dedicated to planning an attack to frighten people who were non-white and non-Christian into leaving the U.S. He also promoted a baseless "great replacement theory" that people of color will replace white people through higher birth rates and immigration.

The victims who were killed were all Black and between ages 32 and 86. Besides Chaney, they included Geraldine Talley, Katherine Massey, Pearl Young, Andre Mackneil, church deacon Heyward Patterson, Ruth Whitfield, Roberta Drury, Margus Morrison and Aaron Salter, a retired Buffalo police officer who was working as a security guard.

Under President Joe Biden, the U.S. Justice Department in 2024 decided to pursue a death sentence. It was the first capital case overseen by then-Attorney General Merrick Garland, who had previously put a moratorium on the death penalty.

Gendron and his legal team relayed that he would only plead guilty in his federal case in exchange for a life sentence. The Justice Department rejected that proposal.

Anti-Black crimes still lead in hate crime data

The 2022 shooting stands apart as one of the deadliest acts of anti-Black violence in modern U.S. history. It also reflects a grim reality represented in national bias crime statistics.

Black people have comprised the "no. 1 numerical target" annually since the FBI began collecting data in 1991, hate crime analyst Brian Levin, of the California Association of Human Relations Organizations, said. The record high was 3,670 anti-Black bias incidents in 1996.

According to FBI data released in August, law enforcement agencies reported over 2,800 anti-Black hate crime incidents in 2025, nearly three times the number targeting Latinos. The FBI also reported a 7% decline in hate crime incidents from 2024 to 2025.

The Buffalo shooting and the 2015 Charleston, S.C., church shooting, in which a white gunman killed nine Black churchgoers, show how online radicalization makes this a terrorism matter as well.

"Unfortunately, he (Gendron) fits the pattern of young, mostly white males undertaking targeted massacres which are then justified by manifestos, which are also part of a continuing chain that references prior attacks often but seeks to encourage future ones," Levin said.

Everhart, whose son still has shrapnel in his body after being shot in the neck, says hate crime enhancements might be the only deterrent.

"This isn't a shooting over a robbery or a domestic violence situation. This is domestic terrorism," Everhart said. "It is important we go after the death penalty in this case. But if he doesn't end up getting it, I know that justice will be served."

Garnell Whitfield lost his 86-year-old mother Ruth in the shooting. He has no thoughts on whether capital punishment should be issued because "this is the federal government doing what they deem they have to do."

He's spent the past four years honoring his mother's memory by working with church groups, victims'

rights groups, gun lobbyists and others to address white nationalist movements and racial violence.

Whitfield said he hopes trial testimony reveals more about "the support that he (Gendron) might have had, the radicalization, social media and societal ills that caused people to hate and be violent that are inherent in our society" that preceded the killing.

"Those are the things that I care about," he said.

Six Flags closes 9 rides after 1 person dies in an incident involving a roller coaster in Georgia

By HALLIE GOLDEN Associated Press

Six Flags temporarily closed nine roller coasters across six amusement parks on Monday after one person died and several others were injured in an incident involving a coaster in Georgia.

Officials did not confirm how the person died, nor how the others were injured or their medical conditions after the incident at Six Flags Over Georgia, about 15 miles (24 kilometers) northwest of Atlanta.

Cobb County Police Department major crimes unit detectives are investigating.

Attractions at the parks that are similar to the coaster in Austell, Georgia, were closed "out of an abundance of caution," according to a Six Flags Entertainment Corporation spokesperson, who said staff members and local authorities responded immediately and the park is cooperating with the investigation.

"We are deeply saddened by the guest incident at our park today," the spokesperson said, adding that the company is providing support to guests and staff who were impacted.

Authorities and Six Flags did not identify the roller coaster. However, local TV stations showed video of passengers being evacuated from the Goliath coaster.

Goliath, which was opened in 2006, reaches a top speed of 70 mph (113 kph) with a height of 200 feet (61 meters), according to the park's website.

During about 3 1/2 minutes, riders "navigate through razor-sharp turns and soar over colossal hills," the website says.

Lisa Cupid, Cobb County Board of Commissioners chairwoman, said next of kin of the deceased person have been notified.

"I cannot imagine the horror the patrons and employees witnessed today, and my heart aches for the family who lost a loved one," Cupid said. "We are all grappling with how something so devastating could happen at a place that has given generations of families such happy memories."

The park is a major part of the county's tourism and brings in visitors from across the Southeast, Cupid said.

The death would be at least the seventh at the Georgia park, including one in 2006 in which a man had a likely heart attack on the Goliath coaster, according to the Doan Law Firm, which tallies amusement park accidents and represents victims.

It also comes less than two weeks after Six Flags Magic Mountain in Southern California announced the retirement of its famous X2 roller coaster following lawsuits alleging serious brain injury caused by the ride. The park settled one wrongful-death lawsuit from the family of a 22-year-old man who died after riding the coaster in 2022.

Last year, a 32-year-old man died from blunt impact injuries after riding a high-speed roller coaster at the Universal Epic Universe theme park in Florida. His death was ruled accidental.

Emergency help was delayed by confusion after failed execution of Christa Pike, 911 calls reveal

By GENE JOHNSON, HANNAH SCHOENBAUM and HOLLY MEYER Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Emergency help for Christa Pike was delayed by confusion among first responders and Tennessee prison officials following her failed execution last month, according to 911 dispatch recordings.

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The recordings, obtained Monday by The Associated Press through a public records request, show that precious minutes elapsed as officials and responders tried to figure out whether a request for emergency help in the execution chamber was legitimate.

The initial 911 call came in at 8:40 p.m. on Sept. 30, just over an hour after the attempted lethal injection got underway. But the caller was unable to provide a code that would help verify the legitimacy of the request.

"Per supervisors here at the DEC (Department of Emergency Communications) we have been informed it is a false call," a dispatcher says at 9:03 p.m. "There is no medical assistance needed at Riverbend Prison."

It wasn't until about half an hour after the initial call — close to 9:11 p.m. — that prison officials affirmed it was real and began letting responders through the gates.

Neither the Tennessee Department of Correction nor Pike's legal team immediately responded to requests for comment.

The prisoner becomes a patient

Pike, 50, was hospitalized after surviving two doses of pentobarbital as the state tried to execute her for the 1995 stabbing death of classmate Colleen Slemmer. She was 18 when she tortured and killed Slemmer with her boyfriend, becoming one of the youngest women to be sentenced to death.

State protocol calls for a second dose of pentobarbital if the first doesn't result in death, but it doesn't spell out what to do if an inmate survives the second injection.

The first 911 call, released only as a written transcript, reported that Pike was unconscious and not breathing normally.

After being taken to a hospital, Pike was on a ventilator for several days. At one point, her attorneys did not expect her to survive. She regained consciousness last Tuesday and began talking limitedly and walking with assistance, they said. Pike was discharged from the hospital and returned to the women's prison where she was housed for 30 years, her lawyers said Saturday.

Confusion begins with the initial 911 call

The initial call came from a person whose name and title were redacted. The caller told a dispatcher that they were at the Riverbend Maximum Security Institution where they had tried to execute someone, but she was still alive.

As emergency responders worked to verify the call, they were in touch with representatives of the prison's Central Control, who said they "would have been the ones to call in" and they "did not make that call," according to a recording time-stamped at 9:07 p.m.

Around the same time, a first responder could be heard over the radio saying, "Somebody is outside the gate at the prison telling us that it's real and demanding us to go in. They say they are some sort of state official. I need somebody to get out to the gate and talk to those people."

Central Control confirmed the call was legitimate a few minutes later, clearing the way for responders to enter through the gates at about 9:11 p.m. An AP reporter witnessed an ambulance and fire trucks pull up to the building inside the prison campus at 9:14 p.m.

At 9:34 p.m., as medics were transporting Pike to a hospital, one asked dispatch to make sure the prison knew where they were taking her.

"Just 'cause there's been so much other confusion, I want to make sure they are aware of this," the responder said.

Two other calls were made

The Nashville Department of Emergency Communications released with some redactions the batch of audio recordings from dispatchers. Police said the audio from the first 911 call was exempt from public disclosure under state law.

Two subsequent emergency calls were made, including one at 9:08 p.m. by one of Pike's attorneys, Kelly Gleason.

"My client, Christa Gail Pike, is undergoing a state execution. She has completed the stages of the protocol and last we knew from the attorney who is present, she is still alive and breathing and needs immediate

life-saving care," Gleason said on the call.

Further executions paused pending review

The Tennessee Department of Correction has not said what went wrong in the attempted execution. Gov. Bill Lee paused further execution attempts pending a review. It's unclear whether the state will try executing Pike again.

Medical experts have raised a few possibilities that could explain how Pike was able to survive, including potential drug quality issues and the placement of IV lines causing the drug to pool in her tissue.

Before the execution attempt, Pike's attorneys told courts and prison officials that she had a blood disorder that could cause clotting at injection sites.

Fear strikes Yemen's 3rd largest city Taiz as Houthi rebels encircle it in a new siege

By FATMA KHALED Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — As word came of Houthi rebels closing in, Weam Abdullah and her family decided it was time to leave their home in Taiz, Yemen's third largest city. They had survived a yearslong siege by the rebels earlier in their country's civil war, and they didn't want to endure that again.

They made it out just in time: Just after Abdullah, her husband and two young children left, the rebels on Oct. 4 captured a key town, largely encircling the city and cutting off most access to supplies from government-held areas.

"We already feel dead, there was already despair" in the city, Abdullah said, speaking by phone to The Associated Press from a province further south. "We feel as if we are cursed. Everyone is conspiring against us even though we're not affiliated with any party or politics."

The Iranian-backed Houthis — even as they escalate attacks on Saudi Arabia with a string of deadly attacks on the airport in the capital Riyadh — are trying to make a major gain in Yemen's 12-year-old civil war by moving on Taiz, a prize they have long sought to capture. Their assault comes after the rebels' lightning offensive last month that seized Yemen's Red Sea coast, strengthening their hand to attack Saudi oil shipping and further throwing world energy prices into turmoil.

Their advance has triggered fear among the more than 1 million residents of Taiz, located in the high rugged mountains of southwestern Yemen. On a recent day, crowds mobbed groceries in the city center to buy up food and other essentials, fearing they will soon run out. Diesel fuel and cooking gas supplies are running low, residents said.

Some people are collecting cardboard and wood to burn for cooking, and merchants are jacking up prices for food and water, said Shaif al-Gabiri, a child protection consultant at a local non-profit group, the Civic Center for Advocacy and Support. "If the siege continues, then these stocks will run out."

Explosions can be heard in the distance from fighting between Houthis and pro-government forces in the surrounding mountains. Some strikes have landed in the city itself, reminding residents of the hell they lived through previously and had hoped might be over.

Taiz was under siege for years by the Houthis earlier in the war

Taiz has been a front line ever since Yemen's civil war erupted in 2014 when the Houthi rebels seized the north and much of the west of the country, including the capital Sanaa. Saudi Arabia then entered the war heading a coalition backing the internationally recognized government, which was forced to flee south.

Taiz is a strategic gateway to the south. It is also one of Yemen's most important historical and cultural centers, serving centuries ago as the capital of several Islamic dynasties and as a major site for religious learning. Al-Qahira Castle, a monumental fortress dating back more than 800 years, stands on a hill overlooking the city. Towering south of the city is Mount Sabir, one of Yemen's highest ranges at more than 3,000 meters (9,000 feet), cut with agricultural terraces yielding fertile farmlands.

For years after 2015, Houthi forces surrounded most of the city and cut off main roads out. Bombardment regularly hit the city center, electricity was often cut off, and residents struggled to find food. Access

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to government-held areas was only through steep, winding mountain back roads that took hours to bring in supplies or get people to hospitals in the main southern port city of Aden.

Taiz at that time was "a jungle," Abdullah said. If people didn't die "from artillery, then they would die from the siege, malnourished because of lack of food," she said. After nightfall, "many streets were deserted and looked scary."

A truce reached in 2022 quieted the war across Yemen and returned some life to Taiz. Many who fled the city came back, and homes were rebuilt. But prices remained high, and residents struggled to get by, Abdullah said. Houthi forces still controlled north, east and west of the city, and charged "customs" duties to let supplies through.

New fighting has broken the quiet

The truce fell apart in August when the Houthis launched a new assault. Last month, they seized the Red Sea coast, capturing the port city of Mocha and several strategic islands. Since then, the Houthis began advancing around Taiz.

Abdullah said they feared that a new siege would be even worse than the past. Her children were afraid to go outside and play, she said. "This is why we left," she said. "The situation was terrible, you couldn't get essentials, and there's a shortage in everything ... There is no diesel to work water pumps."

On the road out of Taiz, she said they saw government reinforcements moving in and heard the sounds of explosions and gunfire. They made it through the town of Turbah, about 40 kilometers (24 miles) south of Taiz, and from there to the government-controlled province of Lahj.

Only days later, the Houthis captured Turbah, encircling Taiz and a pocket of government-held territory.

Residents prepare for seige as government forces try to break Houthi hold

Along with the main roads out of Taiz, some of the alternative mountain routes used the past have also been shut down.

The closures "caused some confusion and panic," Abdelrahman al-Qaliaa, director of the Taiz branch of the Industry and Trade Ministry, told the AP. He called on the people rushing the stores to only buy immediate necessities to prevent shortages.

Pro-government forces are fighting Houthis in the mountains southwest of Taiz, trying to break the rebels' hold.

Ahmed Abdel-Jaber said shelling hit near his house in one mountain village, wounding his 7-year-old grandson with shrapnel to his stomach. The boy was rushed to a hospital in Taiz.

Abdel-Jaber said he moved his nine-member family to another village farther from the fighting. "If we decide it's unsafe there, we'll flee to another area," he told the AP by phone.

Government soldiers and women and children wounded in the fighting have been brought in increasing numbers to Taiz hospitals. "Hospitals could run out of diesel at any point" and it has become more difficult to deliver medical supplies, said Dr. Fahd Nazary, of the Taiz provincial health office. "This is a huge catastrophe."

Al-Gabiri, the child protection consultant who is currently in Taiz, spoke of the fear that fighting could get even worse.

"Here I am sitting in a coffeeshop," she said, "knowing that at any moment a shell could fall on me or an explosive could come from any direction, hitting any house and any street."

Storms cause 5 deaths in Mexico as flood risk eases in southwestern US

By FRANCISCO JAVIER CRUZ, MARTIN SILVA REY and JAIMIE DING Associated Press

ENSENADA, México (AP) — Hurricane Simon pounded western Mexico with more wind and rain Monday after tropical weather systems caused five deaths and damage in Pacific coastal towns and resorts.

The eye of the Category 2 hurricane remained offshore as its outer bands of winds and rain slammed communities between the Sierra Madre and the Pacific Ocean near Puerto Vallarta.

Flood advisories were mostly lifted in the southwestern U.S. after the remnants of Tropical Storm Rachel

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caused weekend flooding in Las Vegas.

Hurricane Simon batters Mexico's Pacific coast

In Mexico's Baja California state, rescuers on Monday combed parts of the coastal city of Ensenada where floodwaters swept away vehicles and damaged homes. At least four people died in the state due to the impact of post-tropical cyclone Rachel.

Resident Johana Nuriulu said the flooding began during the night, shortly after heavy rain knocked out electricity. "We heard a loud noise that sounded like ocean waves, but really loud," she said.

Nuriulu said she went outside and discovered that a nearby stream had overflowed, sending water rushing through the neighborhood. The waters inundated streets and homes, sweeping away vehicles and other belongings. "Everything was being dragged away" Nuriulu said.

Several communities were cut off by landslides and overflowing rivers elsewhere in Baja California.

In the afternoon, the Mexican military used helicopters to rescue 32 people — 22 of them foreigners — from a ranch in Ensenada. Baja California Gov. Marina del Pilar Ávila said 13 were youths.

The state Secretary of Security, Gen. Laureano Carrillo, said that some of the group were missionaries meeting at the ranch and that among them were Germans and Americans.

Baja California Civil Protection Coordinator Ignacio Lozoya said Monday evening that four bodies had been recovered in Ensenada: a 13-year-old girl on Sunday and two women and a 4-year-old boy Monday. Lozoya said six people remained missing: four in Ensenada and two from the town of San Felipe, a father and son who went fishing Saturday and did not return.

According to Ávila some 14,000 federal and state personnel had been deployed across Baja California to assist affected residents and respond to the emergency.

To the south, Simon downed trees and electricity poles, blocked roads and flooded homes in coastal towns of Guerrero state, including the major seaport of Acapulco, Gov. Evelyn Salgado said at a news conference.

A 71-year-old man died after a wall collapsed in Chilpancingo, Guerrero's capital, Salgado said.

Simon had maximum sustained winds of 155 kph (100 mph) late Monday and was expected to remain a hurricane through midweek, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said Monday evening. It was slowly approaching the western Mexico coast, where heavy rainfall may produce life-threatening flooding and mudslides before landfall possibly late Friday.

In Puerto Vallarta, workers removed wooden panels from boarded-up storefronts and businesses reopened Monday as rains eased. The popular tourist destination's international airport suspended operations until Tuesday morning.

"Personally, I think we should remain on alert because we don't really know whether it will arrive, move elsewhere or dissipate," said Noelia Carrillo, a tourism agency worker.

Rachel brings flooding to the US Southwest

Rachel weakened into a post-tropical cyclone as it moved north into Southern California. The storm battered the coast with unusually large waves, which tore apart a boardwalk and smashed into homes in Long Beach. Some residents were forced to evacuate.

Las Vegas tied an all-time daily rainfall record for October after receiving 1.08 inches (2.74 centimeters) of rain into Sunday morning, according to the U.S. National Weather Service. The record was set in 1947.

Videos posted on social media showed a torrent of water rushing through a street near the Las Vegas Strip, with a Ferris wheel and casinos in the background.

Andrew Orrison, a weather service meteorologist, said localized flash flooding was still a risk for the region Monday.

"We've seen the worst of what Rachel brought ... but unfortunately we are looking at the disturbed weather still lingering," Orrison said.

Flood advisories were mostly lifted by late Monday in Utah, Arizona and elsewhere in the Southwest.

In Utah, dozens of runners and volunteers who were part of the Moab 240 ultramarathon were evacuated Sunday after being stranded by flooding. The race goes through Canyonlands and Arches National Park.

The additional rainfall is not associated with Rachel, but a different weather system moving across the

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West, Orrison said. The precipitation is forecast to end by Wednesday.

Hurricane Isaias leaves thousands without power in the Southeast

Power was gradually being restored after Hurricane Isaias hit the U.S. Southeast.

At least four deaths have been linked to Isaias, the first hurricane of the Atlantic season, which came ashore as a Category 2 hurricane Friday near Destin, Florida, a Gulf Coast vacation spot filled with high-rises and tourist shops. The storm then roared into Alabama with tropical-force winds before dissipating farther north.

About 106,000 customers remained without power by Monday evening in the Florida Panhandle and southern Alabama, according to poweroutage.com. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said he expected nearly everyone to have it restored by Tuesday night and directed all schools to reopen Wednesday.

Drier weather is expected over the next few days across areas of the mid-Atlantic down through the Southeast, including the southern Appalachians.

It will feel "a little summerish" in some of those areas with higher than normal temperatures this week, Orrison said.

Trump is heading all the way to Alaska in a sign of just how close its Senate race may be

By WILL WEISSERT and BECKY BOHRER Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — It's a long way from Washington, has a small population and hasn't backed a Democrat for Senate in nearly 20 years.

Yet President Donald Trump on Tuesday will devote a big chunk of his dwindling time ahead of crucial midterm elections to head all the way to Alaska — attempting to bolster a Republican incumbent senator in another sign of GOP fears about retaining control of Congress after Election Day on Nov. 3.

Trump is headlining a rally for Sen. Dan Sullivan in Wasilla, about 45 miles (72 kilometers) north of Anchorage — famous for being the hometown of former Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin and the headquarters of the Iditarod sled dog race across the state.

Trump's stop is part of a western swing also taking him to rallies in Arizona and Montana on Wednesday. "Dan Sullivan's a great senator," Trump said last week, adding, "You look at the things he's done. He would call me all the time because I think — I definitely know — nobody has helped Alaska like Donald Trump."

Democrats last won a Senate seat in Alaska in 2008, and the state hasn't elected a governor from that party since 1998. The only time Alaska didn't vote Republican for president was during Lyndon B. Johnson's landslide 1964 reelection.

Yet high gasoline prices from the Iran war and persistently elevated inflation have damaged Trump's approval ratings enough to leave Democrats dreaming of Alaska upsets.

Trump and Vance have been trying to boost Sullivan repeatedly

Seeking his third Senate term, Sullivan faces Democrat Mary Peltola, a former congresswoman running to put "Alaska First," emphasizing cost-of-living issues.

Alaska pollster Ivan Moore said he's seen a decline in Trump's support statewide that mirrors the president's falling approval ratings nationally — meaning the Senate race may be decided by Trump 2024 voters who are now unsure they still back him.

"The visit is certainly appropriate. Whether the visit will be effective or not is another matter," said Moore, who said when he first heard that Trump would visit Alaska, he didn't believe it would actually happen.

The Trump administration has prioritized the opening of more of Alaska to oil and gas drilling. Vice President JD Vance already campaigned in Fairbanks for Sullivan.

The senator also recently joined Trump in the Oval Office where the president announced a \$54 billion investment by South Korea's government into an Alaska natural gas project. That's despite South Korea saying the deal, and its total value, haven't been finalized.

Still, Trump trekking four time zones west to get to Sullivan's home turf — an unusually long trip so close to the midterms — is his strongest show of support.

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Trump last campaigned in Alaska to try to defeat a fellow Republican

Alaska is home to around 740,000 people, making it slightly less populous than Denver. It ranks 48th out of 50 states in population, smaller than all but Vermont and Wyoming.

Trump nonetheless headlined a 2022 rally in Anchorage opposing Republican Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski after she voted to convict him on a charge of incitement of insurrection during his second impeachment trial, following the attack on the U.S. Capitol by a mob of his supporters on Jan. 6, 2021.

Trump endorsed Kelly Tshibaka, who challenged Murkowski that year, but that didn't stop incumbent Murkowski from winning reelection.

This year, there are two Dan Sullivans on the ballot

Trump has complained about Alaska's unique elections system. The state has open primaries, in which the four top vote-getters — regardless of party affiliation — advance to the general election, which uses ranked choice voting.

That's led to a scenario where there also will be another Dan Sullivan on the ballot on Nov. 3: retired teacher Dan J. Sullivan, whom Trump and other allies of Sen. Sullivan have called a sham candidate. Dan J. Sullivan has denied this.

At his rally, Trump also plans to stump for Republican Rep. Nick Begich. Begich is facing a competitive challenge from Bill Hill, an independent.

Alaska has a history of rewarding candidates with an independent streak — something Vance acknowledged during his trip to Fairbanks last week. "In very deep red years, Alaska is competitive. In very deep blue years, Alaska is still competitive," Vance said. "I think it's just a reality of the politics of the state."

Independence has been hard to find in the Republican Party where Trump for years had total control. Some Republicans facing tough elections have begun tiptoeing away from Trump on key issues like Iran and tariffs, but not Sullivan, who has been vocal in supporting both.

In a post last week, Trump questioned why three Republicans were running against a Democrat for governor. "How stupid are we to do this?" he said on social media. This comes at the same time state Republican party leaders are urging voters to rank Republicans on the ballot and leave the Democrats blank.

"We want to be clear: we do not support ranked choice voting. It is a confusing, burdensome and costly voting scheme," party leaders, including GOP chair Carmela Warfield, said in a statement Saturday. "That said, ranked choice voting is the system Alaska will use for the 2026 General Election, and we must work within it for this election to keep Alaska's recent momentum going strong."

Trump's trade war with Canada may also be a factor

Trump has also triggered a trade war with Canada, which shares a 1,500-plus-mile (2,450-kilometer) border with Alaska and is among the state's most important trading partners.

The U.S. banned nearly \$1 billion worth of imports from its neighbor to the north — including alcoholic beverages, dairy products and motorcycles — after previously imposing 50% tariffs on about \$20 billion in Canadian products. Canada has responded with reciprocal bans and its own import levies, and the back-and-forth could raise prices for Alaska consumers.

Making Canada an enemy of sorts is "discomforting" for many Alaskans, said pollster Moore.

"We associate, I think, probably more closely with the Canadians — more than a lot of the Lower 48," he said.

Trump's diesel deal with Putin draws criticism from a frustrated Congress

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House speaker stood before Donald Trump during his first term at the White House and pointed a finger declaring that with this president, "All roads lead to Putin."

The stark assessment years ago from Nancy Pelosi echoed anew after Trump's surprise announcement last week that he struck a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin to import tons of Russian diesel to the U.S. as a way to ease sky-high prices at the pumps for Americans ahead of the midterm elections.

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Trump's diesel deal with Putin has been criticized by both Republicans and Democrats as fueling Russia's war against Ukraine, violating existing U.S. laws and drawing the U.S. closer to Russia. It joins a growing list of instances where the president has sided with Putin, often at the expense of Ukraine — and America's own standing.

"The harm to the Ukrainians is real," said William Taylor, a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, now a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, in an interview Monday.

"And the cost to us, the United States, is high."

It's not at all clear the Trump-Putin deal will deliver the supply boost the president is seeking to bring down prices. Energy experts have said the flow of Russian diesel is unlikely to lower prices in the U.S., which have escalated largely due to disruptions from the U.S. war against Iran. But the agreement underlines a message at home and abroad that Trump is an unreliable ally as Ukraine battles Russia.

A bipartisan group of six senators urged Trump over the weekend to reverse course, saying the U.S. "should not provide Putin with a financial lifeline." Trump, however, held fast to his deal with Putin and lashed out, blaming Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for America's high diesel costs and asserting he should step aside — something Ukraine's leader has no intention of doing.

"Anything that could help our farmers, our ranchers, I like," Trump said Monday outside the White House.

Asked about Republican criticism of the Russia deal, Trump said they "can't really be serious."

Trump also insisted that an energy ceasefire is in place for Ukraine and Russia, despite Zelenskyy saying that Moscow continued to strike his country's energy sites.

An AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll published Oct. 1 found that Americans disapprove of Trump's handling of the Iran war and blame him for higher prices.

Congress voted to halt Russian imports, but Trump has other plans

Congress swiftly approved legislation at the outset of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in spring of 2022 to ban the import of Russian energy products, which are widely viewed as providing the financial fuel for Putin's military assault on Ukraine.

The bill passed the House on an overwhelming 414-17 vote and the Senate without a single senator opposed. The law says the president can seek to lift the prohibition if an agreement had been reached to withdraw Russian troops from Ukraine and cease military activity. Such a proposal would need to be reviewed by Congress and to have been "accepted by the free and independent government of Ukraine."

"Trump is directly violating that law," said Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, the bill's chief sponsor, in a statement Monday.

He said Trump "illegally rewards his pal Putin while once again blaming Zelensky for not capitulating to Putin."

More recently, Congress last month approved a sweeping Russian sanctions bill, named after the late GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham, that would slap tariffs on countries that continue importing Russian oil. Trump signed the bill into law.

The bulk of the law's provisions go into effect Oct. 18, the end of the administration's 30-day review period. But such action now appears to be in question since Trump's diesel deal with Putin will allow the flow of Russian energy.

In a letter to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Senate leaders from both parties last week said the most urgent priority for the U.S. must be to tackle the "shadow fleet" of tankers that Moscow is using to transport oil and bypass America's sanctions.

But that was before Trump announced his deal with Putin, which he said would unleash hundreds of tons of diesel.

Treasury did not immediately respond Monday to a request for comment.

Republican Rep. Ashley Hinson, who faces a competitive race for the U.S. Senate against Democrat Josh Turek in Iowa, where \$6 a gallon diesel prices have become an issue, said, "It makes me a little bit nervous anytime we're talking about relieving a sanction on Russia."

Trump, Russia and Pelosi's stand

Almost seven years ago this week, Pelosi stood before Trump and a roomful of U.S. officials during a

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heated White House meeting and leveled her accusation, suggesting the president's policy favored Putin.

The powerful House speaker led the first impeachment of Trump on corruption charges over his administration's decision to withhold congressionally approved aid to Ukraine in 2019 as it faced Russian aggression at its border. Trump was later acquitted by the Senate.

Since Trump's return to the White House, he has seesawed between pressuring Zelenskyy to make concessions and showing frustration with Putin's hardline stance on the war. Trump often complains that he thought his good relationship with his Russian counterpart would have made it easier to end the war.

A year ago, Trump reversed his long-held position that Ukraine would have to give up land and suggested it could win back all the territory it has lost to Russia — only later to call on Kyiv and Moscow to "stop where they are" and end the war.

In July, Trump praised Zelenskyy and Ukraine for their wartime resilience. But by September, Trump was expressing frustration about strikes on Russian energy infrastructure.

Trump insisted Monday the sides agreed to a ceasefire on the energy systems. "They agreed," Trump said. "Because I said, 'You agree.'"

When pressed about the attacks by Russia, Trump said he'd have to take a look, "because there's been violations on both sides."

Pacific hurricane region sets record for big, long-lasting storms thanks to El Niño

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

The drumbeat of monster hurricanes in the Pacific has broken a record for nasty long-lasting storms east of the international date line, turbocharged by nature's supersized El Niño, scientists said.

"Since September 20th, when Odalys formed, it's been berserk," said Colorado State University researcher Phil Klotzbach, who forecasts and studies storm activity. "This year just everything that forms is just lasting a long time and getting really powerful."

One of the key measurements meteorologists use to judge hurricane seasons is called accumulated cyclone energy, or ACE, which includes a storm's wind speed and longevity. On Sunday, a section of the Pacific east of the date line, which brews storms headed for Hawaii, Mexico and the U.S. West Coast, passed the old mark set in 2018. The area is still going strong with Hurricane Simon and appears on the verge of spawning another one that will really ramp up in strength, Klotzbach said.

On Tuesday, the Pacific will tie a record for most days with a hurricane spinning and is likely to break it soon after that, Klotzbach said.

"It feels like almost everything that can spin up does spin up," said University of Arizona atmospheric scientist Kim Wood.

El Niño and warm water are boosting Pacific hurricanes

Several meteorological factors have come together to supercharge the Pacific, chief among them the El Niño, Klotzbach and other hurricane researchers said. An El Niño weakens and shifts the high altitude vertical winds that otherwise can dampen or even decapitate storms. In the Pacific, that wind shear runs east to west, generally with the direction storms travel, so it's like riding a bicycle with a tail wind, Klotzbach said.

Meanwhile, the weather pattern has dampened hurricanes in the Atlantic, where the ACE is less than 18% of what's normal for this time of year. El Niño makes the wind shear in the Atlantic like riding into a headwind, he said.

Another factor is warm water, which serves as hurricane fuel. By definition El Niño is a warming of the equatorial Pacific that changes weather worldwide. In the Pacific storm basin, it's several degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal, said Kristen Corbosiero, a professor of storm atmospheric sciences at the University at Albany in New York.

Usually in the Pacific, the extra warm storm-friendly water doesn't run as deep as it does in the Atlantic. So when one storm goes over a patch of water, it brings up cold water and makes it hard for a subsequent

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storm in the same area to stay alive, Wood said. But not this year.

Hurricane Rachel, whose remnants swamped Las Vegas over the weekend, didn't suffer as it went over, churned up by Category 5 Hurricane Polo, Wood said. She said the waters are warm from both El Niño and climate change from the burning of coal, oil and gas.

Another factor in recent storms was a counterclockwise atmosphere spin over Central America — called a gyre — that spits out seeds of stormy weather that can form into hurricanes. It spit out both the Atlantic's Isaias and the Pacific's Simon at about the same time, Corbosiero and Klotzbach said.

Five major hurricanes in a row

The last five Pacific hurricanes — long-lasting Nolo, Odalys, Polo, Rachel and Simon — have all reached major status with winds of at least 111 mph (178.6 kph). Nolo, Odalys and Simon hit Category 4, while Polo set the record for time spent at Category 5 at two-and-a-half days.

When Klotzbach made those calculations on the record-breaking activity of the eastern and central Pacific, he looked at all storms east of the date line.

That's a slightly different approach from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which breaks that broad area into two regions. Neither NOAA-defined region is quite at record levels for ACE yet; put together they are.

Part of that is because often when one of those subregions is more active, the other isn't quite as crazy, but in 2026 they both are hyperactive, Wood said.

"This is the first year that both sides have been this active together," Wood said. "Usually it's kind of focused more on one or the other, so that speaks to just the wide extent across this region of where there's been that lower shear, those warmer waters, and that higher moisture."

Off the Mexican coast is a disturbance that the National Hurricane Center gives a 90% chance of becoming Tropical Storm Trudy, which then could power up to something big, Klotzbach and Corbosiero said.

"It seems like that area is just one after another. So I would not be surprised to have another storm," Corbosiero said. "This year, because of the El Niño, we do have very favorable conditions. So as long as there's some sort of the seeds either from the gyre or from remnant ends of cold fronts, it seems like this is going to continue for a bit."

Federal judge orders Trump administration to halt work for a day on historic DC golf course

By GARY FIELDS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. District Judge Ana Reyes on Monday ordered a 24-hour halt to tree-cutting at the East Potomac Golf Course, a historic D.C. course that has been part of President Donald Trump's plans to remake the city.

Reyes issued the order following a tense three-hour hearing in which she harshly criticized the government for having deceived her with its actions over the holiday weekend.

Reyes said the 24-hour temporary order could be extended to 14 days if necessary. It was limited to one day while the government tries to find a key Trump administration official to discuss why a massive tree-cutting at the park needed to occur over the holiday weekend, with little notification to plaintiffs in a lawsuit trying to halt renovation plans or the judge.

It's the latest example of the erosion of trust between the government and the independent judiciary, as the Trump administration tries to steamroll scrutiny of its actions, from the White House ballroom to immigration enforcement.

The hearing started with a blistering 15-minute statement from Reyes, who has declined repeated motions from the plaintiffs to halt work by the administration out of concern that its strategy has seemed to be move ahead on projects despite court actions.

"I am thoroughly unamused right now," Reyes said. "I do not know how I could have made it any plainer that I did not want what was to happen, to happen." The judge added, "I have given the government every single benefit of the doubt that it would not do precisely what it has done."

She told the government's lawyers sharply, "I wanted you all to be better than you have been."

The emergency hearing on a holiday expanded as the judge ordered the government to get various participants in the decision-making process into the hearing remotely.

Reyes plans to hold another hearing Oct. 19 and wants to hear from Greg Wischer, deputy chief of staff at the Interior Department, and Jessica Bowron, acting director of the National Park Service. Wischer pushed for the work to be done urgently, according to testimony from Frank Lands, deputy director of operations for the National Park Service. Lands said Bowron had also had a role.

Reyes and plaintiff's attorney Abbe Lowell raised numerous questions about the timeline and chain of command for the decision and whether the witnesses were aware of other plans by the administration.

Kevin Griess, the superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, cited a 2019 National Park Service Cultural Landscape Report as the guide for the work.

Lands said it was part of Trump's 2025 order to make D.C. safe and beautiful. Under questioning from Reyes, he acknowledged that while other city golf courses were also mentioned in the Cultural Landscape Report, there had been no discussions of work at them.

Saudis probe how defense systems failed to stop deadly Houthi attack on Riyadh airport

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Saudi Arabia has launched an investigation to determine how its air defenses failed to intercept a barrage of missiles and drones fired by Iran-backed Houthi rebels, including an attack on Riyadh airport that killed at least 13 people and wounded over 300, two regional officials said Monday.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly, said the initial probe showed that Yemen's Houthis first fired multiple drones to pave the way for a mix of cruise and ballistic missiles to reach Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport.

The Houthis possess ballistic missiles and advanced systems fitted with warheads that can change direction during flight and pose a challenge to Patriot interceptors and other defense systems used by the Saudis.

One of the officials said the investigation also aims to find out why air defense systems did not provide earlier warning of the attack in which the Houthi missiles and drones flew over 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) to reach Riyadh.

The incident, one of a string of Houthi attacks since last week on Saudi airports, has exposed vulnerabilities in Saudi Arabia's defense system and signaled a dangerous inflection point in an expanding Mideast conflict that began more than seven months ago when the U.S. and Israel launched their war against Iran.

The Saudi-led coalition also said it had twice intercepted and destroyed ballistic missiles launched Monday by the Houthis toward Riyadh. At least three explosions could be heard Monday night in the city. Civil defense officials later said the danger had passed.

The rebels later said they had targeted King Khalid Airport on Monday, warning international airlines that all Saudi airports, except those in the Muslim holy cities of Mecca and Medina, were unsafe.

Earlier on Monday, the Saudi state-run media reported that its military was responding to a new attack involving drones and cruise missiles, but provided no details.

"The events of recent weeks are serious," Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdul Aziz bin Salman told the World Petroleum Energy Congress in Riyadh on Monday. "Our response must be equally serious."

The Saudi government-run Center for International Communication, which oversees foreign media, did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the probe into defense failures.

Saudi officials want more US help in countering Houthi attacks

The Saudis want the U.S. to become more directly involved in their fight against the Houthis. The U.S. has provided intelligence sharing, target identification and planning for a Saudi-led offensive, but has held off on carrying out strikes against the Houthis.

A U.S. intervention could prompt the Houthis to try to halt shipping through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait at

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the southern end of the Red Sea off Yemen, restricting the flow of oil out of the Persian Gulf.

The flow of Mideast oil has already been complicated by Iranian efforts to choke off the Strait of Hormuz, where about one-fifth of the world's oil flowed before the U.S.-Iran war began.

The rebels seized key areas along the Bab el-Mandeb last month. The Saudi-led coalition, backing forces aligned with Yemen's internationally recognized government, has been trying to retake them.

U.S. President Donald Trump told reporters on Saturday after the deadly airport strike that he was looking at the possibility of carrying out U.S. attacks against the Houthis.

Trump said Monday that he had spoken with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, but didn't offer any details about the call. He also said the Houthis were "misbehaving very badly," but didn't say anything about whether the U.S. would respond to the rebels.

Later on Monday, when asked if the U.S. will defend Saudi Arabia after Houthi attacks, Trump said, "You'll find out soon."

The conflict comes at a delicate time for Trump, just weeks before U.S. midterm elections that will decide if his Republican Party keeps control of Congress.

Persistent inflation and high gas prices fueled by the ongoing conflict with Iran have driven widespread American disapproval of that war. Expanding U.S. military involvement in the region risks further stoking voters' resentment.

Houthis say Saudis launch new attacks

Yemen's Houthi-run health ministry said Monday that airstrikes on a government complex and a house in the northern province of al-Jawf killed nine people, including five children and a woman, and wounded seven others, according to the Houthi-controlled SABA news agency.

Houthi officials also said that Saudi Arabia carried out new strikes on the Yemeni capital of Sanaa, killing one person and wounding 12.

Ministry spokesperson Anees al-Asbahi said 107 Yemenis have been killed by the Saudi-led coalition since Sept. 3, and 278 were injured. Over 60% of casualties were women and children, he said.

The Riyadh airport remained closed on Monday and workers in the capital's financial district were told to work from home.

However, the Saudis on Monday continued with the second day of the World Petroleum Energy Congress.

UAE diplomat suggests Gulf allies respond to Houthis jointly

Separately, an Emirati diplomat on Monday called for "joint Gulf action" to defend against attacks by Iran and its allied groups.

Anwar Gargash, a diplomatic adviser to the rulers of the United Arab Emirates, said Iran and its allies wrongly assessed that Gulf Arabs were "the weakest link" in the U.S. war against Iran, during which Tehran and its allies repeatedly attacked Arab countries on the other side of the Gulf.

"It has become clear that we are all targeted, and that our security is indivisible," he wrote on social media.

Iran's Foreign Ministry on Monday expressed concern about fighting between the Saudis and Houthis and said Iran would be ready to settle disputes.

"We are severely concerned about developments in the Arabian Peninsula," spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said at his weekly briefing. "We have many times announced readiness for applying our good offices in order to facilitate talks between the two sides."

Baghaei said Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, spoke by phone on Sunday about the situation but did not offer details.

Funeral held for Jordanian killed in airport attack

Dozens of mourners attended the Monday funeral for a Jordanian killed in the missile strike on King Khalid International Airport.

Mahmoud Al-Barqawi, 33, who worked in a Riyadh cafe and was the father of two children, was buried after a funeral procession began at a mosque in Amman.

His father, Hasan al-Barqawi, said the family was struggling to cope.

"No one can truly feel the pain of this tragedy," he said.

The strike also wounded four Jordanian citizens.

Jordan's Royal Court chief Yousef Al-Issawi attended the funeral, offering condolences on behalf of the king and crown prince.

What to know about the search of Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar's home

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

Federal agents searched Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar's Washington, D.C. home on Monday, only three weeks before the frequent target of President Donald Trump's criticism stands for reelection in her congressional district in Minnesota.

Here's what to know:

Is this political retribution?

Trump has not been shy about wanting to use federal law enforcement to target his perceived political enemies. He's pushed prosecutions of former FBI Director James Comey and New York's Democratic Attorney General, Letitia James, following earlier probes the two launched against him. Omar, a left-wing firebrand, has been a longtime target of Trump and Republicans in general.

Omar was born in Somalia and is a naturalized U.S. citizen. Trump has especially targeted Somali immigrants in Minnesota, posting on social media last week that the people of the state must "fight back" against them. The state has reeled from several federal fraud cases sometimes involving Somali-run nonprofits in Minnesota. Many of those cases were filed by former President Joe Biden's Department of Justice. Omar is not involved in them.

Omar has long criticized Trump, and the president has likewise gone after her repeatedly over the years. Trump late last week alluded to possible action against the congresswoman. At a rally in Tennessee on Saturday, Trump referred pejoratively to Omar as coming from a country of "crime and squalor" and suggested that Vice President JD Vance "and our people" were investigating her.

Justice Department protocol has long been to avoid legal action against politicians in the final weeks before their election. The Trump administration's violation of that added to Democratic criticism that this is simply political payback.

"For years, Donald Trump and far-right extremists have relentlessly targeted Congresswoman Omar with vile personal attacks and baseless accusations," said a joint statement issued from House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and other top congressional Democrats.

"Now, less than 30 days until the midterm election, his violent mass deportation machine has descended upon the home of a duly elected Member of Congress and her family."

Asked about the search, Trump deferred to the Justice Department, saying "that has nothing to do with me."

"I've always found her to be very crooked, personally," he said.

Is this about immigration?

The agents who searched Omar's home, pursuant to a federal search warrant, were Homeland Security investigators, indicating the investigation regards immigration issues. Several Trump officials have suggested that is how they intend to pursue Omar.

Vance has suggested before that Omar committed immigration fraud. Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin last month cited an "ongoing investigation" that he suggested was examining potential fraud on her family's immigration paperwork.

"Something's going to happen," he said at the time.

The Department of Justice on Monday was typically tight-lipped, giving few details about the case other than saying it was a criminal investigation.

Omar became a U.S. citizen in 2000 when she was 17 years old, five years after she arrived with her family after obtaining asylum in the United States.

What happens next?

The election is in 20 days. Omar's district in Minneapolis is deep blue and she's in little actual peril on

Nov. 3.

We don't know enough about the next steps in the investigation. It's likely, however, that conservatives will continue slamming Omar. Now, however, she has one more way to hit back — by arguing she's being persecuted by her political opponents.

In a statement on X on Monday, Omar called the search an "attempt to target political enemies and weaponize federal law enforcement."

"For ten years, Trump has targeted me with baseless lies and smear campaigns. This is just the latest escalation in his campaign of political intimidation," she said. "I will not be silenced."

FACT FOCUS: Posts falsely claim Democratic Senate candidate James Talarico was at a mental facility

By MELISSA GOLDIN and JESSE BEDAYN Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Republican officials and conservative social media users spread unfounded rumors in recent days that state Rep. James Talarico, the Democratic nominee in a competitive Texas Senate race, had suffered a mental health crisis.

Questions about Talarico's whereabouts began spreading after the candidate was not seen in public for nine days. But he and his campaign have repeatedly attributed his absence to the flu.

Here's a closer look at the facts.

CLAIM: Democratic Senate candidate James Talarico was being treated in an Ohio mental health facility last week.

THE FACTS: This is false. The facility where he was said to have been treated has denied he was ever a patient there. Both he and his campaign have said he was recovering from the flu. Talarico has type 1 diabetes, which means he has a higher risk of developing complications from the flu. Regardless, Talarico's schedule doesn't align with what was presented as evidence of his stay at the mental health facility and images reviewed by The Associated Press showed Talarico at home over several days last week.

Talarico spoke at a Hispanic Business Council event on Sept. 30 by video. He said during the event that he had been diagnosed with the flu at an urgent care facility in Dallas after "starting to feel kind of under the weather a few days ago," adding that he wasn't there in person because he had decided to "put safety first" since he had a fever and was still contagious.

Republicans highlighted Talarico's subsequent absence from the campaign trail from Oct. 1 to Oct. 9, noting his absence came at a critical time at the end of a competitive race. His opponent, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, described Talarico as "missing" in a series of social posts and said his campaign had requested "proof of life." President Donald Trump called Talarico "MISSING IN ACTION!" in a Truth Social post and asked: "Where is he? What is wrong with him?"

Among the chatter was a rumor that Talarico had suffered a mental health breakdown. Conservative social media influencer Nick Sorter on Sunday posted a 47-second audio clip on X that he said proved that Talarico had been discharged earlier in the week from Lindner Center of Hope, a mental health treatment center in Mason, Ohio. In the clip, a woman who Sorter claimed was an employee there says it looked like Talarico "was just discharged this evening."

But the timeline doesn't hold up. Rhein Amacher, who describes himself on social media as a "right-wing provocateur," said he made the call on Saturday evening. Talarico was seen at the Austin City Limits music festival on Friday. On Saturday, he made an appearance at a Kacey Musgraves concert in Dallas.

The Lindner Center of Hope wrote in an X post on Sunday that Talarico "has never received treatment" from the facility. Talarico replied to the post, saying, "I've never even been to Ohio." He included a tears of joy emoji. JT Ennis, a spokesperson for Talarico, called Sorter's claim "a lie designed to promote a pathetic conspiracy theory" in an X post and wrote that Talarico had been recovering from the flu at his home in Austin.

"I got the flu, and I'm feeling much better, and I'm glad I had a chance to recover," Talarico said in a Sunday interview with the NBC affiliate in Dallas-Fort Worth. He confirmed that the online rumors were "not

true." In an MS NOW interview the same day, he called such rumors "the craziest thing I've ever heard."

If Talarico wins the November general election, Paxton would be the first Republican in nearly four decades to lose a Senate race in Texas.

Authorities name the attacker and most of the 8 victims in last week's Erie mass shooting

By JOHN RABY Associated Press

A coroner on Monday released the names of the gunman and six of the eight people he shot and killed at a home in Erie, Pennsylvania, including seven of his relatives.

The shooter in Friday's attack was Matthew Stone Sr., 45, according to Erie County coroner Lyell Cook. Stone took his own life at the home, Erie Police Chief Rick Lorah said.

According to Cook, the adult victims were Michelle Stone, 44; Angelina Stone, 24, who was due to give birth Monday; Jonathan Stone, 19; Matthew Stone, 21, and two women who lived at other addresses: Lora Roberts, 37, and Twila Tanner, 51. He said a 5-year-old boy and a 1-year-old girl also died, but that state law prevented him from releasing their names.

At a memorial to the victims, Julius Windham said his daughter Amarianna was the toddler who was killed. The girl's mother was Angelina Stone, who was also the mother of the boy who died, he said, noting that attacker was a grandfather and the family patriarch.

Family friend Nicole Eller said Roberts frequently went to the house to help during the pregnancy of her niece and neighbor, Angelina Stone.

Roberts, identified by friends as a mother of five who was engaged to be married, was a volunteer and former board member for a community group that helped homeless people. She wrote a July 15 Facebook post decrying recent shootings in Erie.

"Erie we need to do better!!" she wrote. "Life is precious and its heartbreaking to see so much pain and violence. Check on the people you love, and always choose kindness."

Video and audio evidence recovered by investigators included muffled gunshot sounds coming from inside the home just before two "distressed" women arrived and began pounding on the door, Lorah said. The gunman then came out and shot them as they ran toward him, before returning inside.

Roberts and Tanner, who was the only non-relative, were killed outside the home, Lorah said.

The police chief hasn't said what the gunman's possible motives were, but he suggested that his mental health could have been a factor. He said investigators would talk to relatives and examine the cellphones of the women who were killed outside the home.

Erie is about 120 miles (190 kilometers) north of Pittsburgh.

The Kremlin relishes in the US-Russia diesel deal and Trump's criticism of Zelenskyy

By The Associated Press undefined

A deal between Moscow and Washington over exports of Russian diesel and fresh U.S. criticism of Ukraine's leader mark important political victories for the Kremlin, reversing some of the sanctions for its full-scale invasion of its neighbor.

While the size of Russia's diesel exports is relatively small and unlikely to significantly impact prices, the revenue will help Moscow replenish its war coffers and — more importantly — undermine efforts by Kyiv and its European allies to put up a united front against President Vladimir Putin.

Along with President Donald Trump suggesting that Ukraine should get a new leader to replace President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the developments strengthen the Kremlin's hand at a critical junction of the war, amid relentless attacks by Russia on energy systems and other vital infrastructure.

Ahead of next month's midterm elections, Trump blamed a spike in diesel prices on Ukrainian attacks on Russian refineries, even though the U.S.-led war in Iran has sent global energy prices soaring.

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Mark Galeotti, a Russia expert who heads the Mayak Intelligence consultancy, described the deal that Trump announced Friday as an "astonishing birthday present" for Putin, two days after he turned 74.

While Russia's diesel exports could be a "drop in the ocean compared with actual overall demand," Galeotti said it was "a gift for Putin, even if a single barrel of diesel is not exported."

That's because "it drives another and increasingly thick wedge between Trump and Zelenskyy," he said in a podcast Sunday.

Russian strikes continue despite Trump's 'energy truce'

Even though Trump declared Sunday that Moscow and Kyiv had agreed to an "energy truce" effective immediately, Russia continued attacking Ukraine's energy facilities, said Zelenskyy, who has criticized the diesel deal as a show of weakness.

Zelenskyy emphasized that he is open to an energy ceasefire if it includes a halt to Russian attacks on Ukraine's power grid.

Russia has not said whether it agrees to such a ceasefire, and Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday only that "contacts are ongoing."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov shrugged off Zelenskyy's comments as an attempt "to promote his interest in a ceasefire."

"I don't think he deserves a respite," Lavrov said.

Galeotti predicted that Putin is unlikely to halt attacks on Ukraine's energy facilities, which he sees as "absolutely central to his winter air war strategy."

Russia stepped up aerial attacks on Ukraine in recent months with ballistic missiles and new jet-powered drones, taking advantage of Kyiv's shortage of U.S.-made Patriot interceptors whose stockpiles have been drained by the war in Iran.

Putin has repeatedly emphasized that Moscow wants a comprehensive, long-term agreement, not a temporary halt to hostilities.

Asked to comment on Zelenskyy's statement that Ukraine needs a minimum of 60 days to prepare elections, Peskov said Putin could order a ceasefire only on the day of voting.

Russia's fuel crisis causes doubts about export capacity

In recent months, Ukraine launched successful aerial attacks that knocked out over half of Russia's oil refining capacity, according to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. The strikes caused a severe fuel crisis with long lines at gas stations, bringing the war home to millions.

Ukraine also methodically struck oil terminals at the Russian Black Sea port of Novorossiysk and targeted dozens of tankers at sea, seeking to derail Moscow's oil exports and drain Moscow's revenues.

Putin acknowledged the damage but noted that Moscow is capable of inflicting much bigger blows to Ukraine.

Some officials and analysts questioned whether Russia will be able to provide diesel supplies under the deal announced by Trump.

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski voiced doubts about it, saying that even the Russian capital is experiencing fuel shortages.

Others say Moscow actually has a surplus of diesel, now that demand has eased following the end of the harvest season.

"Russia planned to export more diesel anyway," said Janis Kluge, head of the Eastern Europe and Eurasia Division at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs.

Still, some Russian motorists exhausted by months of waiting at gas stations were worried the new deal could leave fewer supplies for the domestic market.

"I don't think that's very good, because you can see what's going on at gas stations — people are standing in line around the clock," said Marat Salavatov, waiting to refuel at a Moscow gas station.

Russian officials sought to quell such fears, saying there will be enough supply to keep the domestic market stable.

The volume of production is able "to fully satisfy the needs of the local market while delivering the agreed

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amounts to the global market," Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said in a government statement announcing the lifting of the diesel export ban that had been in place since July.

Trump's criticism of Zelenskyy is seen as aiding Russia

In addition to the diesel deal, Trump unleashed biting criticism of Zelenskyy that marks perhaps the lowest point in their relationship since the disastrous Oval Office meeting in February 2025.

That could be even more important for the Kremlin.

Trump's remark that it was time for a new president in Ukraine and his suggestion that Zelenskyy has not done enough to end the war topped the news on Russian state television and was widely discussed by pro-Kremlin commentators and military bloggers.

Officials in Kyiv viewed the diesel deal and the hostile rhetoric as a political move aimed at making Zelenskyy a scapegoat for U.S. voters ahead of the midterms, said Oleksandr Merezhko, a lawmaker from Zelenskyy's party.

"We are not happy when our ally and partner gives money to a dictator who is killing us," Merezhko said. "By demanding that Ukraine stop striking Russian oil refineries, Trump looks as though he cares more about the Russian war machine than about the civilians Putin is killing."

Kyiv fears that easing sanctions without meaningful concessions from Russia could weaken Washington's leverage over the Kremlin and further diminish prospects for fair terms to end the war.

The Trump-Zelenskyy tensions come as Kyiv continues to rely heavily on Washington for military assistance, including Patriot systems and vital intelligence. A disruption of that support could leave Ukraine more vulnerable.

Galeotti said Trump's comments casting Zelenskyy as an obstacle to peace were "benefit No. 1 for Putin."

Trump's move also raises questions about the European Union's efforts to go after Russia's so-called shadow fleet of tankers carrying oil to global markets, he said, observing that Europe has been left in a position "where it's obviously just regarded as a vassal region that has to accept whatever policy comes from the White House."

The diesel deal also will boost Russia's credentials with developing countries, helping its posture as a great global player worthy of being a partner, Galeotti said.

Tatiana Stanovaya of the Carnegie Russia and Eurasia Center said the move could look like a "moment of triumph" for Putin.

"He has secured an economic deal, albeit a modest one, before a peace settlement, departing from Washington's previous position," Stanovaya said in a commentary.

She argued that Putin will see Trump's current stance as "creating more favorable conditions for intensifying military pressure, aimed primarily at triggering an internal political breakdown in Ukraine rather than achieving a battlefield breakthrough."

Still, Dmitry Medvedev, who served as a placeholder president in 2008-12 to allow Putin to get around constitutional term limits, warned against excessive optimism over Trump's comments.

"Only our guys, ballistics and Geranium (drones) make victory closer," said Medvedev, now deputy head of Russia's Security Council.

Suspected plot at US-run air base almost certainly directed by Iran, UK prime minister says

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A suspected plot to attack a U.S.-run military air base in England was "almost certainly" directed by Iran's Revolutionary Guard, British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said Monday.

Burnham previously said there are strong indications Iran was linked to the apparent plan last month to attack the RAF Fairford air base, which has been used by American bombers to strike Iran in the ongoing war.

Police have arrested seven men in the investigation into the alleged plot, but all suspects have been released on bail and no one has been charged so far.

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Iran has denied involvement, although it has previously said that it considers any base used to attack its territory a legitimate target.

"I can confirm our assessment that it is highly likely to have been coordinated in Iran, almost certainly directed by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard," Burnham told lawmakers. "We will not tolerate these threats on our soil."

Police found gasoline but no explosives in the suspects' vehicles

Scores of residents near the air base were evacuated from their homes on Sept. 27 as armed police officers and army bomb-disposal experts swarmed the rural area.

Police later said they had found a quantity of an accelerant — gasoline — in three vans linked to the initial five suspects who were arrested on the scene, but no explosives.

All the suspects arrested are in their 20s. None has been identified, though police said six are British nationals while one is a dual U.K.-Iranian citizen.

On Monday, the British government summoned the Iranian ambassador, who reiterated that Tehran was not involved in the suspected plot and urged the U.K. to provide evidence supporting its claims.

The U.K. also said it added two Iranians, including the head of counterespionage operations in the Revolutionary Guard, to its sanctions list. Authorities said the two were involved in conducting espionage and attacks on behalf of Iran's government in Europe and the U.S.

The U.S. pulled its bombers last week from RAF Fairford, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of London, and the aircraft have now been redeployed to their home bases, the Pentagon said.

The Trump administration has said it believed the base faced Iranian threats intended to kill as many American troops and destroy as many U.S. planes as possible.

The British government allowed the U.S. military to use RAF Fairford for what it called defensive strikes on Iranian missiles and their launch sites following Iranian attacks on U.K. interests and Britain's allies in the Gulf.

US joins many Western countries in condemning Iranian proxy attacks

Officials have said that local proxies linked to Iran were behind a string of arson and other attacks on the U.S., Britain and other countries, many of them targeting Jewish communities and intended to sow fear.

British officials have said the number of national security cases involving activity by hostile states, including Iran, increased by 50% in the six months to December 2025.

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said Monday that the Fairford air base incident "speaks to a wider trend."

"States like Iran are using proxies to conduct hostile activity here in Britain. They pay criminals or exploit naive volunteers, attacking our country and its citizens while maintaining an air of plausible deniability," she said.

In a joint statement released Monday, the foreign ministers of the U.K., U.S. and about two dozen Western countries condemned Iranian attacks on their territory. They said the Fairford incident demonstrated Iran's "continued willingness to project hostile activity beyond its borders through covert networks and proxy actors."

"Anyone who conducts hostile activities on behalf of Iran, or any other state, should know that we will take action to identify, investigate, disrupt, and prosecute these acts," the statement said.

What to know about Pope Leo's planned lung nodule surgery

By COLLEEN BARRY and NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Leo XIV is scheduled to have an operation this week to remove "a localized nodule" in his lung that was "detected at a very early stage." It is the first medical event of his 17-month papacy.

The Vatican said he will be admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital on Tuesday, and predicted a weeklong hospitalization to recover.

Here is what is known:

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A nodule can be benign or malignant

A lung nodule is a small abnormal area measuring less than 3 centimeters (about 1.2 inches) across. It is sometimes detected on a CT scan performed to investigate another problem, such as trauma or a lung infection, according to the American Cancer Society. Experts say the nodule could be benign or malignant and that prompt evaluation is important.

If the nodule is cancerous and removed at an early stage, the prognosis is "excellent," and surgery alone may be sufficient treatment, said Dr. Stephen Liu, a lung cancer expert at Georgetown's Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Leo, 71, is considered otherwise healthy and physically fit, both positive factors for his recovery. He said the nodule was discovered during "recent medical tests," and the Vatican said Monday that no particular health issue prompted the checkup, describing it as "routine."

Surgery followed by a week of recovery

The Vatican said Leo will be admitted to the hospital on Tuesday in the late morning and undergo surgery in the first days of this week. Oncologists who aren't treating him said patients can often be discharged after just a few days, to recover further at home.

The exact date of surgery wasn't released, but Leo had a full slate of audiences and appointments Monday morning and afternoon.

The pope will be treated at Rome's Gemelli hospital, formally known as the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic, a nonprofit Catholic teaching hospital that is part of the Catholic Sacred Heart University. The facility has a special apartment set up for pontiffs on the 10th floor that includes a private chapel. Leo's immediate predecessor, Pope Francis, was treated there before his May 2025 death during a long illness prompted by a respiratory crisis.

St. John Paul II spent so much time at Gemelli that he called it "Vatican III," after the Vatican itself and the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo.

Upcoming activities and trip in question

Leo has several activities scheduled this week but the Vatican on Monday canceled all his audiences through Oct. 20.

Leo also has a major trip planned Nov. 6-17 to Uruguay, Argentina and Peru. It is unclear whether the surgery and recovery will affect the ambitious itinerary, which includes a dozen flights, two helicopter rides and significant altitude changes in Peru. Leo said earlier in his remarks Sunday that he still planned to make the trip.

Pope remains in charge, even when unconscious

The Vatican has no specific rules governing who takes over if a pope becomes totally incapacitated. Even while unconscious during surgery, Leo remains pope and retains his authority.

Pope Francis remained in charge throughout his lengthy hospitalizations, as did St. John Paul II before him. Both made appointments and issued laws and statements from the hospital. A team of officials already handles day-to-day Vatican operations.

Medical advances and popes' longer lifespans, however, have highlighted this gap in church law and prompted calls for the Vatican to prepare for a pope becoming too ill or incapacitated to govern.

Two days before revealing his planned surgery, Leo confirmed one significant appointment. On Friday, he approved Filipino Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle as the new dean of the College of Cardinals. Tagle, 69, replaces Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, 92, whose term Francis extended in the weeks before his death.

Tagle was designated at the last minute to stand in for Leo at Wednesday's Mass to close out a conference on family ministry.

The dean also plays a significant role in a papal transition. He presides over the previous pope's funeral and helps lead the cardinals' closed-door meetings before the conclave to discuss the church's future needs. If he is under 80 when the conclave begins, he also presides over the secret election of a new pope in the Sistine Chapel.

The Vatican released a letter Leo wrote to Re on Sunday — the day of his announcement — thanking him for his lifelong service to the church. He noted in particular the role that Re played in the recent papal

transition, when he celebrated Francis' funeral.

"I do not think I am mistaken in saying that you, Your Eminence, have been and remain one of the Holy See's best-known and most esteemed servants," Leo wrote.

Pope will be admitted to hospital Tuesday for lung nodule surgery, Vatican says

By NICOLE WINFIELD, PAOLO SANTALUCIA and COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican said Pope Leo XIV will be admitted to the hospital on Tuesday ahead of surgery to remove a lung nodule, providing an unusual level of transparency about papal health under the American pope.

The surgery will require a weeklong recovery in the hospital, and the Vatican on Monday canceled all Leo's audiences through Oct. 20.

Leo himself revealed the discovery of the nodule during his Sunday noon prayer and said he was following doctors' advice to have it removed. The Vatican press office said Monday that no particular issue precipitated the tests, denying Italian media reports suggesting an inflammation had prompted Leo to have the checkup.

On the eve of his departure for Rome's Gemelli hospital, it was business as usual Monday at the Vatican.

The 71-year-old Leo presided over an audience with members of a Rome-based charity, the Circolo San Pietro, and received a donation from them. He spoke in a strong, clear voice, praising their service and sacrifice. The crowd gave him a rousing round of applause afterward.

He had six other private audiences, made three appointments and the Vatican released a letter he had penned to the outgoing dean of the College of Cardinals, thanking him for his service. The letter was signed on Sunday.

In the afternoon, he had been expected to rejoin a weeklong conference he convened on ministering to families. But in the evening, the two conference organizers released a statement saying that given Leo's absence, they were changing plans and would delay publishing the final statement from the meeting until after he recovers.

The surgery was clearly unexpected and took participants of the family conference by surprise. Leo was also supposed to have presided over a Wednesday Mass, but on Monday the Vatican announced a replacement.

"Of course, it comes as a surprise to all of us that the Holy Father needs to be hospitalized for a few days for an intervention," said Quebec Cardinal Gérald Cyprien Lacroix. "But it will not change what we're doing."

Leo had summoned the presidents of bishops conferences around the world for a week of discussion about how one of Pope Francis' most important and controversial documents is being implemented.

"The Joy of Love" aimed to help the church better minister to families coping with today's challenges, including poverty and war but also divorce and LGBTQ+ children. It was controversial because Francis opened the door to letting divorced and civilly remarried Catholics have access to the sacraments.

A first medical event for the papacy

Leo's surgery marks the first major health event of his 17-month pontificate. It was significant because the pope himself revealed the news, in perhaps the most public way possible: at the end of his Sunday noon blessing, with thousands of people in St. Peter's Square.

The Vatican has for centuries zealously guarded the pope's health and has often sent out confusing information, or none at all, about papal illnesses. Pope Francis tried to change that by being upfront about his frailties and musing on his eventual death. But even during his pontificate, information was tightly controlled.

Leo's decision and reveal suggested an unusual level of transparency by the American pope.

"I really appreciated yesterday at the end of the Angelus, he himself said, 'This is what's going on — very transparent — and ask for prayers,'" Lacroix said.

A lung nodule is a small abnormal area measuring less than 3 centimeters (1 inch) that sometimes ap-

appears on a CT scan of the chest or abdomen. Often, the scans are done to investigate trauma or a lung infection, unrelated to a lung cancer screening. A nodule can be benign or malignant, and oftentimes surgical removal is recommended to ascertain whether it is cancerous since performing a lung biopsy by needle can be difficult.

Oncologists say if the nodule turns out to be cancerous, Leo's prognosis is "excellent" since it will have been removed at an early stage.

Unlike his predecessor Pope Francis, whose decade-long respiratory problems made him speak in a whisper, Leo tends to project his voice and frequently sings his prayers.

Elon Musk quietly becomes biggest known donor in midterm contests as he tries to save Republicans

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Elon Musk, the world's only trillionaire, has quietly become the biggest known donor in this year's midterm elections, doling out more than \$276 million since July to try to save Republican majorities in Congress.

The numbers, first reported by the New York Times ahead of this week's federal filing deadline, were confirmed by Andrew Romeo, a spokesperson for Musk's super PAC.

The money includes \$158 million given to the Senate Leadership Fund, the main super PAC supporting Republican Senate candidates, one of the largest known political donations in American history, according to the Times.

Another \$76 million went to America PAC, a Musk super PAC, which has once again built out a major turnout operation like the one it used to help elect President Donald Trump by knocking on doors in 2024.

Musk also provided \$10 million to Lone Star Liberty PAC, a group that supports the Republican nominee for Senate in Texas, Ken Paxton. The race has been a major focus of Musk's efforts.

It's a dramatic turnaround since last May, when Musk said he intended to cut back on future political spending. "I think I've done enough," he said at the time.

Despite the cash infusion, Musk has generally kept a lower profile than in 2024, when he appeared on stage next to Trump at rallies, and in the early days of the president's second term, when he led the Department of Government Efficiency.

He had a falling out with Trump while leaving his government post, but the two have since reconciled. Trump presented Musk with the National Medal of Science last week.

Musk's net worth has fluctuated around the trillion-dollar line this year based on changes in stock prices, but he topped \$1 trillion again last week according to Forbes magazine.

Republicans have a gaping financial advantage over their Democratic counterparts — a disparity that has been a rare bright spot for a party that is bracing for major potential losses amid deep voter frustration over the president's performance, stubbornly high prices and the unpopular war with Iran.

They have been using the money to blanket the airwaves in the race's final stretch.

"These robust investments have allowed the G.O.P. apparatus to get its message out so Republicans can have a fighting chance to defy history," Romeo told the Times.

Democrats responded to the news by accusing Republicans of using vast amounts of cash to mask their shortcomings.

"Republicans are hoping to buy these elections, injecting tens of millions into races to try and outrun their unpopular candidates, unpopular president, and unpopular economy," said Lauren French, a spokesperson for Democrats' Senate Majority PAC.

Bryan Ford's cozy bread pudding recipe turns day-old bread into a rum-topped dessert

By BRYAN FORD at Voracious undefined

Many cultures have their own versions of bread pudding, created as a way to eliminate the waste of old bread. This version is from my cookbook, "Pan y Dulce."

"Old bread" does not necessarily mean that it has gone bad or is moldy. I'm simply referring to bread that is a day or two old and has gotten dry, which makes it the perfect vehicle to soak up the sweet milk and egg mixture and create a very moist texture once it comes out of the oven. You can feel free to use dairy-free alternatives like almond, soy, oat, or coconut milk instead of the whole milk and heavy cream.

As a professional baker, I am hopelessly devoted to the practice of measuring my ingredients by weight. While this does require a cheap digital kitchen scale, the practice will give you an instant upgrade from baking volumetrically, by which I mean using measuring cups and tablespoons. But because I realize that not all home bakers are with me yet, I have included conversions by volume.

Pudín de Pan (Bread Pudding)

Makes 8 Servings

Ingredients

300 grams (10 ½ ounces) day-old bread or pan dulce, cubed and shredded

400 grams (1 2/3 cup) whole milk

5 large eggs

100 grams (1/2 cup packed) brown sugar

2 grams (1 teaspoon) ground cinnamon

1 gram (1 teaspoon) ground nutmeg

100 grams (2/3 cup) raisins

75 grams (3/4 cup) shredded coconut, plus more for topping

50 grams (1/3 cup) semisweet chocolate chips

100 grams (1/2 cup) granulated sugar

50 grams (3 ½ tablespoons) unsalted butter

40 grams (3 tablespoons) heavy cream

5 grams (1 teaspoon) vanilla extract

Dark rum al gusto

Directions

Cube up the old bread or pan dulce. I like to then take each cube and shred it as finely as possible.

In a large bowl, add the milk, eggs, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg and whisk together until it's blended well. Add the cubed bread into this mixture and incorporate until all the bread is moist. There should be more moisture than bread, which is good because the bread will begin to absorb it. If it feels too dry, make adjustments accordingly.

Add the raisins and shredded coconut into the mixture and mix again until they are evenly distributed. Cover the mixture and put in the fridge overnight (8 to 12 hours), or transfer to a baking pan and let it sit for at least 30 minutes before baking.

Once ready to bake, preheat the oven to 375 F. Pour the mixture into a loaf pan or cake pan and top with the chocolate chips. Add more shredded coconut on top so that it develops a nice, toasty flavor. Place the pan in the oven and bake the bread pudding for about 35 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan over low heat, combine the granulated sugar, butter and heavy cream and whisk until the sugar is just about dissolved. Aim for a relatively thick consistency. If necessary, let it reduce for 5 minutes.

Once the desired consistency has been achieved, add the vanilla and as much rum as desired and whisk together. Set aside until the pudding is done.

Let the bread pudding cool for about 15 minutes before slicing. Serve warm and pour rum sauce on top.

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A list of this year's Nobel Prize winners

By The Associated Press undefined

STOCKHOLM (AP) — This year's Nobel Prize awards concluded Monday after two economists won the Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for their work on models that help manage economic shocks.

The award ceremonies will be held on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, who founded the prizes.

The prize money this year was 12 million Swedish kronor (about \$1.2 million), whether for an individual, a small group of laureates, or an organization.

Here are this year's winners:

Medicine

On Oct. 5, the Nobel Prize in medicine was awarded to three scientists whose work led to a tool that uses light to help unravel how the brain works.

Dr. Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel conducted research that opened a new field with the wonky name optogenetics, combining light and genes to switch neurons on and off in living brains.

Physics

On Oct. 6, the Nobel Prize in physics was awarded to Belgian-born scientist Francis Halzen for his efforts to demystify a rare group of neutrinos, tiny cosmic particles that researchers believe offer clues to how the universe evolved.

Neutrinos are tiny cosmic particles with no electric charge and extraordinarily small mass, making them difficult to detect.

Scientists cannot glimpse the mysterious ghost particles zooming around on their own, so they measure what happens when the particles collide with other bits of matter. Halzen had the idea to turn the vast Antarctic ice into a detector for such collisions.

Chemistry

On Oct. 7, the Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded to scientists Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai for untangling mysterious mirror images in molecules, a discovery that has been used to develop countless drugs and transformed modern medicine.

Many molecules come in versions that look alike but are not exactly identical, like right and left hands. Kagan and Soai found ways to make chemistry pick a side, describing and designing reactions to produce the desired mirror image.

Literature

On Oct. 8, the Nobel Prize in literature was awarded to Canadian poet, essayist and translator Anne Carson for "bold and inventive" works that fuse the classical and the modern and blur the boundaries of poetry and prose.

The Toronto-born Carson, 76, has drawn on themes from classical Greek and Roman literature, modern influences, and personal experience for genre-blending titles ranging from translations of ancient Greek poets to collaborations with dancers and musicians.

Peace

On Oct. 9, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Navi Pillay, a South African-born jurist and former U.N. human rights chief, for efforts that the award committee said promoted international law as it comes under attack.

Her win is sure to be seen as a high-profile rebuke to U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who have both rejected the findings of the U.N. commission she led on Gaza.

Hours after the award was announced in Norway, the Trump administration imposed sweeping new sanctions on the International Criminal Court.

Trump, who has coveted the peace prize for years, also railed against the Nobel Committee's decision on Friday.

Pillay on Monday, in an interview with The Associated Press, had sharp words for the U.S. president and called Washington's attacks on the International Criminal Court "completely unlawful" as well as "negative

and cruel.”

Economics

Monday brought the economics prize to American economists Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford for models that have helped governments and central banks manage economic fluctuations, such as energy crises and inflation.

Their work created the theoretical foundation to better understand how consumers decide whether to save or spend, insights that make it easier for policymakers worldwide to stabilize economies after major changes.

French police detain student suspected of shooting the principal and a teacher at his school

By PHILIPPE MAGONI and JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

AUBAGNE, France (AP) — French police detained a 14-year-old boy suspected of opening fire Monday on his middle school principal and a teacher with a shotgun that he hid in a guitar case, wounding both in a rare school shooting, prosecutors said.

A staff member at the Joseph Lakanal middle school in Aubagne disarmed the boy after he fired multiple shots while roaming on two floors of the school, prosecutors said. Police then took him into custody. Aubagne is about 15 kilometers (9 miles) east of the Mediterranean port city of Marseille.

Gun violence perpetrated by pupils in schools is rare in France.

Marseille prosecutor Nicolas Bessone said in a statement that the pupil fired once or twice on the first floor, wounding the principal and the teacher in the legs. They were hit with pellets used in 12-gauge shotguns, according to Marseille deputy prosecutor Audrey Jouaneton and police. They were transported to a hospital with injuries that weren't life threatening.

The boy's motives were unknown, Jouaneton said.

"We still don't have sufficiently precise evidence to say that he wanted to target the teaching staff — this principal and the teacher — but they were in any case hit by the shots," she said.

The boy then went to the second floor and opened fire again, twice — the first at the floor in front of a teacher and the second in a classroom, hitting the teaching board. The shots didn't hit any teachers or the pupils in the classroom, but they were "very shocked," Bessone said.

The boy was then intercepted by a staff member in a stairwell, with what Jouaneton praised as "extreme courage."

In a post on X, French President Emmanuel Macron praised the staff's "composure and exemplary response," saying they "prevented an even worse outcome."

Mental health counseling was offered to pupils.

There was no immediate information to suggest that the shooting was in any way connected to protests by high school pupils demanding better-resourced schools that have been shaking France for several weeks.

The middle school wasn't impacted on Monday by the protests, police said.

On X, Education Minister Édouard Geffray posted that "this unacceptable act once again highlights the rise of unbridled violence in our society, against which we must all mobilize. In words as well as deeds."

Still, such events remain uncommon. In 2017, a 16-year-old student armed with a rifle, pistols and a small grenade opened fire at a high school in southern France, wounding three students and the principal.

Stabbings by pupils in schools are also unusual. Last year, a middle school employee in eastern France was stabbed to death by a 14-year-old student during a bag check.

Also in 2025, a 15-year-old student stabbed four other students at a high school in western France, killing one and wounding three others before he was arrested.

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Russell Brand appears in a London court for trial on rape and sexual assault charges

LONDON (AP) — British comedian and actor Russell Brand appeared in a London court on Monday for the start of his trial on rape and sexual assault charges.

The hearing at Southwark Crown Court was adjourned until Tuesday after a morning of jury selection. The prosecution is due to open its case later in the week.

Brand, who is on bail, left the court building beside the River Thames holding hands with his wife, Laura Gallacher. He had earlier arrived at court flanked by security guards and accompanied by his wife.

Brand, 51, has pleaded not guilty to three counts of rape, three counts of sexual assault and one count of indecent assault. The charges involve six women and alleged offenses between 1999 and 2009. The trial is expected to last up to 10 weeks.

Prosecutors said at previous hearings that Brand is accused of raping a woman in a hotel room at a Labour Party conference, grabbing a TV worker's breasts and forcing her into a sex act in a toilet, and kissing and groping a radio station worker.

Known for risqué stand-up routines and battles with drugs and alcohol, Brand rose to prominence in the early 2000s, hosting television programs and his own BBC radio show. He appeared in Hollywood films including "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and "Get Him to the Greek."

In recent years he has moved away from mainstream media, relocated to Florida and built a large online following with videos mixing wellness, conspiracy theories and discussions of his religious devotion.

The Associated Press doesn't name victims of alleged sexual violence, and British law protects their identities from the media for life.

Today in History: October 13, Chilean miners rescued after 69 days underground

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 13, the 286th day of 2026. There are 79 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 13, 2010, 33 men were rescued from a collapsed Chilean mine after being lifted one by one in capsules 69 days after they were trapped 2,300 feet (700 meters) underground.

Also on this date:

In 1792, the cornerstone of the Executive Mansion, later known as the White House, was laid by President George Washington during a ceremony in the District of Columbia.

In 1932, President Herbert Hoover and Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes laid the cornerstone for the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington.

In 1943, Italy declared war on Germany, its onetime Axis partner.

In 1960, the Pittsburgh Pirates won the World Series, defeating the New York Yankees in Game 7, 10-9, on a home run hit by Bill Mazeroski.

In 1972, a Uruguayan chartered flight carrying 45 people crashed in the Andes. In order to stay alive, survivors resorted to feeding off the remains of some of the dead; 16 people were rescued more than two months later.

In 1999, in Boulder, Colorado, the JonBenet Ramsey grand jury was dismissed after 13 months of work with prosecutors saying there wasn't enough evidence to charge anyone in the 6-year-old beauty queen's killing.

In 2011, Raj Rajaratnam (rahj rah-juh-RUHT'-nuhm), the hedge fund billionaire at the center of one of the biggest insider-trading cases in U.S. history, was sentenced by a federal judge in New York to 11 years behind bars. He was released early, in 2019.

In 2016, Bob Dylan was named winner of the Nobel Prize in literature.

In 2021, Hollywood's Captain Kirk, 90-year-old William Shatner, blasted into space aboard a ship built by

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Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin company; the "Star Trek" actor and three fellow passengers reached an altitude of 66.5 miles (107 kilometers) during a flight lasting just over 10 minutes.

In 2024, SpaceX completed its boldest test flight yet of its enormous Starship rocket, catching the returning booster back at the Texas launch pad minutes after liftoff. The launch tower's huge metal arms caught the 232-foot (71-meter) stainless steel booster on its slow descent.

Today's Birthdays: Gospel singer Shirley Caesar is 88. Singer-musician Paul Simon is 85. Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones is 84. Singer-musician Sammy Hagar is 79. Singer/TV personality Marie Osmond is 67. NBA coach Doc Rivers is 65. Football Hall of Famer Jerry Rice is 64. Baseball Hall of Famer Trevor Hoffman is 59. Olympic silver medal figure skater Nancy Kerrigan is 57. Actor Sacha Baron Cohen is 55. Basketball Hall of Famer Paul Pierce is 49. Singer Ashanti is 46. Olympic gold medalist swimmer Ian Thorpe is 44. Actor Caleb McLaughlin is 25.