

Monday, September 29, 2025

1. At least four people were killed in an attack at a Mormon church in Michigan.

Yesterday: A gunman rammed a truck into the church, opened fire and set the building ablaze, officials said. At least eight people were injured, and more victims could be found.

The investigation: Authorities named the attacker as 40-year-old Thomas Jacob Sanford, who was killed by police in the church's parking lot. The motive is not yet clear.

2. Congress has 2 days to avert a federal government shutdown.

The deadline: A shutdown will begin 12:01 a.m. Eastern on Wednesday if Congress fails to approve a funding extension. Talks are stalling — with both parties blaming the other.

Potential impacts: We broke down President Donald Trump's shutdown plans here, including mass layoffs. Republicans who control Congress want to scale back Obamacare.

3. Trump is set to attend a gathering of top generals tomorrow.

The plan: Trump will join hundreds of generals summoned to Virginia on short notice by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. It sets the stage for a highly unusual meeting.

What's on the agenda? It's not clear — Trump has cast the meeting largely as a pep talk. But officials are bracing for possible firings and have expressed concerns about security.

4. Oregon sued the Trump administration over an order to deploy troops in Portland.

What to know: Hegseth ordered the deployment of 200 of Portland's troops for 60 days. Some experts say the move could be illegal, and many residents are defending their city.

Zooming out: Eight months into his second term, Trump is facing difficulties living up to the expectations of his supporters. For instance, he has not impressed this MAGA couple.

5. The Trump administration has a new plan for ending Israel's war in Gaza.

What it calls for: A 21-part proposal, including disarming Hamas. It was partly crafted by this former British prime minister and leaves the door open to a Palestinian state.

Today: Trump will press Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to accept the plan at a White House meeting. It comes as Israel is tightening its grip on the West Bank.

6. Tropical Storm Imelda will bring rain and wind to the Southeast this week.

Today and tomorrow: Rain is set to hit Florida up to the Mid-Atlantic, but Hurricane Humberto is pulling Imelda away from the U.S.

What else to know: The National Weather Service is at a "breaking point" as the storm approaches. Staffing cuts under the Trump administration are straining forecasters.

7. Bad Bunny will headline the 2026 Super Bowl halftime show.

Last night: The Puerto Rican superstar confirmed his appearance by posting a promo video during the Cowboys-Packers game. Super Bowl LX will take place Feb. 8 in California.

More music news: Bruce Springsteen surprised fans last night at the New York premiere of a film about his life. The Boss delivered a warning about America.



Vocabulary 29/09/25:

1. ablaze - burning very strongly

Thomas Jacob Sanford

2. to avert - to prevent from happening

Obamacare - formally "Affordable Care Act" (ACA) and signed into law

on 23 March 2010 represents the U.S. healthcare system's most

significant regulatory expansion of coverage since 1965.

3. to summon - to order someone to come and be present

pep talk - a short speech intended to encourage people to work harder

4. to sue - to take legal action against a person or organisation

7. Bad Bunny - Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, a Latin-Rap and Reggaeton-singer

from Puerto Rico.

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