



# HOUSE VOTE COULD END SHUTDOWN

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# DAILY COMMERCIAL

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## ANTI-MORMON SLURS AND VIOLENCE PERSIST



Members of the Grand Blanc, Michigan, congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints embrace after a meeting with an elder of the church Sept. 30, following a deadly shooting and fire that claimed four lives and injured others. PROVIDED BY INTELLECTUAL RESERVE INC.

### Mass killing, other incidents highlight long-standing discrimination

**Dinah Voyles Pulver**  
USA TODAY

A day before a shooter killed four people and set fire to a Michigan church in September, students at a football game in Colorado chanted vulgar slurs against the same religious organization.

The two events spurred sweeping conversations about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and lingering prejudice against its members, often called Mormons.

The University of Colorado’s chancellor and athletic director quickly condemned the students’ behavior, but it was at least the third time in the past year that chanting by student fans at college games against Brigham Young University took on a darker tone. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints owns and operates BYU.

Less than 24 hours later, on Sept. 28, police say Thomas Jacob Sanford drove his pickup truck into the Michigan meetinghouse where more than 100 members had gathered for Sunday services.

Eyewitnesses told authorities Sanford got out of his truck shooting at church members with an assault rifle, then set off an inferno as terrified congregants rushed to get everyone out of the building. The assault left four members dead and numerous others injured – some from gun-



Flowers sit near the scene of a mass shooting at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Grand Blanc Township, Michigan, on Sept. 29.

RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS

shots, others by smoke inhalation and still others gashed and bleeding from shrapnel and shards of glass.

Within hours, news emerged that Sanford had previously ranted against the church after a failed relationship with a devout member of the faith in Utah more than a decade earlier.

Anti-Mormon slurs at college

sporting events or the heckling that often takes place on street corners when thousands of members meet for conferences cannot be equated to September’s violent attack, said Patrick Mason, chair of Mormon history at Utah State University and a member of the church.

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## Veterans celebrated on holiday

**Julie Garisto**  
Leesburg Daily Commercial  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Communities across Lake County gave colorful and heartfelt salutes to the men and women who serve our country in the U.S. Armed Forces over the weekend and on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2025.

In Eustis, on Saturday, Nov. 8, the Phantom Airborne Brigade paratroopers dropped in for its annual Veterans Day tribute jump into Lake Eustis.

All of All Lake County’s junior ROTC programs marched in uniform for this year’s second annual Leesburg Veterans Parade, and the local pageant girls, such as the Miss Lake County winners, brought their sparkle and smiles.

Local veterans, churches, first responders, churches, schools and a wide variety of organizations participated in festivities saluting U.S. veterans.

The mild fall weather over the weekend made the celebrations all the more festive and fun to photograph.

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## Released Epstein emails mention Trump

**Bart Jansen**  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Jeffrey Epstein, the disgraced financier and accused sex trafficker, wrote that President Donald Trump “spent hours at my house” with one of his victims and “knew about the girls,” according to emails House Democrats released Nov. 12. The White House called the email release a “smear.”

Trump attended parties with the billionaire and flew on his plane during the 1990s. But Trump later ousted Epstein from his club and forcefully denied knowing about the sex trafficking. Epstein died by suicide in prison in 2019 while awaiting trial.

Democrats on the House Oversight and Accountability Committee released several emails that mention Trump in order to increase pressure on the Justice Department to release additional Epstein records.

“I want you to realize that that dog that hasn’t barked is trump,” Epstein wrote in one email to author Michael Wolff on April 2, 2011. The email continues after the name of an alleged victim of Epstein is redacted: “spent hours at my house with him, he has never once been mentioned.”

Another Epstein email, dated Jan. 31,

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