

Carroll County Times

Weather 57/46 Mostly cloudy, breezy Sports Page 12 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025 www.carrollcountytimes.com Price \$3.50

TRUMP WATCH

Trump to meet Japan's new leader

President Donald Trump was set for one of his busiest days of his Asia trip on Tuesday, with plans to meet with the new Japanese prime minister, speak to U.S. troops aboard an aircraft carrier and mingle with business leaders.

Although Trump is visiting one of America's most steadfast allies in Asia, there's no shortage of uncertainty while he's there. Sanae Takaichi, who became the country's first female prime minister only days ago, must solidify her relationship with Trump while defending her country's economic interests. Trump is trying to nail down \$550 billion in Japanese investment as part of a trade deal that would reduce U.S. tariffs.

Takaichi is primed for a charm offensive, including a potential purchase of Ford F-150 trucks. Trump has often complained that Japan doesn't buy American vehicles, which are often too wide to be practical on narrow Japanese streets.

Although Trump has focused his foreign policy toward Asia around tariffs and trade, he's also speaking aboard the USS George Washington, which is docked at an American naval base near Tokyo.

Trump arrived in Tokyo on Monday, when he met with the emperor in a ceremonial visit. He was previously in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he participated in the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Here are more Trump administration headlines from Monday:

MRI: Trump shared on Monday that he underwent an MRI scan during his visit to Walter Reed Medical Center earlier this month. "I did. I got an MRI. It was perfect. I mean, I gave you, I gave you the full results," Trump told a group of reporters on Air Force One on his way to Tokyo. The 79-year-old president did not say which part of his body was scanned or why, but he did confirm it was done during his semi-annual physical at Walter Reed this month. **See Page 7**

2028? Trump said on Monday a 2028 presidential ticket with Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio would be "unstoppable," while not ruling out a potential third term. "All I can tell you is that we have a great group of people, which they don't," Trump told a reporter on Monday, referencing Democrats.

Fake news: Trump said he has no intentions of naming the 90,000-square-foot ballroom he's constructing at the White House after himself. He said reports claiming otherwise are false. "I don't have any plan to call it after myself — that was fake news," Trump told reporters late Friday night before boarding Air Force One to head to Asia. "We're probably going to call it the Presidential Ballroom or something like that. We haven't really thought about a name yet." **See Page 7**

— From wire and Sinclair National Desk reports



THOMAS WALKER/FREELANCE PHOTOS

Callan Chilcoat and his mother are cooking up some fun during trick-or-treating on Main Street in Sykesville. Merchants partnered with police and the Town of Sykesville to sponsor a "spooktacular" evening of trick-or-treating on Main Street on Sunday. **MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 5**

Mainstreet in Sykesville gets spooky



The Headless Horseman rides through the town.



Jacinda, 5, and Felicity Lacoco, 8, are in matching costumes.



Ella Wingate, 9, is Cindy Lou Who.



Cassidy Chaconas gets her face painted.

GOP grapples with voter frustration over rising health care premiums

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The first caller on a telephone town hall with Maryland Rep. Andy Harris, leader of the House's conservative Freedom Caucus, came ready with a question about the Affordable Care Act. Her cousin's disabled son is at risk of losing the insurance he gained under that law, the caller said.

"Now she's looking at two or three times the premium that she's been paying for the insurance," said the woman, identified as Lisa from Harford County, Maryland. "I'd love for you to elucidate what the Republicans' plan is for health insurance?"

Harris, a seven-term Republican, didn't have a clear answer. "We think the solution is to try to do something to make sure all the premiums go down," he said, predicting Congress would "probably negotiate some off-ramp" later.

His uncertainty reflected a familiar Republican dilemma: Fifteen years after the Affordable Care Act was enacted, the party remains united in criticizing the law but divided on how to move forward. That tension has come into sharp focus during the government shutdown as Democrats seize on rising premiums to pressure Republicans into extending expiring subsidies for the law, often referred to as Obamacare.

President Donald Trump and GOP leaders say they'll consider extending the enhanced tax credits that otherwise expire at year's end — but only after Democrats vote to reopen the government. In the meantime, people enrolled in the plans are already being notified of hefty premium increases for 2026.

As town halls fill with frustrated voters and no

Turn to GOP, Page 2

Maryland ending practice of housing foster youth in hotels

By Jean Marbella

Maryland will no longer house foster youth in hotels, a much-criticized practice even before a 16-year-old foster girl was found dead a month ago in a Residence Inn in East Baltimore.

As of Monday, six youth remained in hotels, said Maryland Department of Human Services Secretary Rafael J. López. He has issued a directive to local social services agencies that they must place them elsewhere by Nov. 24.

"One young person in a hotel is one too many," López told The Baltimore Sun. "We wanted to end the practice once and for all."

The directive came in the wake of the suicide death of Kanaiyah Ward, 16, who was staying at the Residence Inn by Marriott on the Johns Hopkins medical campus on Wolfe Street under the care of a contracted "one-on-one" service provider. The medical examiner determined that the cause of death was diphenhydramine intoxication, saying an empty bottle of the antihistamine, often sold as Benad-



Kanaiyah Ward, a 16-year-old foster child who was found dead in a Baltimore hotel room Sept. 22. **COURTESY OF THE WARD FAMILY**

ryl, and a suicide note were found on the premises. DHS continues to investigate the death.

It is not clear how long Kanaiyah had been staying at the hotel, but the girl, who previously lived with her family in Prince George's County, had been enrolled at the Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts in West Baltimore since last September 2024, according to the city public schools system.

"Hotels, motels, office buildings and other licensed settings are not in a youth's

best interest and must be discontinued immediately," López's directive said. "Youth experiencing stays in unlicensed settings is inconsistent with state and federal law, and departmental standards and policies."

DHS said it has been increasing residential care services to accommodate youth who might previously have ended up in hotels and other places not licensed to provide foster care.

Child advocates say foster youth are still staying, for example, in social services offices and hospitals.

Mitchell Y. Mirviss, a Venable law firm partner who for decades has sued the state to reform its foster system, said he received reports that five Baltimore children were in hospital "overstays," in which they remain despite being deemed ready for release on Friday, and one child spent Sunday night and Monday morning at a city social services office.

López said children will be brought to offices on occasion, for just several or

Turn to Foster, Page 2

City targets illegal smoke, vape shops

The Baltimore City Council would make it harder for smoke and vape shops, especially those selling products illegally to minors, to operate in the city. **Page 3**

Chasen Cos. HQ faces foreclosure

The building where Brandon Chasen once based his real estate empire is condemned and facing possible foreclosure. **Page 3**

Hurricane Melissa closing on Jamaica

Hurricane Melissa intensified into a Category 5 storm Monday as it drew closer to Jamaica, where forecasters expected it to unleash catastrophic flooding. **Page 9**

READER POLL

Does increased marijuana use make Maryland roads less safe?

Vote at baltimoresun.com/cctpoll or by scanning this QR code with your phone. The Carroll County Times reader poll is an unscientific survey in which website users volunteer their opinions on the subject of the poll.



■ **TALK TO US:** The Carroll County Times welcomes reader submissions responding to our coverage or highlighting an issue. Letters should be 350 words or fewer and submitted online at baltimoresun.com/cctletters or sent to cctletters@baltisun.com. Include your name, address and phone number.

