



## Diggs is next test for Bills defense

Patriots receiver did a lot of damage in Buffalo's Week 5 loss | PAGE C1

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BUFFALO NEXT: RETAIL

## Tariffs strain retailers, consumers this season



JOSHUA BESSEX PHOTOS, BUFFALO NEWS

Customers browse the shelves at Clayton's Toys in Williamsville on Friday. "The tariffs have not been great. And it's not just about product ... everything that we do has increased significantly this year," co-owner Kellie Klos said.

Average shopper will spend \$132 more per person, report finds

At Clayton's Toys on Main Street in Williamsville, co-owner Kellie Klos flits from the register to the gift wrap to the phone to the shelves, helping families search out and wrap the perfect holiday gifts for their loved ones.



SAMANTHA CHRISTMANN

This year, that has been more difficult and more expensive, not only for her business, but her customers. "The tariffs have not been great. And it's not just about product. It's about what it takes to run a store, and the gift wrap and the boxes and the shovels and everything that we do has increased significantly this year," she said. "It's been challenging."

There is plenty of blame to pass around for higher prices this Christmas, but chief among them, economic experts say, is the cost of new



"For a lot of families, this holiday time has become very stressful," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, right, with Clayton's co-owner Kellie Klos on Friday.

tariffs that didn't exist last Christmas.

A new and unpredictable wave of import duties on everything from toys to electronics is rippling through the supply chain, leaving retailers to decide whether to absorb the hit - if that's even possible - or pass it along to

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## 'Shocking' process on school closures leaves some upset

Panel member alleges 'politicking' involved in D'Youville Porter vote

BY BEN TSUJIMOTO  
News Staff Reporter

After word spread Thursday throughout the Buffalo Schools community about the two schools recommended by a committee to close, members of that closure committee described a "shocking" process that changed dramatically in the days preceding the vote.

"The first school closure the committee voted on, almost unanimously, was thoughtful and consistent with the parameters," committee member Harper Bishop said in a lengthy statement. "The second school, however, was not."

Bishop said he was "alarmed" by how a majority of the committee landed on D'Youville Porter Campus School 3, a prekindergarten through eighth grade bilingual school on the city's West Side. School 90 was the other closure the committee recommended to Superintendent Pascal Mubenga.

The district on Friday afternoon confirmed the committee's two recommendations for the first time, but emphasized they weren't final.

"It's important to stress

that the Board of Education has taken no action on the recommendations," district spokesperson Jeffrey Hammond said, "and no decision has been made about the closure of these two schools."

Meanwhile, reactions flooded in from committee members and the larger community regarding the two recommendations.

School 3 "was never discussed by the committee or by any of the Board of Education co-chairs in any of our weekly meetings," Bishop said. "It did not appear on the list of the top 23 schools under consideration. It was not mentioned when we narrowed the list to our top 10, nor was it included in the top four during last Thursday's votes."

Bishop did not know for sure why School 3 suddenly became a focal point at Thursday's meeting, but alleged that "politicking" had occurred over last weekend. At Thursday's meeting, he said the vote to close School 3 was "alarming" because committee members did not seem fully informed.

"A majority of the committee voted for a school that some within that majority did not know the full name of, did not know the location of and were asking basic questions

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## Students rarely read whole books these days, even in English class

BY DANA GOLDSTEIN  
New York Times

In American high schools, the age of the book may be fading.

Many teenagers are assigned few full books to read from beginning to end - often just one or two per year, according to researchers and thousands of responses to an informal reader survey by the New York Times.

Twelfth-grade reading scores are at historic lows, and college professors, even at elite schools,

are increasingly reporting difficulties in getting students to engage with lengthy or complex texts.

Perhaps that is to be expected in the era of TikTok and artificial intelligence. Some education experts believe that in the near future, even the most sophisticated stories and knowledge will be imparted mainly through audio and video, the forms that are dominating in the era of mobile, streaming media.

We wanted to find out how students and teachers feel about the shift, and what role schools can play. So the Times asked educators, parents and students to tell us about their experiences with high school reading.

More than 2,000 people responded.

Many were longtime teachers who reported assigning fewer whole books now than they did

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## Troops who fulfill boat strikes face 'moral injury' risk

BY DAVE PHILIPPS  
New York Times

The Trump administration's missile strikes against boats that it says are carrying drugs have drawn fierce criticism from legal experts and from some members of Congress, who say that the killing of unarmed civilians in international waters is illegal and amounts to little more than summary execution.

Congress has convened classified hearings, and legal groups have sued to force the administration to release secret memos authorizing the strikes.

But amid all the high-level debate, little public attention has been given to how the strikes affect the low-level people who have to carry

them out. For those people, decades of research has shown, the emotional effects of this kind of killing can be devastating.

Participating in killing - even killing seen remotely on a video screen - can leave deep psychological wounds and lead to long-lasting struggles. If the person perceives the killing as morally wrong or unjustified, the effect can be even greater. The Department of Veterans Affairs sees the problem often enough that it has a name: "Moral injury."

It stems from feelings of intense guilt or shame that can lead to a number of psychological problems, including an

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**WEATHER**  
A little snow in the p.m. High 30, low 10. Details on Page B8



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