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# JOURNAL SENTINEL

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 JSOnline.com PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

**9** PATRIOT DAY WE WILL NEVER FORGET

## Turning Point founder killed in Utah

Conservative activist was speaking at Utah Valley University

**N'dea Yancey-Bragg**  
USA TODAY

Conservative activist Charlie Kirk has died after being shot in the neck during an event at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah on Sept. 10, President Donald Trump confirmed.

"No one understood or had the Heart of the Youth in the United States of America better than Charlie. He was loved and admired by ALL, especially me, and now, he is no longer with us. Melania and my Sympathies go out to his beautiful wife Erika, and family.



**Kirk**

Charlie, we love you!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

Livestream video of the event showed crowds of people running from the university's courtyard where Kirk, 31, was holding his speaking event when the shooting occurred.

The university also said the campus is closed and classes are canceled until further notice. "Police are investigating. Leave campus immediately. Follow police instructions," the university posted

on X. Campus police declined to comment when reached by USA TODAY.

The university also said a suspect had been taken into custody as of 1:15 p.m. MT. Campus police declined to comment when reached by USA TODAY. But Scott Trotter, a university spokesman, told the New York Times police have determined the person who was taken into custody was not the shooter.

FBI Director Kash Patel said on social media he was "closely monitoring" the reported shooting, adding, "the FBI stands in full support of the ongoing response and investigation."

### Read the latest

Find more on the Sept. 10 shooting at [usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com) and in the Nation & World Extra section, a subscriber-only feature in your eNewspaper.

Kirk became a national figure as a conservative activist and as the founder of Turning Point USA, an organization that pushes for conservative politics on high school and college campuses.

In 2024, he spoke at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, where he gave a speech focusing on

**See KIRK, Page 13A**

## While the state sits on PFAS cash, a small town struggles with water expenses



Town of Brockway Maintenance Supervisor Mark Hill goes through the process of cleaning drinking water at the water treatment facility on Aug. 7. PHOTOS BY JOVANNY HERNANDEZ/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

## COSTLY CLEANUP

**Laura Schulte** Milwaukee Journal Sentinel | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

**T**OWN OF BROCKWAY — In Brockway, a small community in northwestern Wisconsin, a group of volunteer town officials is trying to solve a big issue: How can they provide safe drinking water to their residents without raising their water rates so high that people can't afford them?



Town of Brockway clerk and treasurer Julie Borek explains the sanitary district map.

The town found that it had elevated levels of "forever chemicals," or PFAS, in its one of its wells a few years ago, leading them to immediately shut it down and leaving the town with just one well with safe levels.

Having only one well isn't enough to serve the whole community. So the town drilled three test wells, hoping to find another safe source of water. One had PFAS in it. The other two produced foul-smelling water with high levels of other contaminants, like manganese.

None were usable. "We're just like the bad news bears," said Dale Hoff, the commissioner of the sanitary district and a county board commissioner.

The town had already spent more than \$300,000 on drilling those other wells, wiping out its sanitary district

**See PFAS, Page 11A**

## Governor won't join scholarship tax credits

Evers criticized by school choice advocates

**Molly Beck**

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

**MADISON** — Gov. Tony Evers says he won't join a new federal program that would give tax credits to people who donate to organizations that award scholarships for students in private and public schools, a position that drew swift criticism from the Trump administration and Wisconsin Republicans.



**Evers**

Evers, in an interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, said doing so would be "catastrophic" for public schools.

The program provides tax credits worth the total amount of a donation to a scholarship-granting organization, up to \$1,700. The organization keeps 10% of the donation and the rest must be awarded as a scholarship to pay for school expenses, including tutoring, technology or tuition, among other expenses.

Though it can pay for services from public schools, the program is largely backed in Wisconsin by conservatives who support private school vouchers. In Wisconsin, where the nation's oldest voucher program exists in Milwaukee, vouchers are supported by Republicans in the statehouse.

Most Democratic governors surveyed by K-12 education-focused media outlet Chalkbeat declined to say whether they would opt into the program.

"Let's just do the best we can with our public schools," Evers said in an interview Sept. 4. "We have plenty of voucher schools. We don't need voucher money."

Families earning up to 300% of the area median income qualify for the tax credit program, which is scheduled to begin in 2027. To opt in, governors must do so by Jan. 1, 2027.

A spokeswoman for Evers, who led the state Department of Public Instruction before he was elected governor in 2018, did not respond to questions seeking elaboration on Evers' comments.

U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon criticized the decision, saying, "the status quo is failing students."

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