

Building Bridges



Zonta Foundation for Women and
Children in Need EIN 26-4772060

And Beacons

Zonta International is a worldwide organization of executives in business and the professions working together to advance the status of women

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Couple Enters 7-Eleven, Woman Uses Hand Signals To Seek Help, Man Arrested: Police

Reprinted From The
September 3, 2025 ABC News-
By Megan Forrester

Couple enters 7-Eleven, woman
uses hand signals to seek help,
man arrested: Police

A domestic violence suspect in California was arrested after a woman displayed hand signals behind her back asking for help, according to the Alhambra Police Department.

In a [press release](#) on Sunday, police said they responded to a call at a 7-Eleven in Alhambra, California, "regarding suspicious circumstances." Jail records indicate the incident occurred on Aug. 19.

After further investigation, officials determined that "domestic violence had occurred" as the female victim was "asking for help using hand signals behind her back," police said.

Officials said someone inside the
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7-Eleven "recognized what she was doing" and called police to respond to the scene.

While it is unclear what hand gestures the woman used to seek help, the [Women's Funding Network](#) -- the largest philanthropic alliance in the world "dedicated to gender justice funders" -- said a common nonverbal sign to communicate help is for someone to place their thumb to their open palm and then "trap" their thumb with the rest of their fingers.

An officer's body camera shows police speaking to the couple and then gesturing to talk to the male suspect outside the 7-Eleven. Then, when the suspect -- identified as Glendora, California, resident John Palombi -- was asked to stand up for a pat down, he "attempted to flee but didn't even make it out of the parking lot."

Palombi, 38, was then arrested and booked at the Alhambra Police Department Jail, officials
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Couple Enters 7-Eleven, Woman Uses Hand Signals to seek help, man Arrested: Police

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said. Police said they also discovered that Palombi had an "active warrant and a stun gun on his person."

He is now being held at the Men's Central Jail in Los Angeles, according to jail records.

Palombi's next court appearance is scheduled for Sept. 11.

It is unclear whether Palombi has an attorney who can speak on his behalf.

The Alhambra Police Department did not immediately respond to ABC News' request for comment.

Lordeas

From:dr.karen.siegel@gmail.com

To:Dorothy Knauer

Cc:Mary Dono,Dave Palughi,Audrey Perry,pksongs@optonline net,ravidh@aol com and 20 more...

Fri, Sep 12 at 4:43 PM

Hello Karen. This is Phedra, Lordeas' daughter. It is with a heavy heart that I must tell you that on April 10th, 2025 my Mom passed.

My Mom's services will be on Saturday, August 16th at 11 AM at New Orleans Funeral and Cremation Services located at 9200 I-10 Service Road, New Orleans, LA 70127

Dear Phedra,

Were so very sorry for this profound loss of our dearly beloved Lordeas...she was a blessing 🙏 in our lives and will remain an inspiration to us all. 😊🙏

We'll also honor her at the Zonta District 3 Conference in October...

Deepest condolences,

Karen and The Zonta Club of Greater Queens 🙏💎🙏

Dates To Remember

October

Oct.1st: Yom Kippur begins at sundown

Oct., 13th: Columbus Day

Oct.13th: Indigenous Peoples Day

Oct 31st: Halloween

November

Nov. 1st: All Saints Day

Nov. 2nd: Daylight Savings Ends

Nov. 2nd: All Souls Day

Nov. 27th: Thanksgiving

Birthdays

October

Oct. 2nd: Mal Weinberg

Oct. 7th: Dave Palughi

Oct. 19th: Mary Alice Cunningham

November

Nov. 3rd: Anne Krzyzanowski

Nov .7th: Betty Gross

New Mexico Is The First State To Promise Free Child Care For All Families

Reprinted From The September 11, 2025 San Diego Union-Tribune By Morgan Lee, Associated Press

The universal child care guarantee will cover crucial infant and toddler years before and after children become eligible for public preschool — defraying average annual costs of about \$12,000 per year.



FILE — New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham waves during the Democratic National Convention Aug. 20, 2024, in Chicago. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast, File)

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico’s governor is promising universal free child care to families of all income levels.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced her plans this week, saying she wants to leverage a financial windfall from oil and gas production to help more parents by removing the state’s income eligibility limit starting Nov. 1.

Rules for the program are being hashed out and lawmakers still have to approve funding, but New Mexico already is several steps ahead of [other states](#) when it comes to subsidizing child care.

The latest initiative expands on [previous early childhood education investments](#) by extending access to another 12,000 children and making low-interest loans available to spur construction of new child care centers as demands surge.

Lujan Grisham says it’s life-changing for parents to have free child care, since it means more money can be spent on utilities and groceries.

Gaining traction

Americans overwhelmingly [view the cost of child care](#) as a significant issue, but there are deep divisions over what the government’s role should be in addressing it, mainly whether it should foot the costs.

Many states are limited in what they can take on as President Donald Trump’s administration cuts or freezes billions of dollars in [education funding](#).

Lujan Grisham hopes the initiative stirs conversations beyond New Mexico.

“My hope is, as we watch elections take hold around the country, that our congressional candidates are talking about these investments, our gubernatorial candidates are talking about these investments” in child care, the second-term Democrat said.

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New Mexico Is The First State To Promise Free Child Care For All Families

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The concept of free child care is being embraced by lawmakers including Zohran Mamdani, the Democratic nominee for mayor of New York City, through proposed tax hikes. Oregon's most populous county ramped up its universal preschool program this year despite funding issues, and enthusiasm for early childhood education spawned the creation last year of a dedicated state agency in Illinois.

Footnote The Bill

New Mexico in 2020 began diverting surplus government income linked to surging oil and gas production to a trust for early childhood education. The balance is nearing \$10 billion, with about \$500 million in investment earnings being funneled each year to early childhood education programs.

The child care expansion will draw on those savings, some federal funding and a request that state legislators provide an additional \$120 million annually. That's a 26% increase over current spending of \$463 million, Lujan Grisham spokesperson Michael Coleman said.

The Democratic-led Legislature has balked at entitlement programs before, repeatedly rejecting paid family leave requirements for the private sector. Republican lawmakers are concerned that the governor's latest plan would result in a handout for wealthy families.

New Mexico in 2022 expanded eligibility and waived copayments for child care assistance to families earning as much as four times the federal poverty rate — about \$128,000 for a family of four this year.

Paul Gessing, president of the libertarian Rio Grande Foundation in New Mexico, said it's baffling that a Democratic governor would come to the financial aid of upper-income parents.

"We're already doing this up to 400% of the poverty level — that's a pretty decent amount of money to be making," he said.

By eliminating the income cutoff, state officials aim to improve family financial stability, encourage participation in the economy and better prepare toddlers for school.

Hurdles

To meet increased demand, the Lujan Grisham administration says it will need more than 50 new licensed child care centers, 120 licensed homes that accommodate a dozen children and as many as 1,000 new registered homes that serve four children.

Child care slots already are in short supply across New Mexico. And attendance from low-income families declined as assistance expanded to higher income brackets, according to a review by the Legislature's budget and accountability office. There's also little evidence that New Mexico children are better prepared for school than children in other states. The 2025 survey by the Annie E. Casey Foundation ranked New Mexico's public education system last among 50 states.

The governor's plan includes incentives to improve quality — raising hourly base pay for child care workers to at least \$18 where excellence is demonstrated.

The universal child care guarantee will cover crucial infant and toddler years before and after children become eligible for public preschool — defraying average annual costs of about \$12,000 per year.

Eligibility for child care assistance also will extend to grandparents who are in charge of grandchildren, often because of parents struggling with addiction, with no work requirement.

Associated Press writer Claire Rush contributed from Portland, Ore. The Associated Press' women in the workforce and state government coverage receives financial support from Pivotal Ventures. AP is solely responsible for all content. Find AP's [standards](#) for working with philanthropies, a list of supporters and funded coverage areas at [AP.org](#).

Pentagon Disbands Panel On Military Women, Alleging Divisive Feminist Agenda
Reprinted From Reuters, September 23, 2025-By Idrees Ali And Phil Stewart



FILE PHOTO: The Pentagon logo is seen behind the podium in the briefing room at the Pentagon in Arlington

By Idrees Ali and Phil Stewart

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has disbanded a committee that provided recommendations for women serving in the military, including on their well-being and treatment, alleging on Tuesday it had pursued a "divisive feminist agenda."

The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services was created in 1951 and provided advice on "recruitment, retention, employment, integration, well-being, and treatment of women" in the military, according to the committee's website.

On Tuesday, a Pentagon spokesperson said Hegseth had decided to terminate the committee because it is "focused on advancing a divisive feminist agenda that hurts combat readiness, while Secretary Hegseth has focused on advancing uniform, sex-neutral standards across the Department."

The Committee is among the oldest advisory panels within the U.S. military and has submitted over 1,100 recommendations to Pentagon chiefs, with about 94% either fully or partially adopted, according to the committee's website.

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Pentagon Disbands Panel On Military Women, Alleging Divisive Feminist Agenda

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"Recommendations have historically been instrumental in effecting changes to laws and policies pertaining to military women," it says.

Hegseth has taken aim at diversity, equity and inclusion efforts at the Pentagon since he took office. He previously canceled a program that sought to increase the role of women in national security sectors that was first signed into law by [President Donald Trump](#) in 2017.

With Hegseth as defense secretary, the Pentagon has ended commemorations of identity month celebrations, like Black History Month, while some books have been removed from the Naval Academy, including Maya Angelou's memoir.

Hegseth's moves come as U.S. media organizations also raise free speech concerns after the Pentagon announced on Friday restrictions on media coverage of the U.S. military, requiring news organizations to agree they will not disclose information that the government has not approved for release.

Trump Administration Weighs Fate Of \$9M Stockpile Of Contraceptives Feared Earmarked For Destruction

From The August 1, 2025 AP-By By Lorne Cooke and John Leiceste

BRUSSELS (AP) — President [Donald Trump](#)'s administration says it is weighing what to do with family planning supplies stockpiled in Europe that campaigners and two U.S. senators are fighting to save from destruction.

Concerns that the Trump administration plans to incinerate the stockpile have angered family planning advocates on both sides of the Atlantic. Campaigners say the supplies stored in a U.S.-funded warehouse in Geel, Belgium, include contraceptive pills, contraceptive implants and IUDs that could spare women in war zones and elsewhere the hardship of unwanted pregnancies.

U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Tommy Pigott said Thursday in response to a question about the contraceptives that "we're still in the process here in terms of determining the way forward."
"When we have an update, we'll provide it," he said.

Belgium says it has been talking with U.S. diplomats about trying to spare the supplies from destruction, including possibly moving them out of the warehouse. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Florinda Baleci told The Associated Press that she couldn't comment further "to avoid influencing the outcome of the discussions."

The Trump administration's dismantling of the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#), which managed foreign aid programs, left the supplies' fate uncertain.

Women's rights activists rally in Belgium fearing US plans for birth control supplies

Pigott didn't detail the types of contraceptives that make up the stockpile. He said some of the supplies, bought by the previous administration, could "potentially be" drugs designed to induce abortions. Pigott didn't detail how that might impact Trump administration thinking about how to deal with the drugs or the entire stockpile.

Costing more than \$9 million and funded by U.S. taxpayers, the family planning supplies were intended for women in war zones, refugee camps and elsewhere, according to [a bipartisan letter](#) of protest to U.S. Secretary of State [Marco Rubio](#) from U.S. senators [Jeanne Shaheen](#), a New Hampshire Democrat, and Alaska Republican [Lisa Murkowski](#).

They said destroying the stockpile "would be a waste of U.S. taxpayer dollars as well as an abdication of U.S. global leadership in preventing unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions and maternal deaths — key goals of U.S. foreign assistance."

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They urged Rubio to allow another country or partner to distribute the contraceptives.

Concerns voiced by European campaigners and lawmakers that the supplies could be transported to France for incineration have led to mounting pressure on government officials to intervene and save them.

The executive branch of the European Union, through spokesman Guillaume Mercier, said Friday that “we continue to monitor the situation closely to explore the most effective solutions.”

The U.S. branch of family planning aid group MSI Reproductive Choices said it offered to purchase, repackage and distribute the stock at its own expense but “these efforts were repeatedly rejected.” The group said the supplies included long-acting IUDs, contraceptive implants and pills, and that they have long shelf-lives, extending as far as 2031.

Aid group Doctors Without Borders said incineration would be “an intentionally reckless and harmful act against women and girls everywhere.”

Charles Dallara, the grandson of a French former lawmaker who was a contraception pioneer in France, urged President Emmanuel Macron to not let France “become an accomplice to this scandal.”

“Do not allow France to take part in the destruction of essential health tools for millions of women,” Dallara wrote in an appeal to the French leader. “We have a moral and historical responsibility.”

Leicester reported from Paris. Matthew Lee contributed from Washington, D.C.
