

Your Midweek News Brief

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Here are some highlights of news making the headlines this week.

The holidays are upon us as we celebrate Thanksgiving this week. Locally, at the historic courthouse in downtown Lincolnton, the Christmas tree lighting event will be held on Friday (11/27). The lighting will begin at 6 p.m., after which the movie, *The Grinch*, will be shown at 7 p.m. on the historic courthouse grounds. Also, Lincolnton will host the 68th Annual Lincolnton Christmas Parade in its historic downtown. The parade will start at 4 p.m. this Sunday (11/29) along Main Street.

In an update from last week's news, Jensen Huang who resigned from Nvidia due to affair scandals (one being with an alleged Chinese spy) has been rehired as CEO of Nvidia and, as a result, the company's stock surged by over 31% on Monday (11/23) (O'Donnell, et al.).

According to a report from the North Carolina Department of Commerce, the state's "seasonally adjusted" unemployment rate in October was 3.4%

(compared to the national figure of 4.1%). The number of people employed in NC increased by 9,221 during the month to 5,063,140 per the report. This October figure demonstrates a positive trend as it is down from last year's November (2025) unemployment rate of 3.8%.

The American Automobile Association (AAA) is projecting that 81.5 million Americans will travel this Thanksgiving week (11/24-11/30/26). The organization forecasts that most of those heading out over the holiday period will travel on the roadways (72.9 million folks) by car. AAA encourages the public to check their tires, battery and vehicle fluids before beginning your Thanksgiving trip (Diaz). Drive safely and take plenty of patience on the busy highways.

USA Today reports that the video game *Grand Theft Auto VI* set a record across all entertainment formats and platforms for earning $3.79 billion in its first day (11/19/2026), as 32.5 million games were purchased. The game is rated Mature for ages 17 and up, but it does have its share of critics from parental groups and others who object to the graphic violence and explicit sexual content.

According to NBC News, talks at the United Nations climate conference COP31 (31st Conference of Parties) fell apart on Sunday (11/22) in Turkey. The main point of contention was the failure to create an agreement specifying fossil fuel usage reduction goals to effectively combat climate change. 196 nations and the European Union had representatives in attendance. The U.S., per the Trump administration, is not committing to any fossil fuel usage reductions.

As far as entertainment, per *People* magazine, Singer Miley Cyrus married musician Maxx Morando (drummer for the band Liily) in Palm Springs on Saturday, November 21st.

Finally, in sports, its wouldn't be Thanksgiving without NFL football.

We have the following matchups for Thursday:

- Chicago Bears in Detroit to play the Lions (1 p.m. on CBS);
- The Dallas Cowboys will host the Philadelphia Eagles (4:30 p.m. on

Fox) and

- The Kansas City Chiefs will travel to New York to take on the Buffalo Bills for the evening game (8:20 p.m. on NBC).

Sources for this article:

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