

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Monday, Oct. 21

Senior Menu: Beef noodle stroganoff, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail, cookie, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: French toast.  
School Lunch: French bread pizza, cooked carrots.  
Volleyball hosts Langford (7th/8th grade match, 4 p.m., in the Arena; JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow).  
Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center  
Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

## Tuesday, Oct. 22

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, peas and carrots, strawberry ambrosia, buttermilk biscuit.  
School Breakfast: Scones.  
School Lunch: Sloppy joes, smiley fries.  
End of First Quarter  
Flu Shot Clinic, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Area Elementary School  
Volleyball at Northwestern (\*Volley for a Cure) (7th/C at 5 p.m., 8th/JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)  
Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.  
Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center  
United Methodist Bible Study, 10 a.m.

**Groton Daily Independent**  
**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**  
**Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460**

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# 1440

**Why 1440? The printing press was invented around the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. More facts: In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. We're here to make each one count.**

## World Series Matchup

The New York Yankees are facing off against the Los Angeles Dodgers this week for the 2024 World Series title. The matchup revitalizes one of baseball's biggest historical rivalries; the two teams—both with roots in New York—have faced off in the championship series a record 11 times since the 1940s, most recently in 1981.

The matchup was finalized yesterday when the Dodgers defeated the New York Mets 10-5 in Game 6 and after the Yankees beat the Cleveland Guardians Saturday, earning their first World Series spot in 15 years. The matchup marks a relatively rare instance of pitting two No. 1 seeds against one another. Each team also hosts the expected Most Valuable Player from their respective leagues: Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge for the American League and Dodgers designated hitter Shohei Ohtani for the National League.

The first matchup will take place Friday night, with the best-of-seven playoff continuing through next week.

## Stanford Psychologist Dies

Philip Zimbardo, an influential psychologist best known for carrying out the "Stanford Prison Experiment," died last week at the age of 91, the university announced Friday. His six-decade career also spanned research in subjects ranging from persuasion to cults and hypnosis.

Interested in how situational power affected behavior, Zimbardo designed the 1971 Stanford experiment to simulate a prison environment in the basement of the school's psychology department, with students assigned the roles of either guards or prisoners. The guards—given wide latitude over prisoners with little oversight or repercussions—reportedly began behaving abusively so quickly the experiment was ended six days into the two-week study. Zimbardo argued the results showed situations influence behavior more than commonly appreciated.

The experiment was later criticized over ethical and methodological concerns, with participant interviews later suggesting some had acted in a manner they thought Zimbardo wanted. The study has never been replicated in a rigorous fashion, leaving the results in question.

## Georgia Dock Collapses

A ferry dock carrying at least 20 people collapsed on Georgia's Sapelo Island Saturday, killing at least seven people and injuring eight others, with search and rescue efforts ongoing. The collapse—the cause of which is still under investigation—came amid an annual celebration for the island's descendants of enslaved African Americans.

Sapelo Island is a 16,500-acre island located 60 miles south of Savannah, accessible from the coast by a 20-minute boat ride. The island is home to around 70 members of the Hogg Hummock community, a group descended from formerly enslaved African Americans who purchased land there after the Civil War.

Through separation from the mainland, the Hogg Hummock—like other coastal southeastern communities of formerly enslaved African Americans broadly known as Gullah-Geechee—managed to retain much of their Indigenous West African culture and traditions, including skills like cast-net fishing and basket weaving.

Sapelo Island is a protected property that includes full-time residents and a research reserve.

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## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

New York Liberty defeats the Minnesota Lynx 67-62 in overtime of decisive Game 5 to win their first WNBA championship.

Cher, Jimmy Buffett, and Mary J. Blige among 16 inductees into the 2024 class of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Aaron Kaufman, Emmy-nominated director, dies at age 51 of an apparent heart attack.

Oregon leads AP Top 25 college football poll for first time since 2012; Georgia and Penn State round out the Top 3.

## Science & Technology

SpaceX awarded \$733M in launch contracts from the US Space Force, beating out United Launch Alliance. Chinese scientists demonstrate the world's strongest resistive (made out of normal metals like copper or aluminum) magnet; the 42 Tesla field is roughly 800,000 times the Earth's magnetic field.

Researchers discover protein to improve cardiovascular health in patients with progeria, a rare genetic disorder causing accelerated aging in children.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher Friday (S&P 500 +0.4%, Dow +0.1%, Nasdaq +0.6%), with the S&P 500 and Dow closing at record highs.

Netflix shares jump 11% after beating Q3 expectations.

Gold prices climb to all-time high amid uncertainty over US election, Middle East tensions.

Boeing offers production workers a 35% raise over four years, up from 30% in bid to end strike; union workers to vote on deal Wednesday, when new CEO Kelly Ortberg is set to give first public comments.

CVS workers in Southern California begin strike at seven stores.

Berkshire Hathaway invests additional \$42M in Sirius XM last week, raising company's stake in the radio broadcasting firm to 32.5%.

## Politics & World Affairs

Israeli airstrikes kill at least 87 people in Gaza, per Hamas-run Health Ministry.

Lebanese drone targets home of Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu; no one injured, per Israel.

US intelligence on Israeli preparations to retaliate against Iran exposed in pro-Iranian account online.

Cuba power outage leaves entire population of 10 million people without energy following electrical grid collapse.

Collapse came as Hurricane Oscar, a Category 1 storm, approached the island.

Indonesia inaugurates Prabowo Subianto as country's eighth president; the former defense minister was elected with close to 60% of the vote.

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## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

On Sunday, the Detroit Lions clawed their way to a 31-29 victory over the Minnesota Vikings. It was a hard-fought battle that came down to a field goal attempt with only fifteen seconds left on the clock. With the loss, the Vikings fall to 5-1, now second in the NFC North as the Lions hold the tiebreaker.

Detroit started the game with a disastrous opening series, losing 16 yards in their first two plays. On fourth-and-seven, they ran a fake punt that the Vikings easily snuffed out. Dan Cambell's gamble didn't pay off, and the Vikings suddenly had the ball 34 yards away from the endzone and they wasted no time capitalizing. After a short pass to Justin Jefferson, Aaron Jones broke free for a 34-yard touchdown run, giving Minnesota a 7-0 lead.

The Lions' second possession was a three-and-out, and the Vikings got the ball right back. Nine plays later, Will Reichard booted a 57-yard field goal and the Vikings had a 10-point lead. A third straight three-and-out forced by the Vikings' defense led to another Detroit punt, and the Vikings got the ball back with four minutes left in the first quarter.

Up until this point it had been smooth sailing for the Vikings' offense, but soon their warship began to spring leaks, stalling out as Detroit's defense poked holes in their game plan. Penalties on their next drive stalled the offense, and Detroit answered with a five-play, 69-yard touchdown drive, narrowing the score to 10-7. After another Minnesota punt, the Lions struck again, this time with an 83-yard drive to take a 14-10 lead. For the first time since the first quarter of their first game, the Vikings were trailing.

The Vikings began taking back some of the momentum on their next drive, but then an interception by Sam Darnold gave the ball back to the roaring Lions who marched down the field for another TD. After giving up 21 unanswered points, the Vikings went into halftime down 21-10.

Good coaches adapt their strategy throughout the game, which is exactly what Kevin O'Connell did in the second half. The Vikings got the ball to start the third quarter, and nine plays and 80 yards later they found the endzone, cutting Detroit's lead to four. The Lions responded with a nine-play touchdown drive of their own, making the score 28-17. Two field goal drives by the Vikings, sandwiching a Detroit punt, brought the game within one score halfway through the fourth quarter.

Sensing blood in the water, the Vikings' defense picked up their intensity, resulting in a fumble recovered for a touchdown by Ivan Pace Jr. The Vikings failed a two-point conversion, but they still had a 29-28 lead with under six minutes remaining in the game. On 3rd&6 for Detroit, Vikings' legend Andrew Van Ginkel sacked Jared Goff and ended their drive. With the lead and only four minutes left in the game, the Vikings had a chance to put this one away. Unfortunately, an incomplete pass from Darnold to Jefferson on third down stopped the clock and forced the Vikings to punt. Eight plays and 44 yards later, Detroit kicked a 44-yard field goal, giving the Lions a two-point lead and ultimately the win.

Sam Darnold completed 22 of 27 passes for 259 yards, one TD and one INT. Aaron Jones ran for 93 yards and a TD on 14 carries, while adding three catches for 23 yards. Justin Jefferson led the team with seven catches for 81 yards and a TD.

Andrew Van Ginkel had two sacks and three tackles for a loss. Jonathan Greenard and Ivan Pace Jr. each had a sack, with Pace adding a fumble recovery for a TD. Will Reichard was 3/3 on field goals and nailed both of his extra points.

Looking ahead, the Vikings have a short week, traveling to Los Angeles to face the Rams in a Thursday Night matchup. Vikings' head coach Kevin O'Connell is very familiar with the Rams, serving as their offensive coordinator from 2020-2021 and helping them beat the Cincinnati Bengals in Super Bowl LVI. The Rams are coming off a win against the Las Vegas Raiders, and are 2-4 this season.



## "Diabetes"

By Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD FACP

The saying goes, "newer isn't always better," and while I typically tend to agree with that, newer might be better when it comes to glucose monitoring technology. In recent years we have seen rapid development and uptake of new types of glucometers, leaving fewer and fewer patients with diabetes using the old standby fingerstick method of blood sugar monitoring.

Let me be clear: not every patient with diabetes needs a fancy new continuous glucometer (CGM). The cost might be higher, and there is certainly more data to sort through with a continuous glucometer. So who stands to benefit the most?

The most compelling reason to upgrade to a CGM would be a tendency to get low blood sugars (hypoglycemia), especially if that patient does not get any symptoms or awareness of that. Hypoglycemia can be very dangerous, causing loss of consciousness, seizures, and coma. A CGM can detect a pattern of dropping sugar levels and alarm to a patient's (or their loved one's) device as a signal to preempt a possibly dangerous episode of low blood sugar. Patients at highest risk of this are those on insulin, elderly patients, and those with more complicated or challenging diabetes.

Other reasons for patients to pursue a CGM might vary. Often in patients with poorly controlled diabetes, the data collected by a CGM can aid decision making on changes to medication, diet, and exercise at the right times of day. Some patients just truly hate pricking their fingertips, and using a CGM gives them information they can't otherwise obtain if avoiding fingersticks.

I can think of numerous patients in my own practice whose diabetes was poorly controlled, started using a CGM, then returned to clinic with major improvement in their control as manifested by their hemoglobin A1c lab, even without any changes to their medications. I attribute this to the unavoidable real time feedback a CGM gives, which probably motivates patients to change behavior in diet and exercise in ways that are hard to achieve otherwise.

Continuous glucometers aren't for everyone; some patients have excellent control of their diabetes and no hypoglycemia without this technology, in which case it probably isn't necessary. In patients who do pursue their use, it is important to work with a clinician who can help interpret the data the CGM provides and adjust treatment accordingly. In short, talk to your endocrinologist or primary care provider if you think a CGM might be for you.

*Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices Internal Medicine at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org), Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and Threads. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB or streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.*



Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD/FACP

## Turner County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: SD Highway 46 and Highway 19A, 12 miles west of Beresford, SD

When: 11:17 a.m., Saturday, October 19, 2024

Driver 1: 45-year-old female from Laurel, NE, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2018 Ford Explorer

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Driver 2: 19-year-old female from Woonsocket, SD, serious, non-life-threatening injuries

Vehicle 2: 2018 Ford F-150

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Turner County, S.D.- A Laurel, NE woman died yesterday in a two-vehicle collision 12 miles west of Beresford, SD Saturday morning.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2018 Ford Explorer was traveling southbound on SD Highway 19A and had stopped to turn left onto SD Highway 46. At the same time, the driver of a 2018 Ford F-150 was northbound on SD 19 and failed to stop at the stop sign. The vehicles collided, sending them both into the northeast ditch.

The driver of Explorer passed away at the scene. The driver of the F-150 sustained serious, non-life-threatening injuries.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

Coming up on [GDILIVE.COM](http://GDILIVE.COM)

**GT**  
Groton Area  
Tigers



**Monday, Oct. 21**

**Volleyball**

**Langford Area**

**at**

**Groton Area**

**JV at 6 p.m.**

**Sponsored by**

**Adam & Nicole Wright**

**Varsity to follow**

**\$5 ticket or**

**GDI Subscription**

**required to watch the games.**

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15 N Main St. - Ste. 101  
Downtown Groton

Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460

Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



Senior Citizens 65+

Physical Therapy.

**\$20 a month**

## Exercise has many advantages, including:

**Mental health:** Exercise can improve your mood, reduce stress, and help prevent depression. It can also help you sleep better by reducing stress and regulating your circadian rhythm.

**Cardiovascular health:** Cardiovascular exercise can help reduce the risk of high blood pressure and high cholesterol levels. It can also help you build stronger muscles and lose weight.

**Energy:** Exercise can give you a burst of energy throughout the day by helping oxygen flow more freely in your body.

**Bone and muscle strength:** Exercise can help strengthen your bones and muscles. As you age, regular exercise can help your bones become denser by building more cells.

**Brain health:** Exercise can improve brain health.

**Resilience:** Exercise can help make you more resilient.

**Quality of life:** Exercise can enhance your quality of life.

Type	Month-to-Month	Annual Agreements	
	Paid Monthly	Paid Monthly	Paid Yearly
Student .....	\$35.15 .....	\$29.82 .....	\$255.60
Single .....	\$40.48 .....	\$35.15 .....	\$319.50
Couple .....	\$59.78 .....	\$54.45 .....	\$575.10
Family .....	\$72.43 .....	\$67.10 .....	\$702.26
Daily Fee .....	\$5.00		

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**We'll be publishing each ballot measure in the GDI.  
Today it's Initiative Measure 28**

## **2024 Statewide Ballot Measures**

Underscores indicate new language.

~~Overstrikes~~ indicate deleted language.

### **Initiative Measure 28**

**Title:** An Initiated Measure Prohibiting Taxes on Anything Sold for Human Consumption.

**Attorney General Explanation:** Currently, the State collects tax on the sale or use of certain goods, including foods and drinks. Many municipalities also collect these taxes.

This initiated measure prohibits the State from collecting sales or use tax on anything sold for human consumption. The measure eliminates these sources of revenue for the State.

Human consumption is not defined by state law. However, its common definition includes more than foods and drinks.

The measure does not prohibit the collection of sales or use tax on alcoholic beverages or prepared food. Prepared food is defined by law to include food that is sold heated or with utensils.

The measure may affect the State's obligations under the tobacco master settlement agreement and the streamlined sales tax agreement. The master settlement agreement resulted from multi-state lawsuits against cigarette manufacturers for the public health effects of smoking. South Dakota's annual share of the master settlement agreement is approximately \$20 million. The streamlined sales tax agreement is a multi-state program designed to simplify the collection of sales and use tax for companies selling in multiple jurisdictions.

Judicial or legislative clarification of the measure will be necessary.

Vote "Yes" to adopt the initiated measure.

Vote "No" to leave South Dakota law as it is.

**Fiscal Note:** Beginning July 1, 2025, the State could see a reduction in sales tax revenues of \$123.9 million annually from no longer taxing the sale of anything sold for human consumption, except alcoholic beverages and prepared food. Municipalities could continue to tax anything sold for human consumption.

### **Full Text of Initiated Measure 28:**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:** That Title 10 be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the state may not tax the sale of anything sold for human consumption, except alcoholic beverages and prepared food. Municipalities may continue to impose such taxes.



## 2025 DOG LICENSES DUE BY 12/31/2024



Licenses due by December 31, 2024

Fines start January 1, 2025

Spayed/Neutered dogs are \$5 per dog,  
otherwise \$10 per dog

Proof of rabies shot information is REQUIRED!!

Email proof to [city.kellie@nvc.net](mailto:city.kellie@nvc.net)

fax to (605) 397-4498 or bring a copy to City Hall!!

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have a dog(s) that  
were previously licensed!

Questions call (605) 397-8422

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## Working to Protect & Promote Traditional American Values

- ✓ Pro Police
- ✓ Pro Constitution
- ✓ Pro Family



Visit the Campaign Site  
[ManhartForHouse.com](https://ManhartForHouse.com)



Paid for by Manhart for State House

# MANHART

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE

### DISTRICT 1

[facebook.com/ManhartLogan](https://facebook.com/ManhartLogan) | [ManhartForHouse.com](https://ManhartForHouse.com)

**General Election - Nov. 5**  
**Absentee Voting has begun**

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: How is climate change causing increased gastrointestinal distress? -P.L., via email

Gastrointestinal (GI) distress, including diarrhea, vomiting and foodborne illness, is on the rise globally, coinciding with increasing concerns over climate change, which is known to impact human health in many ways. Emerging evidence suggests that climate change significantly contributes to the rise in GI distress by altering ecological conditions that promote the spread of pathogens and other health hazards.

One of the main ways climate changes contribute to rising GI distress is by contaminating water. Extreme weather events like flooding and hurricanes contaminate water, spreading pathogens like *E. coli*, *Vibrio* and *Giardia*, major causes of GI infections. Furthermore, rising temperatures encourage the growth of harmful algae and bacteria in water sources, further increasing the risk of waterborne diseases.

Food safety and security are also impacted. Higher temperatures and changing agricultural conditions can lead to food contamination, raising the risk of GI infections. As the climate shifts, the stability and safety of food supplies are more threatened, leading to higher rates of foodborne illnesses. Also, inadequate food storage contributes to the proliferation of harmful bacteria, exacerbating the spread of GI diseases.

Moreover, climate change expands the habitat of disease vectors like mosquitoes, which spread GI-impacting diseases such as cholera. Warmer temperatures allow these vectors to survive in new regions, introducing diseases where populations may not have immunity or the medical ability to manage them. Also, heat stress directly affects digestive health, worsening conditions like irritable bowel syndrome.

Epidemiological and case studies from regions affected by climate-related disasters show the clear connection between climate events and increased GI diseases. Areas experiencing severe flooding often see a surge in waterborne GI infections due to compromised sanitation. Research also confirms that higher temperatures and humidity enhance the survival and transmission of pathogens that cause GI distress.

Given the impact of climate change on GI health, it's crucial that public health systems adapt. Improving water and food safety, raising awareness and strengthening healthcare systems are essential strategies. Addressing these challenges will be vital to reduce the burden of GI illnesses in a warming world. That said, time and money are big issues: "Mitigation plans...often cost hundreds of millions to billions of dollars and take many years to implement," Boston University's Beth Haley, lead author of a recent study linking GI issues to increased warming-related sewer overflows, tells Yale Climate Connections.

Shifting from diesel to electric will only happen when leaders at every level understand and rally behind it..



**Gastrointestinal (GI) distress is on the rise globally, coinciding with increasing concerns over climate change...** Credit: Pexels.com.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Advocates turn in petition urging acceptance of \$69M for energy rebates; no response from Noem

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - OCTOBER 20, 2024 7:00 AM

A rural advocacy group has turned in its petition signed by 904 South Dakotans urging Governor Kristi Noem to reconsider her decision to reject nearly \$69 million in federal funds for home energy-efficiency rebates.

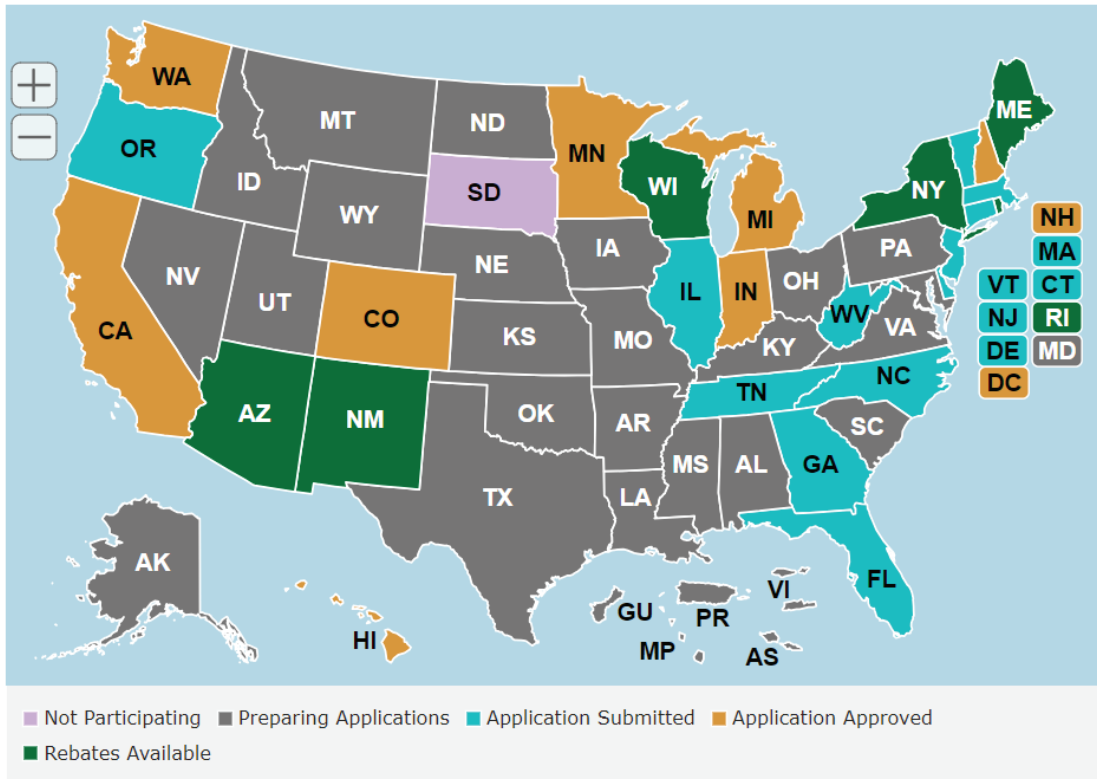
Noem is the only governor in the nation to reject participation. The petition urges action but is non-binding. "We believe this is a misuse of taxpayer money and call on Gov. Noem to promptly seek an extension and apply for these programs on behalf of our state," reads the petition from Dakota Rural Action, a grassroots organization focusing on family agriculture and conservation. "South Dakota deserves to benefit from our tax dollars."

In its two-week petition effort, the organization gathered signatures from South Dakotans in 143 communities. The organization told South Dakota Searchlight the governor's office has not responded. Noem's office also did not immediately respond to a South Dakota Searchlight request for comment on the petition.

The Noem administration previously cited concerns about administrative burdens, limited staff capacity, and disagreements with federal policy as reasons for opting out of the Home Energy Rebates program.

Noem's commissioner of the Bureau of Finance and Management, Jim Terwilliger, spoke for the administration during a July legislative budget committee meeting.

"We just don't believe that it's the right thing for South Dakota," Terwilliger said.



The national Home Energy Rebates program is funded with \$9 billion from the federal Inflation Reduction Act. The program provides rebates for energy-efficient home retrofits and high-efficiency electric appliances.

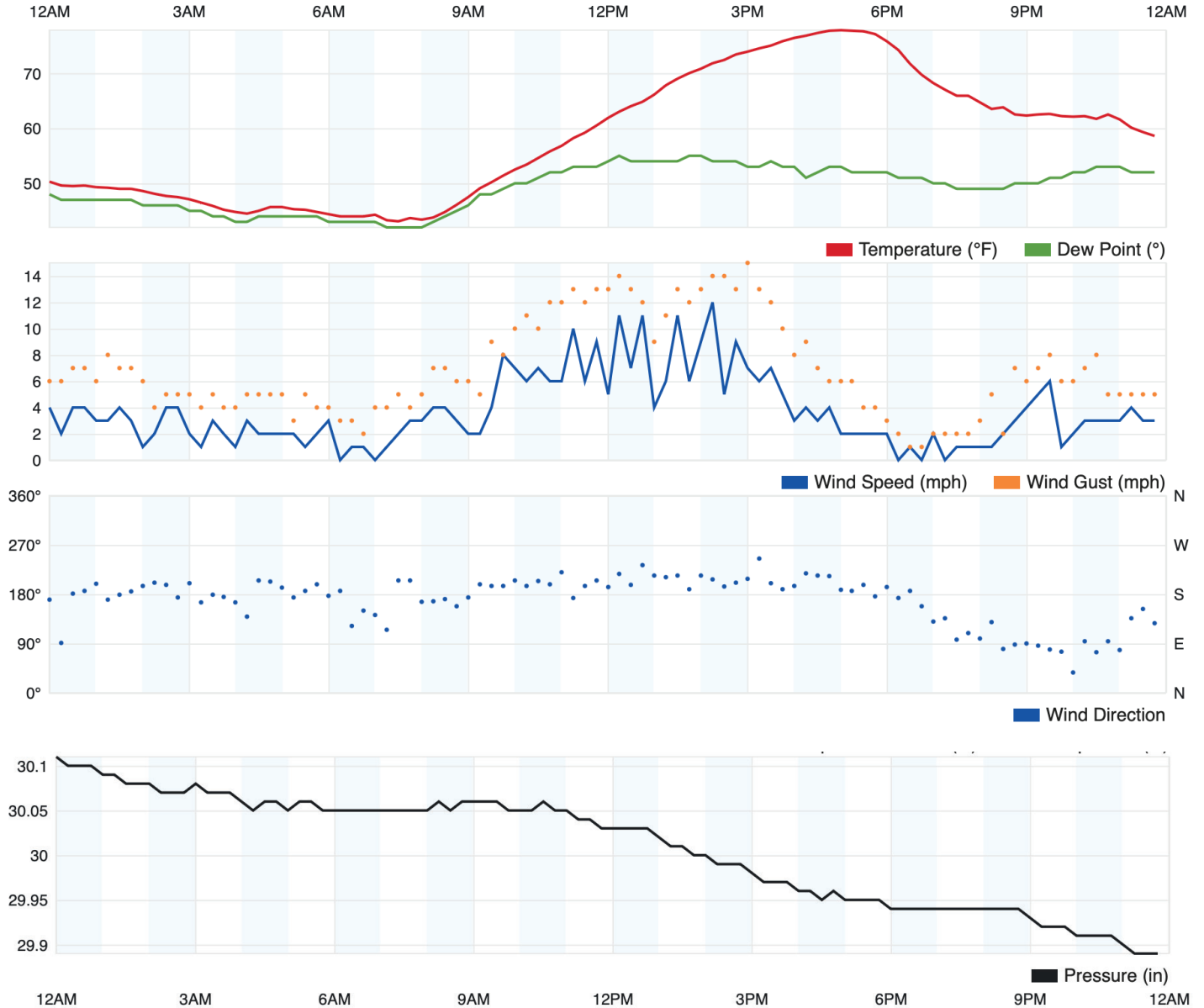
South Dakota's allocation is \$68.56 million, but the state did not indicate its intent to participate before an August deadline. The state previously passed up \$1.8 million to help set up and administer the program.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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Today



**High: 79 °F**

Patchy Fog  
then Partly  
Sunny

Tonight



**Low: 52 °F**

Mostly Cloudy

Tuesday



**High: 68 °F**

Mostly Sunny  
then Mostly  
Sunny and  
Breezy

Tuesday Night



**Low: 32 °F**

Mostly Clear

Wednesday



**High: 59 °F**

Sunny

## This Week

Today



Highs: 75-81  
Lows: 46-55

Patchy  
morning fog  
possible  
around  
James River

Tuesday



Highs: 62-73  
Lows: 29-38

20% chance  
of evening  
light rain in  
central SD

Wednesday



Highs: 54-67  
Lows: 40-47

Thursday



Highs: 59-65  
Lows: 29-36

20% chance  
of morning  
light rain in  
northern SD

Friday



Highs: 55-62  
Lows: 32-37

Aberdeen, SD

[weather.gov/aberdeen](http://weather.gov/aberdeen)



Above average temperatures are expected through the week with a couple chances for light rain Tuesday and Thursday. Today is expected to be the warmest with highs in the mid 70s to around 80 degrees.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 78 °F at 4:57 PM

Low Temp: 43 °F at 7:25 AM

Wind: 15 mph at 2:22 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 10 hours, 41 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 86 in 1947

Record Low: 9 in 1987

Average High: 56

Average Low: 31

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.58

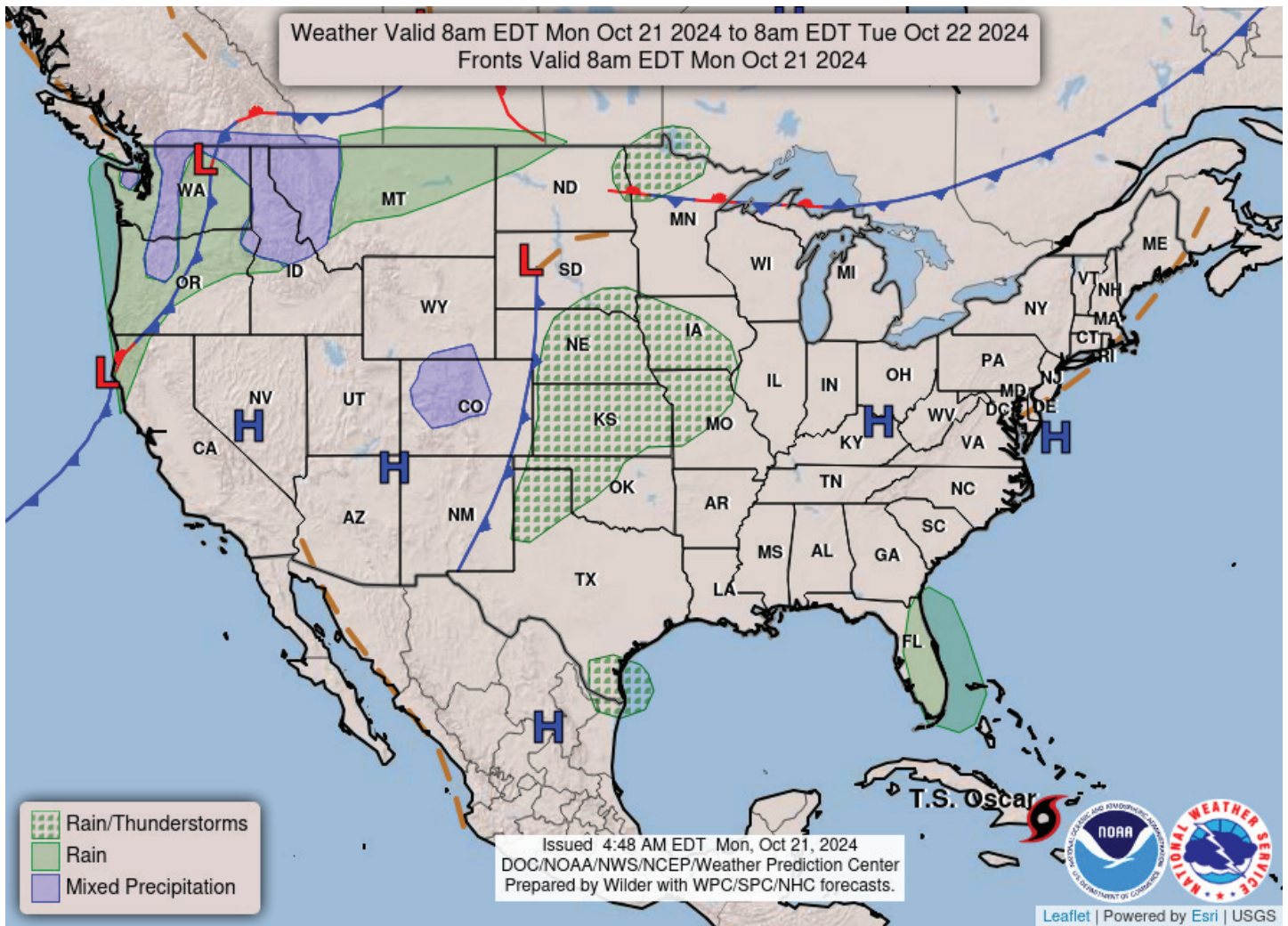
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.02

Average Precip to date: 19.91

Precip Year to Date: 19.77

Sunset Tonight: 6:37:33 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:57:35 am



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## Today in Weather History

October 21, 1987: Cold arctic air continued to invade the central U.S. Eleven record lows were reported in the Great Plains Region, including lows of 12 degrees at Valentine, Nebraska, and 9 degrees at Aberdeen, South Dakota. Temperatures warmed rapidly during the day in the Southern and Central Plains Region. Goodland, Kansas warmed from a morning low of 24 degrees to an afternoon high of 75 degrees.

1934: A severe windstorm lashed the northern Pacific coast. In Washington State, the storm claimed the lives of 22 persons, and caused 1.7 million dollars damage, mostly to timber. Winds, gusting to 87 mph at North Head, WA, produced waves twenty feet high on the Puget Sound.

1957 - The second in a series of unusual October storms hit southern California causing widespread thunderstorms. Santa Maria was drenched with 1.13 inches of rain in two hours. Hail drifted to 18 inches in East Los Angeles. Waterspouts were sighted off Point Mugu and Oceanside. (20th-21st) (The Weather Channel)

1966: An avalanche of mud and rocks buries a school in Aberfan, Wales, killing 148 people, mostly young students. The elementary school was in a valley below where a mining operation dumped its waste. In the days leading up to October 21, there was heavy rain in the area. After five months of investigation and the deposition of more than 100 witnesses, it was determined that the tip had blocked the natural course of water down the hill. As the water was soaked into the tip, pressure built up inside until it cracked, with devastating results. The site of the disaster later became a park.

1975: Carlton Fisk made history on this day because of a walk-off home run in the 1975 World Series, after rain had postponed it for three days.

1987 - Cold arctic air continued to invade the central U.S. Eleven record lows were reported in the Great Plains Region, including lows of 12 degrees at Valentine NE, and 9 degrees at Aberdeen SD. Temperatures warmed rapidly during the day in the Southern and Central Plains Region. Goodland KS warmed from a morning low of 24 degrees to an afternoon high of 75 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988: Hurricane Joan, the last hurricane of the season, neared the coast of Nicaragua packing 125 mph winds. Joan claimed more than 200 lives as she moved over Central America, and total damage approached 1.5 billion dollars. Crossing more than 40 degrees of longitude, Hurricane Joan never strayed even one degree from the 12-degree north parallel. After crossing Central America into the Pacific, the cyclone was renamed Tropical Storm Miriam, with the system's dissipation occurring southwest of Mexico.

1989 - Unseasonably cold weather continued to grip the south central and southeastern U.S. Twenty cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Calico AR with a reading of 26 degrees, and Daytona Beach FL with a low of 41 degrees. Squalls in the Great Lakes Region finally came to an end, but not before leaving Marquette MI buried under 12.7 inches of snow, a record 24 hour total for October. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) 2010: Tornadoes do occur in South America. A tornado rampaged through Poza del Tigre, a northern Argentinean town, leaving at least six are dead and over 100 wounded.





## ONE WAY

The famous entertainer, W. C. Fields, was an agnostic. One day, a friend came to visit him and found him reading the Bible.

"Bill," he exclaimed, "it's so good to see that you are reading the Bible. When did you change and become a Christian?"

"I haven't changed," he replied quickly. "I'm looking for some loopholes."

No matter how hard he searched, he never discover a loophole in God's Word.

There are many who do the same thing. They do not study God's Word to learn of His salvation and grace. They read it looking for errors and contradictions.

Others have difficulty in accepting God's Word as the final authority for truth. They do not want to believe that there is no other name besides the name of Jesus that they can call upon for salvation. They want to believe that there are many paths that lead to heaven and truth. What they want to believe comes from man-originated beliefs – not the Word of God.

God designated Jesus to be the only Redeemer and Savior. There never has been, nor ever will be, any other name for people to call upon for God's salvation. While there are some problems that may have more than one solution, when it comes to being forgiven of our sins, there is only One solution. Salvation and eternal life is by grace through faith in Christ alone

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your Son Jesus, in whose Name and through whose life's work we can be saved. May we accept Your salvation through faith in Him. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

*We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him*

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.18.24

4 9 26 39 58 23

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$205,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 9  
DRAW: Mins 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.19.24

3 10 28 34 47 4

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$12,190,000**

NEXT 16 Hrs 24 Mins  
DRAW: 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.20.24

3 15 21 37 38 15

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$7,000/week**

NEXT 16 Hrs 39 Mins  
DRAW: 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.19.24

3 6 14 27 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$68,000**

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 39  
DRAW: Mins 44 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.19.24

19 39 53 57 68 16

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$10,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 8 Mins  
DRAW: 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.19.24

7 16 19 45 64 25

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$456,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 8 Mins  
DRAW: 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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## Upcoming Groton Events

07/04/2024 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
07/09/2024 FREE SNAP Application Assistance 1-6pm at the Community Center  
07/14/2024 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm  
07/17/2024 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm  
07/17/2024 Pro Am Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
07/25/2024 Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day  
07/25/2024 Summer Downtown Sip & Shop 5-8pm  
07/25/2024 Treasures Amidst The Trials 6pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
07/26/2024 Ferney Open Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start  
07/27/2024 1st Annual Celebration in the Park 1-9:30pm  
08/05/2024 School Supply Drive 4-7pm at the Community Center  
**Cancelled:** Wine on 9 at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm  
08/08/2024 Family Fun Fest 5:30-7:30pm  
08/9-11/2024 Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament  
08/12/2024 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 1:15-7pm  
09/07/2024 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm  
09/07-08/2024 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport  
09/08/2024 Sunflower Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am  
10/05/2024 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm  
10/11/2024 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am  
10/31/2024 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm  
10/31/2024 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm  
11/16/2024 Groton American Legion "Turkey Raffle" 6:30-11:30pm  
11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm  
12/01/2024 Groton Snow Queen Contest, 4:30 p.m.  
12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday Party with Live & Silent Auctions 6pm-close  
04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp  
05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm  
05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm  
07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
07/09/2025 Legion Auxiliary Salad Luncheon  
07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm  
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm  
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm  
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm

## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### Self-exiled Turkish spiritual leader Fethullah Gülen dies in Pennsylvania

By MIKE RUBINKAM Associated Press

SAYLORSBURG, Pa. (AP) — Fethullah Gülen, a reclusive U.S.-based Islamic cleric who inspired a global social movement while facing accusations he masterminded a failed 2016 coup in his native Turkey, has died.

Abdullah Bozkurt, the former editor of the Gulen-linked Today's Zaman newspaper, who is now in exile in Sweden, said Monday that he spoke to Gulen's nephew, Kemal Gulen, who confirmed the death. Fethullah Gülen was in his eighties and had long been in ill health.

The state-run Anadolu Agency quoted Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan as saying the death has been confirmed by Turkish intelligence sources.

Gülen spent the last decades of his life in self-exile, living on a gated compound in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains from where he continued to wield influence among his millions of followers in Turkey and throughout the world. He espoused a philosophy that blended Sufism — a mystical form of Islam — with staunch advocacy of democracy, education, science and interfaith dialogue.

Gülen began as an ally of Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but became a foe. He called Erdogan an authoritarian bent on accumulating power and crushing dissent. Erdogan cast Gülen as a terrorist, accusing him of orchestrating the attempted military coup on the night of July 15, 2016, when factions within the military used tanks, warplanes and helicopters to try to overthrow Erdogan's government.

Heeding a call from the president, thousands took to the streets to oppose the takeover attempt. The coup-plotters fired at crowds and bombed parliament and other government buildings. A total of 251 people were killed and around 2,200 others were wounded. Around 35 alleged coup plotters were also killed.

Gülen adamantly denied involvement, and his supporters dismissed the charges as ridiculous and politically motivated. Turkey put Gülen on its most-wanted list and demanded his extradition, but the United States showed little inclination to send him back, saying it needed more evidence. Gülen was never charged with a crime in the U.S., and he consistently denounced terrorism as well as the coup plotters.

In Turkey, Gülen's movement — sometimes known as Hizmet, Turkish for "service" — was subjected to a broad crackdown. The government arrested tens of thousands of people for their alleged link to the coup plot, sacked more than 130,000 suspected supporters from civil service jobs and more than 23,000 from the military, and shuttered hundreds of businesses, schools and media organizations tied to Gülen.

Gülen called the crackdown a witch hunt and denounced Turkey's leaders as "tyrants."

"The last year has taken a toll on me as hundreds of thousands of innocent Turkish citizens are being punished simply because the government decides they are somehow 'connected' to me or the Hizmet movement and treats that alleged connection as a crime," he said on the one-year anniversary of the failed coup.

Turkish Foreign Minister Fidan said Monday that Gülen's death "will not make us complacent. Our nation and state will continue to fight against this organization, as they do against all terrorist organizations."

Fethullah Gülen was born in Erzurum, in eastern Turkey. His official birth date was April 27, 1941, but that has long been in dispute. Y. Alp Aslandogan, who leads a New York-based group that promotes Gülen's ideas and work, said Gülen was actually born sometime in 1938.

Trained as an imam, or prayer leader, Gülen gained notice in Turkey some 50 years ago. He preached tolerance and dialogue between faiths, and he believed religion and science could go hand in hand. His belief in merging Islam with Western values and Turkish nationalism struck a chord with Turks, earning him millions of followers.

Gülen's acolytes built a loosely affiliated global network of charitable foundations, professional associations, businesses and schools in more than 100 countries, including 150 taxpayer-funded charter schools throughout the United States. In Turkey, supporters ran universities, hospitals, charities, a bank and a

large media empire with newspapers and radio and TV stations.

But Gülen was viewed with suspicion by some in his homeland, a deeply polarized country split between those loyal to its fiercely secular traditions and supporters of the Islamic-based party associated with Erdogan that came to power in 2002.

Gülen had long refrained from openly supporting any political party, but his movement forged a de facto alliance with Erdogan against the country's old guard of staunch, military-backed secularists, and Gülen's media empire threw its weight behind Erdogan's Islamic-oriented government.

Gülenists helped the governing party win multiple elections. But the Erdogan-Gülen alliance began to crumble after the movement criticized government policy and exposed alleged corruption among Erdogan's inner circle. Erdogan, who denied the allegations, grew weary of the growing influence of Gülen's movement.

The Turkish leader accused Gülen's followers of infiltrating the country's police and judiciary and setting up a parallel state, and began agitating for Gülen's extradition to Turkey even before the failed 2016 coup.

The cleric had lived in the United States since 1999, when he came to seek medical treatment.

In 2000, with Gülen still in the U.S, Turkish authorities charged him with leading an Islamist plot to overthrow the country's secular form of government and establish a religious state.

Some of the accusations against him were based on a tape recording on which Gülen was alleged to have told supporters of an Islamic state to bide their time: "If they come out too early, the world will quash their heads." Gülen said his comments were taken out of context.

The cleric was tried in absentia and acquitted, but he never returned to his homeland. He won a lengthy legal battle against the administration of then-President George W. Bush to obtain permanent residency in the U.S.

Rarely seen in public, Gülen lived quietly on the grounds of an Islamic retreat center in the Poconos. He occupied a small apartment on the sprawling compound and left mostly only to see doctors for ailments that included heart disease and diabetes, spending much of his time in prayer and meditation and receiving visitors from around the world.

Gülen never married and did not have children. It is not known who, if anyone, will lead the movement.

## **US defense chief visits Kyiv for talks on how to keep supporting Ukraine's fight against Russia**

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin arrived in Kyiv on an unannounced visit Monday, hours after a Russian drone attack on the Ukrainian capital and as Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pushes Western partners to keep providing military support for the war.

Austin said on the X platform that his fourth visit shows "that the United States, alongside the international community, continues to stand by Ukraine."

Ukraine is having difficulty holding back a ferocious Russian campaign along the eastern front that is gradually compelling Kyiv's forces to give up a series of towns, villages and hamlets.

Zelenskyy is urging Western allies to support his so-called 'victory plan' to end the almost three-year war, which is Europe's biggest conflict since World War II and has cost tens of thousands of lives on both sides, including many civilians.

His strategy includes a formal invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western long-range missiles to strike military targets in Russia — steps that Kyiv's allies have previously balked at supporting.

The Western response has been lukewarm, and Austin was expected to discuss the plan with Ukrainian officials in Kyiv.

Zelenskyy said in a Sunday evening video address that his plan had won the backing of France, Lithuania, Nordic countries and "many other allies" in the European Union which he didn't name.

The key country, however, is the United States, which is Ukraine's biggest military supplier.

Zelenskyy said he had received "very positive signals from the United States," but he stopped short of saying he had secured Washington's endorsement for the plan.

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Analysts say the U.S. is unlikely to make a decision before the presidential election in two weeks' time. The latest Russian strikes on Ukraine, targeting Kyiv, Odesa and Zaporizhzhia, rammed home the urgency for Kyiv officials of clinching guarantees of more support. Large amounts of ammunition are needed for the kind of attritional warfare the warring sides are engaged in.

A Russian missile attack on the southern city of Zaporizhzhia injured seven people in the city center and caused huge damage to civilian infrastructure, including a kindergarten and more than 30 residential buildings, regional Gov. Ivan Fedorov said.

Machine gun fire and the noise of drones' engines was also heard in Kyiv's center throughout the night. Authorities reported minor damages to civilian infrastructure caused by falling drone debris in the three districts of the city.

Russia fired three missiles and more than 100 drones at Ukraine overnight from Sunday to Monday, Ukraine's air force said.

## 'You are not my king,' Indigenous Australian senator yells at visiting King Charles

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — An Indigenous senator told King Charles III that Australia is not his land as the British royal visited Australia's parliament on Monday.

Sen. Lidia Thorpe was escorted out of a parliamentary reception for the royal couple after shouting that British colonizers have taken Indigenous land and bones.

"You committed genocide against our people," she shouted. "Give us what you stole from us — our bones, our skulls, our babies, our people. You destroyed our land. Give us a treaty. We want a treaty."

No treaty was ever struck between British colonizers and Australia's Indigenous peoples.

Charles spoke quietly with Albanese while security officials stopped Thorpe from approaching.

"This is not your land. You are not my king," Thorpe yelled as she was ushered from the hall.

Thorpe is renowned for high-profile protest action. When she was affirmed as a senator in 2022, she wasn't allowed to describe the then-monarch as "the colonizing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II." She briefly blocked a police float in Sydney's Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras last year by lying on the street in front of it. Last year, she was also banned for life from a Melbourne strip club after video emerged of her abusing male patrons.

Albanese, who wants the country to become a republic with an Australian head of state, made an oblique reference to the issue in his speech welcoming the monarch.

"You have shown great respect for Australians, even during times when we have debated the future of our own constitutional arrangements and the nature of our relationship with the Crown," Albanese said. But, he said, "nothing stands still."

Opposition leader Peter Dutton, who wants to keep the British king as Australia's monarch, said that many supporters of a republic were honored to attend a reception for the Charles and Queen Camilla at Parliament House in the capital Canberra.

"People have had haircuts, people have shined shoes, suits have been pressed and that's just the republicans," Dutton quipped.

But Australia's six state government signaled their support for an Australian head of state by declining invitations to the reception. They each said they had more pressing engagements on Monday, but monarchists agreed the royals had been snubbed.

Charles used the start of his speech to thank Canberra Indigenous elder Auntie Violet Sheridan for her traditional welcome to the king and queen.

"Let me also say how deeply I appreciated this morning's moving Welcome to Country ceremony, which offers me the opportunity to pay my respects to the traditional owners of the lands on which we meet, the Ngunnawal people, and all First Nations peoples who have loved and cared for this continent for 65,000 years," Charles said.

"Throughout my life, Australia's First Nations peoples have done me the great honor of sharing so gen-



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erously their stories and cultures. I can only say how much my own experience has been shaped and strengthened by such traditional wisdom," Charles added.

Australians decided in a referendum in 1999 to retain Queen Elizabeth II as head of state. That result is widely regarded to have been the consequence of disagreement about how a president would be chosen rather than majority support for a monarch.

Albanese has ruled out holding another referendum on the subject during his current three-year term in government. But it is a possibility if his center-left Labor Party is re-elected at elections due by May next year.

Charles was drawn into Australia's republic debate months before his visit.

The Australian Republic Movement, which wants Australia to sever its constitutional ties with Britain, wrote to Charles in December last year requesting a meeting in Australia and for the king to advocate their cause. Buckingham Palace politely wrote back in March to say the king's meetings would be decided upon by the Australian government. A meeting with the ARM does not appear on the official itinerary.

"Whether Australia becomes a republic is ... a matter for the Australian public to decide," the Buckingham Palace letter said.

Earlier Monday, Charles and Camilla laid wreaths at the Australian War Memorial then shook hands with well-wishers on the second full day of their visit.

The memorial estimated 4,000 people had turned out to see the couple.

Charles, 75, is being treated for cancer, which has led to a scaled-down itinerary. It is Charles' 17th trip to Australia and the first since he became king in 2022. It is the first visit to Australia by a reigning British monarch since his late mother Queen Elizabeth II traveled to the distant nation in 2011.

Charles and Camilla rested the day after their arrival late Friday before making their first public appearance of the trip at a church service in Sydney on Sunday. They then flew to Canberra where they visited the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier and a reception at Parliament House.

Before leaving the war memorial, they stopped to greet hundreds of people who gathered under clear skies flying Australian flags. The temperature was forecast to reach a mild high of 24 degrees Celsius (75 degrees Fahrenheit).

On Wednesday, Charles will travel to Samoa, where he will open the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

## Environmental delegates gather in Colombia for a conference on dwindling global biodiversity

By STEVEN GRATTAN Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Global environmental leaders gather Monday in Cali, Colombia to assess the world's plummeting biodiversity levels and commitments by countries to protect plants, animals and critical habitats.

The two-week United Nations Biodiversity Conference, or COP16, is a follow-up to the 2022 Montreal meetings where 196 countries signed a historic global treaty to protect biodiversity.

The accord includes 23 measures to halt and reverse nature loss, including putting 30% of the planet and 30% of degraded ecosystems under protection by 2030.

In opening remarks on Sunday, Colombia's environment minister and COP16 president Susana Muhamad said the conference is an opportunity "to collect the experience that has passed through this planet from all civilizations, from all cultures, from all knowledge ... to generate livable, relatively stable conditions for a new society that will be forged in the light of the crisis."

A real threat to biodiversity loss

All evidence shows dramatic decline in species abundance and distribution, said Linda Krueger, director of biodiversity at The Nature Conservancy.

"A lot of wild species have less room to live, and they're declining in numbers," Krueger said. "And we also see rising extinction rates. Things that we haven't even discovered yet are blinking out."

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The world is experiencing its largest loss of life since the dinosaurs, with around 1 million plant and animal species now threatened with extinction, according to the United Nations Environment Programme.

In the Amazon rainforest, threats to biodiversity include the expansion of the agricultural frontier and road networks, deforestation, forest fires and drought, says Andrew Miller, advocacy director at Amazon Watch, an organization that protects the rainforest.

"You put all of that together and it's a real threat to biodiversity," Miller said.

Global wildlife populations have plunged on average by 73% in 50 years, according to the WWF and the Zoological Society of London biennial Living Planet report this month.

The report said Latin America and the Caribbean saw 95% average declines in recorded wildlife populations.

Indigenous communities key to biodiversity protection

Indigenous people are on the front lines of protecting biodiversity and fighting against climate change, putting their lives at great risk, said Miller of Amazon Watch.

"A lot of discourse has been given about the voices of local communities ... Indigenous peoples really playing a key role," he said. "So that's one of the things that we'll be looking for at COP16."

Indigenous peoples hold the solutions to combat the climate change and biodiversity crises, said Laura Rico, campaign director at Avaaz, a global activism nonprofit.

"They're who have been taking care of the land, healing the land through their governance systems, their care systems and their ways of life," she said. "So ... it's fundamental that the COP recognizes, promotes and encourages the legalization of their territories."

In Colombia's capital, Bogota, the head of an Amazon Indigenous organization said the region's Indigenous people have been preparing for months for COP16.

"This is a great opportunity to make the impact that we need to demonstrate to all the actors that come from other countries the importance of Indigenous peoples for the world," said José Mendez, secretary of the National Organization of the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon.

"It's no secret to anyone that we ... are at risk right now," he said. "The effects that we are currently experiencing due to climate change, the droughts that the country is experiencing, the Amazon River has never gone through a drought like the current one. ... This is causing many species to become extinct."

Nature can recover

Environment minister Muhamad told local media this month that one of the conference's main objectives is to deliver the message that "biodiversity is as important, complementary and indispensable as the energy transition and decarbonization."

Part of Colombia's first ever leftist government, Muhamad cautioned last year's World Economic Forum about the risks of continuing an extractive economy that ignores the social and environmental consequences of natural resource exploitation.

Since the 2022 Montreal conference, "progress has been too slow", says Eva Zabey, executive director of the coalition Business for Nature.

"There's been some progress," she said. "But the headline message is the implementation of the global biodiversity framework is too slow and we need to scale and speed up."

"COP16 comes at an absolutely critical moment for us to move from targets setting to real actions on the ground," Zabey said.

Although biodiversity declines are grim, some environmentalists believe a reversal is possible. "We've had some very successful species reintroductions and we've saved species when we really focus on what is causing their decline," said The Nature Conservancy's Krueger.

## Cubans struggle with an extended power outage and a new tropical storm

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ and MILEXSY DURAN Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Many Cubans waited in anguish and some took to the streets in protest as widespread blackouts stretched into their third day. Their concerns were heightened as a Hurricane Oscar hit Cuba's eastern coast with winds and heavy rain.

In Santo Suárez, part of a populous neighborhood in southwestern Havana, people went into the streets banging pots and pans in protest Sunday night.

"We haven't had electricity for three nights, and our food is rotting. Four days without electricity is an abuse to the children," resident Mary Karla, a mother of three children, told The Associated Press. She didn't give her surname.

The protesters, who say they have no water either, blocked the street with garbage.

Energy Minister Vicente de la O Levy said in a news conference he hopes the electricity grid will be restored on Monday or Tuesday morning.

But he said that Oscar, which made landfall on the eastern coast Sunday evening, will bring "an additional inconvenience" to Cuba's recovery since it will touch a "region of strong (electricity) generation." Key Cuban power plants, such as Felton in the city of Holguín, and Renté in Santiago de Cuba, are located in the area.

Oscar later weakened to a tropical storm but its effects were forecast to linger in the island through Monday.

Some neighborhoods had electricity restored in Cuba's capital, where 2 million people live, but most of Havana remained dark. The impact of the blackout goes beyond lighting, as services like water supply also depend on electricity to run pumps.

People resorted to cooking with improvised wood stoves on the streets before the food went bad in refrigerators.

In tears, Ylenis de la Caridad Napoles, mother of a 7-year-old girl, says she is reaching a point of "desperation."

The failure of the Antonio Guiteras plant on Friday, which caused the collapse of the island's whole system, was just the latest in a series of problems with energy distribution in a country where electricity has been restricted and rotated to different regions at different times of the day. The status of Cuba's other power plants was unclear.

People lined up for hours on Sunday to buy bread in the few bakeries that could reopen.

Some Cubans like Rosa Rodríguez have been without electricity for four days.

"We have millions of problems, and none of them are solved," said Rodríguez. "We must come to get bread, because the local bakery is closed, and they bring it from somewhere else."

The blackout was considered to be Cuba's worst since Hurricane Ian hit the island as a Category 3 storm in 2022 and damaged power installations. It took days for the government to fix them. This year, some homes have spent up to eight hours a day without electricity.

Cuba's government had said Saturday that some electricity had been restored. But the 500 megawatts of energy in the island's electricity grid, far short of the usual 3 gigawatts it needs, had quickly decreased to 370 megawatts.

Even in a country that is used to outages as part of a deepening economic crisis, Friday's collapse was massive.

The Cuban government has announced emergency measures to slash electricity demand, including suspending school and university classes, shutting down some state-owned workplaces and canceling nonessential services.

Local authorities said the outage stemmed from increased demand from small- and medium-sized companies and residential air conditioners. Later, the blackout got worse because of breakdowns in old thermoelectric plants that haven't been properly maintained, and the lack of fuel to operate some facilities.

Cuba's energy minister said the country's grid would be in better shape if there had not been two more partial blackouts as authorities tried to reconnect on Saturday. De la O Levy also said Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Russia, among other nations, had offered to help.

## Israel's wars are expensive.

### Paying the bill could force tough choices

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

On top of the grievous toll in human life and misery, Israel's war against the Hamas and Hezbollah militant groups has been expensive, and the painfully high financial costs are raising concerns about the long-term effect of the fighting on the country's economy.

Military spending has ballooned, and growth has stalled, especially in dangerous border areas that were evacuated. Economists say the country could face declining investment and higher taxes as the war strains government budgets and forces tough choices between social programs and the military.

Here is a look at the monetary costs Israel faces as a result of the conflict:

Spending on the military has soared

The Israeli government is spending much more per month on the military, from \$1.8 billion before Hamas started the fighting by attacking Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, to around \$4.7 billion by the end of last year, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

The government spent \$27.5 billion on the military last year, according to the institute, ranking 15th globally behind Poland but ahead of Canada and Spain, all of which have larger populations. Military spending as a percentage of annual economic output was 5.3%, compared with 3.4% for the United States and 1.5% for Germany. That pales in comparison to Ukraine, which spent 37% of its GDP and more than half its entire government budget on fighting off Russia's invasion.

The war hurt growth and the labor supply

In the three months after Hamas attacked, Israel's economic output shrank 5.6%, the worst performance of any of the 38 countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a group of mostly rich nations.

The economy partly rebounded with growth of 4% in the first part of this year but grew only 0.2% in the second quarter.

The war has inflicted an even heavier toll on Gaza's already broken economy, where 90% of the population has been displaced and the vast majority of the workforce is unemployed. The West Bank economy has also been hit hard, where tens of thousands of Palestinian laborers lost their jobs in Israel after Oct. 7 and Israeli military raids and checkpoints have hindered movement. The World Bank says the West Bank economy contracted by 25% in the first quarter.

In Israel, the war has imposed many economic burdens. Call-ups and extensions of military service threaten to crimp the labor supply. Security worries deter investment in new business, and disruptions in flights have kept many visitors away, cutting into the tourism industry.

Meanwhile, the government is paying for housing for thousands of people who had to leave their homes in the south near the border with Gaza and in the north where they were exposed to fire from Hezbollah.

One of the biggest concerns is the open-ended nature of the fighting, which has lasted more than a year. Israel's economy rebounded quickly from a 2006 war with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. But that conflict lasted only 34 days.

Moody's Ratings cited that idea on Sept. 27, when it lowered the Israeli government's credit rating, two notches. The Baa1 rating is still considered investment grade, albeit with moderate risk, according to Moody's.

The Israeli economy is still strong, with modest debt

Israel's economy is hardly collapsing. The country has a diversified, highly developed economy with a strong information-technology sector, which supports tax revenues and defense spending. Unemployment is low, and the TA-35 stock index is up 10.5% on the year.

Even amid the fighting, tech companies raised some \$2.5 billion in capital during the third quarter, according to Zvi Eckstein, head of the Aaron Institute for Economic Policy at Reichman University.

Israel started the war "in the best economic condition" regarding government debt, which stood at a relatively modest 60% of GDP, Eckstein said. "We financed the war mainly with debt," which has now risen



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to 62% but is still contained compared with France at 111% and in line with Germany at 63.5%.

The institute foresees debt reaching 80% of GDP, assuming the fighting does not markedly intensify and some sort of cease-fire or conclusion can be reached by the end of next year. Even then, higher defense spending is likely, especially if Israel maintains a military presence in Gaza after the war.

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich's budget for 2025 foresees a deficit of below 4%, saying that will ensure that Israel's debt burden remains stable. Smotrich said the country has a stable shekel currency, rising share prices, a tight jobs market, strong tax revenues and access to credit, and a rebounding tech sector.

Moody's questioned the deficit figures, forecasting a 6% deficit for next year.

The credit downgrade will lead to higher borrowing costs, meaning Israelis are likely to see cuts to public services and higher taxes, said Karnit Flug, a former head of Israel's central bank and now vice president of research at the Israel Democracy Institute.

The U.S. stepped up military aid and could provide financial backing

Before the war, American military aid to Israel amounted to around \$3.8 billion per year under a deal signed during President Barack Obama's administration. That comes to roughly 14% of Israel's prewar military spending, much of which goes to U.S. defense companies.

Since the war in Gaza began and led to escalating conflict across the Middle East, the United States has spent a record of at least \$17.9 billion on military aid to Israel, according to a report for Brown University's Costs of War project that was released on the anniversary of the Hamas attacks on Israel.

Beyond strictly military aid, the U.S. has offered critical financial support for Israel during times of trouble. Congress in 2003 approved \$9 billion in credit guarantees that let Israel borrow at affordable rates after the economy suffered during the so-called second intifada, or Palestinian uprising.

Some of those guarantees remain unused and could in theory be tapped to stabilize government finances if Israel faces unaffordable borrowing costs.

What's the way forward?

The government has convened a commission under former acting national security adviser Jacob Nagel, who negotiated Israel's most recent U.S. aid package, to offer recommendations on the size of the future defense budget and to assess how increased defense spending could affect the economy.

Economist Eckstein said a budget that includes some tax increases and cuts in social spending would be needed to support a postwar rebound and pay for likely higher ongoing defense costs.

## Israel targets Hezbollah's financial arm and begins striking Beirut

By KAREEM CHEHAYEB, WAFAA SHURAFI and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Israel's military announced Sunday it is now taking aim at the Lebanon-based Hezbollah's financial arm and will attack a "large number of targets" in Beirut and elsewhere. Explosions began in Beirut's southern suburbs about an hour later.

Evacuation warnings affected southern Beirut, the eastern Bekaa valley and parts of southern Lebanon. AP video showed strikes near Lebanon's only airport but it continued to operate.

The strikes will target al-Qard al-Hassan "all over Lebanon," a senior Israeli intelligence official said. Al-Qard al-Hassan is a Hezbollah unit that's used to pay operatives of the Iran-backed militant group and help buy arms, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with army regulations.

The registered nonprofit, sanctioned by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, provides financial services and is also used by ordinary Lebanese. Its name in Arabic means "the benevolent loan," and Hezbollah has used it to entrench its support among the Shiite population in a country where state and financial institutions have failed in recent years.

"It's a big deal," said David Asher, an expert on illicit financing who has worked at the U.S. Defense and State Departments and is now a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute.

"AQAH is a cash-based organization. The cash will be trash" in the event of strikes, he said, adding that it has large accounts with big Lebanese banks.



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Al-Qard al-Hassan in a statement called the decision to target it a sign of Israel's "bankruptcy" and assured customers it had taken "measures" to ensure their funds were safe. A stream of people left the areas surrounding its branches in Beirut.

In one evacuation notice, for the Choueifat area south of Beirut, the Israeli military mislabeled one target, causing confusion and panic. The location was labeled as Grand Cinema ABC Verdun, a theater in an upscale shopping mall in central Beirut more than 10 kilometers (6 miles) away.

A year of escalating tensions and frequent cross-border fire between Israel and Hezbollah over the war in Gaza turned into all-out war last month. Israel sent ground troops into Lebanon early this month.

Israel's announcement came a day after U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin called civilian casualties in Lebanon "far too high" in the Israel-Hezbollah war, and urged Israel to scale back some strikes, especially in and around Beirut.

Lebanese army says 3 soldiers killed in Israeli strike

Israel has increased strikes on southern neighborhoods of Beirut known as the Dahiye, a crowded residential area where Hezbollah has a strong presence. It is also home to many civilians unaffiliated with the militant group.

In southern Lebanon, the Lebanese army said three soldiers were killed in an Israeli strike on their vehicle. There was no immediate comment on that from the Israeli military, which said it struck more than 100 Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon in the past day and continued ground operations there.

Lebanon's army has largely kept to the sidelines in the war. The military is a respected institution in Lebanon, but isn't powerful enough to impose its will on Hezbollah or defend the country from an Israeli invasion.

Israel's military said Hezbollah fired more than 170 rockets into the country on Sunday. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said three people were slightly injured from a fire sparked by a rocket attack on the northern city of Safed.

In the middle is the U.N. peacekeeping mission UNIFIL, which said Israeli forces on Sunday "deliberately demolished an observation tower and perimeter fence of a U.N. position" in southern Lebanon. It again resisted Israeli pressure to leave its positions.

Iran supports the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, and the United States is investigating an unauthorized release of classified documents indicating that Israel was moving military assets into place for a military strike in response to Iran's ballistic missile attack on Oct. 1, according to three U.S. officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Medics warn of a catastrophic situation in Gaza

Israeli strikes on homes in northern Gaza overnight and into Sunday left at least 87 people dead or missing, the territory's Health Ministry said, as a large-scale operation continued against Hamas militants said to be regrouping.

The ministry said another 40 people were wounded in the strikes on the town of Beit Lahiya, which was among the first targets of Israel's ground invasion nearly a year ago. The Israeli military said it struck a Hamas target.

Among the dead were parents and eight children, according to Raheem Kheder, a medic. He said the strike flattened a multistory building and at least four neighboring houses.

The Israeli military said it used precise munitions against a Hamas target.

The U.S. is urging Israel to press for a cease-fire in Gaza following the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar last week. But neither Israel nor Hamas has shown interest in such a deal after negotiations sputtered to a halt in August.

In central Gaza, six people, including a child, were killed when a strike hit a car in Deir al-Balah, Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital officials said. The bodies were counted by AP journalists.

Doctors Without Borders, the international charity known by its French acronym MSF, called on Israeli forces to immediately stop their attacks on hospitals in northern Gaza after the Health Ministry said Israeli troops had fired on two hospitals over the weekend.

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Israel's military said it was operating near one hospital but hadn't fired directly at it.

Internet connectivity went down in northern Gaza late Saturday, making it difficult to gather information about strikes and complicating rescue efforts.

Israel ordered the entire population of the northern third of Gaza, including Gaza City, to evacuate to the south in the war's opening weeks and reiterated those instructions this month. Around 400,000 people are believed to have remained.

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed in, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. Around 100 captives are still being held in Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed more than 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who don't distinguish combatants from civilians. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced about 90% of its population of 2.3 million people.

## Harris seeks to win over Republicans uneasy about Trump with visits to Midwestern suburbs

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Democrat Kamala Harris is out to win over suburban voters uneasy about Republican Donald Trump as she touches down in three Midwestern battleground states on Monday to hold moderated conversations with Republican Liz Cheney.

The vice president will make appearances in three suburban counties won by Republican Nikki Haley before she dropped out of the race for the GOP nomination: Chester County, Pennsylvania; Oakland County, Michigan; and Waukesha County, Wisconsin.

Harris' travel companion, Cheney, is a former GOP congresswoman from Wyoming and a fierce critic of Trump. Their conversations will be moderated by a conservative radio host and a GOP strategist.

With just over two weeks to go before the presidential election and the race a dead heat, the Democratic nominee is looking for support from every possible voter. Her campaign is hoping to persuade those who haven't made up their minds, mobilize any Democrats considering sitting this one out, and pick off voters in areas where support for Trump may be fading.

A few votes here and there could add up to an overall win. In Waukesha County, for example, Haley won more than 9,000 primary votes even after she dropped out of the race. Overall, Wisconsin was decided for President Joe Biden in 2020 by just 20,000 votes. In-person early voting in the state starts Tuesday.

Cheney and Harris will be joined at the events by Charles Sykes, a conservative radio host and editor-in-chief of the website The Bulwark, and GOP strategist Sarah Longwell.

Cheney has endorsed Harris because of her concerns about Trump. She lost her House seat after she co-chaired a congressional committee that investigated the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot. That's when a violent mob of Trump supporters broke into the building and beat and bloodied law enforcement in a failed effort to stop the certification of Biden's 2020 presidential win.

Cheney is not the only Republican to back Harris. More than 100 former GOP officeholders and officials joined Harris last week in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, not far from where Gen. George Washington led hundreds of troops across the Delaware River to a major victory in the Revolutionary War.

At a rally there, she told GOP voters the patriotic choice was to vote for the Democrats.

As the election draws near, the vice president has increasingly focused on Trump's lies around the 2020 election and his role in the violent mob's failed efforts. She says Trump is "unstable" and "unhinged" and would eviscerate democratic norms if given a second White House term.

"I do believe that Donald Trump is an unserious man," she says at her rallies, "and the consequences of him ever getting back into the White House are brutally serious."

Trump has been trying to minimize the violent Jan. 6 confrontation as he campaigns, claiming it was "a day of love from the standpoint of the millions."

Harris will be back in Pennsylvania on Wednesday for a CNN town hall in Delaware County, where she will take voter questions.

## Should the minimum wage be lower for workers who get tipped? Two states are set to decide

By KAVISH HARJAI Associated Press

Mel Nichols, a 37-year-old bartender in Phoenix, Arizona, takes home anywhere from \$30 to \$50 an hour with tips included. But the uncertainty of how much she's going to make on a daily basis is a constant source of stress.

"For every good day, there's three bad days," said Nichols, who has been in the service industry since she was a teenager. "You have no security when it comes to knowing how much you're going to make."

That uncertainty exists largely because federal labor law allows businesses to pay tipped workers, like food servers, bartenders and bellhops, less than the minimum wage as long as customer tips make up the difference. Voters in Arizona and Massachusetts will decide in November whether it's good policy to continue to let employers pass some of their labor costs to consumers.

The ballot measures reflect an accelerating debate over the so-called subminimum wage, which advocates say is essential to the sustainability of the service industry and detractors say pushes the cost of labor off employers' shoulders and leads to the exploitation of workers.

The amount tipped workers make varies by state. Fourteen states pay the federal minimum, or just above \$2 an hour for tipped workers and \$7 an hour for non-tipped workers.

Arizona employers can pay their tipped workers \$3 less hourly than other workers. Under current rates, that means tipped workers' base pay is \$11.35 an hour.

Voters will decide whether to approve a measure backed by state Republicans and the Arizona Restaurant Association to change the minimum for tipped workers to 25% less than the regular minimum wage as long as their pay with tips is \$2 above that minimum.

The hourly minimum wage in Arizona is currently \$14.35 and increases yearly according to inflation.

Voters in Massachusetts are being asked to eliminate the tiered minimum-wage system.

There, voters will decide on a measure to incrementally increase the state's tipped worker wage — currently \$6.75 per hour — until it meets the regular minimum wage by January 2029. The measure was put forward by One Fair Wage, a not-for-profit that works to end the subminimum wage.

If voters approve the measure, the Bay State would join seven states that currently have a single minimum wage. Michigan will soon join that group after an August state Supreme Court ruling initiated a phase-out of the subminimum wage.

"When you're not making the money that you should be making to pay your bills, it becomes hard on you," said James Ford, a longtime Detroit-based hospitality worker. "(The ruling) makes me think we're moving forward."

Other states have wage measures on the ballot. In California, voters will choose whether to raise the hourly minimum wage from \$16 to \$18 by 2026 in what would be the highest statewide minimum wage in the country. Measures in Alaska and Missouri would gradually raise minimum wages to \$15 an hour while also requiring paid sick leave.

In the last two years, Washington, D.C., and Chicago also have started to eliminate the subminimum wage.

Employers must ensure that workers get the full minimum if they don't make that much with tips. But they don't always comply with federal labor law. One in 10 restaurants and bars investigated nationally by the U.S. Labor Department between 2010 and 2019 violated a provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act, resulting in the establishments paying \$113.9 million in back wages.

The issue disproportionately affects women, who make up about 47% of the U.S. workforce but nearly 70% of those who work in tipped professions, according to an AP analysis of U.S. Census data.

In Arizona, Republican state Sen. J.D. Mesnard, the sponsor of Proposition 138, said the measure is a win for both businesses and lower-wage workers.

"The employer is protected in the sense that they can preserve this lower base, knowing that there are going to be tips on top of it," Mesnard said. "The tipped worker is guaranteed to make more than minimum

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wage, which is more than they're guaranteed today."

Nichols doesn't support it.

"It would reduce my hourly, and anything that reduces my hourly is not something that I want to lean into," she said. "I don't believe that business owners need any more cuts in labor costs."

Proposition 138 was initially put forward as a response to a ballot measure pushed by One Fair Wage that would create a single minimum wage of \$18, but the group abandoned the effort after threats of litigation from the restaurant association over how it collected signatures.

Instead, One Fair Wage will focus on trying to pass a wage hike in the Legislature. Democratic State Rep. Mariana Sandoval said she hopes her party in November can flip the Legislature, where Republicans hold a one-seat majority in both chambers.

After working for tips for more than 20 years, server Lindsay Ruck, who works at a restaurant at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, said she's faced her fair share of belligerent customers. But because their tips make up such a significant part of her pay — approximately \$60 an hour — she's hesitant to stand up to them.

To Ruck, higher base pay -- not less -- is called for.

"I think that there should be just a single minimum wage and then people should get tipped on top of that," Ruck said.

The National Restaurant Association and its state affiliates warn of reduced hours, lower employment and menu price hikes if employers can't rely on tips to pay their workers. That's why Dan Piacquadio, a co-owner of Harold's Cave Creek Corral restaurant outside Phoenix, is hoping voters pass Proposition 138.

"This is just a way to protect our current system that's been there for 20 years and protect restaurant owners, keep restaurants affordable, and most importantly, keep very good pay for all tipped workers," Piacquadio said.

Between 2012 and 2019, the number of restaurants and people employed at those restaurants grew at a faster clip in the seven states that have a single minimum wage compared to states that pay the federal minimum tipped wage, according to labor economist Sylvia Allegretto.

"We are sitting here in a state that has a \$16 minimum wage," Allegretto said from Oakland, California, where she works at the left-leaning Center for Economic and Policy Research. "No subminimum wage, and we've got a thriving restaurant industry."

## Some Jewish voters in presidential swing states reconsider their longtime devotion to Democrats

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — For Rona Kaufman, the signs are everywhere that more Jews feel abandoned by the Democratic Party and may vote for Republican Donald Trump.

It's in her Facebook feed. It's in the discomfort she observed during a question-and-answer at a recent Democratic Party campaign event in Pittsburgh. It's in her own family.

"The family that is my generation and older generations, I don't think anybody is voting for Harris, and we've never voted Republican, ever," Kaufman, 49, said, referring to Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris. "My sister has a Trump sign outside her house, and that is a huge shift."

How big a shift? Surveys continue to find that most Jewish voters still support the Democratic ticket, and Kaufman acknowledges that she's an exception.

Still, any shift could have enormous implications in Pennsylvania, where tens of thousands of votes decided the past two presidential elections. Many Jewish voters say the 2024 presidential election is like no other in memory, coming amid the growing fallout from Hamas' brutal attack on Israelis last year.

Jews represent a sliver of the voting-age population in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, the so-called blue wall of states that Democrats have come to rely on in recent presidential elections. In a close election, they are a big enough constituency that the campaigns of Harris and Trump see the potential for any slippage to swing a close contest.



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That has forced Harris to walk a line between traditional Democratic constituencies with strong feelings about the war in Gaza, both Jews and Arab Americans — balancing support for Israel with outrage over the deaths of Israeli and Palestinian civilians and destruction in the region. The Biden administration has been pressuring Israel to end its attacks, which continued last week with the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar by Israeli troops.

Trump has looked to exploit the opening among Jewish voters especially, saying Harris “doesn’t like” Jewish people, Jews who don’t vote for him “need their head examined” and that he’ll be the “best friend Jewish Americans have ever had in the White House.”

In the past, surveys have shown that Jews overwhelmingly vote Democratic. A Pew Research Center poll released last month found that about two-thirds of Jewish voters back Harris. In 2020, about 7 in 10 Jewish voters supported President Joe Biden, according to AP VoteCast.

The question is whether that has changed, as Jews now see Israel’s survival in a new light as its war with Hamas widens to Hezbollah and Iran.

That has put a new focus on the relationship between Israel and the U.S., which continues to provide military aid. And many Jews say rising acts of antisemitism in the United States and anti-Israel protests sweeping across cities and college campuses — including in Philadelphia — have made them feel unsafe.

In Pennsylvania, still fresh in many minds is a gunman absorbed by white supremacist ideology murdering 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018, the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history.

As Pennsylvania plays a central role in the election, many say they’ve never seen such outreach from campaigns as they have now.

From Trump on down, Republicans are attempting to win over Jewish voters by highlighting a Democratic Party torn between its traditional and unconditional support for Israel and a growing faction that has accused Israel of war crimes in Gaza, called for Israel to unconditionally stop attacking Hamas, and demanded that the U.S. end its military support for Israel.

For some Jews who typically vote Democratic, that has resonated.

“I think that there are folks who are reluctant Trump voters who feel scared as Jews in this country,” said Jeremy Kazzaz, a Pittsburgh resident and Harris supporter.

Kazzaz, however, said Harris has a long record of fighting antisemitism that is relatively unknown to many voters.

He pointed out that the Biden administration tapped her husband, Doug Emhoff, who is Jewish, to lead a task force to develop a strategy to fight antisemitism well before Hamas attacked Israel. Emhoff has been a key surrogate, campaigning in front of Jewish audiences in the Philadelphia suburbs and speaking at the groundbreaking of a new complex replacing Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life synagogue.

Still, where Harris’ supporters see strong support of Israel — for instance, the Biden administration sent a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery to Israel, along with the troops needed to operate it — others see conditional support.

That includes Biden urging Israel not to hit Iran’s nuclear program or oil fields. At the same time, Biden has stressed his administration’s support for Israel and, in her remarks on the anniversary of Hamas’ attack, Harris said she’ll “always ensure that Israel has what it needs to defend itself and that I will always work to ensure the safety and security of the Jewish people here and around the world.”

Steve Rosenberg, of Philadelphia, who voted for Trump in 2016 and then Biden in 2020, will vote for Trump in 2024. In large part, Rosenberg sees Biden’s lifting of Trump-era sanctions on Iran as providing the cash for the Islamic Republic to finance a war against Israel. Trump imposed the sanctions after voiding a treaty the Obama administration had reached to slow Iran’s progress toward nuclear weapons, which he called a bad deal.

“The question is, ‘Who is better off today than four years ago?’” Rosenberg said. “And the answer is Iran and the mullahs and their proxies, and it’s because Biden and Kamala Harris have capitulated to Iran.”

Kaufman, a self-described progressive who lives in Pittsburgh’s heavily Jewish Squirrel Hill neighborhood,



never thought she would vote for Trump.

But now, she expects Trump will continue a hardline stance against Iran — which she calls an imminent threat to democracy, human rights and western civilization — and worries that Harris will appease Iran and pander to the party's left wing.

Jews with very strong connections to Israel — her parents were born there and her daughter just finished a two-year eight-month mandatory service with the Israeli army — are similarly conflicted over supporting Harris, Kaufman said. "I'm saying it out loud everywhere, but most people aren't saying it out loud."

Many Jews who support Harris, however, say they see Trump as a threat to democracy.

That's important, they say, because minorities — including Jews — have reason to fear persecution under dictators.

They can unfurl a list of comments by Trump that they see as threatening: using the military against domestic enemies, peddling dual-loyalty tropes about Jews, setting up Jews as scapegoats if he loses and, in the days after Hamas' attack, criticizing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu while praising Hezbollah as "very smart."

Emhoff called Trump a "known antisemite."

Some see Trump's efforts on Jan. 6, 2021, to stay in power as a threat. Many are wary of his affinity for dictators, and bring up his dinner at his Mar-a-Lago resort with far-right activist Nick Fuentes and rapper Ye, two men known for spewing antisemitic rhetoric.

"That's the conversation that I'm having with Jews," said Rabbi Beth Janus of Philadelphia.

Janus said Jews she knows are excited that a woman could be president and that she's married to a Jewish man. Conversely, Trump's support for Israel is transactional, she said.

"When it serves his needs, his objectives, he supports Israel," Janus said. "But if it didn't, then he wouldn't support Israel."

## Jury selection to begin for trial of man charged in NYC subway chokehold death

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jury selection was set to begin Monday in the criminal trial of the U.S. Marine Corps veteran charged with manslaughter for placing a man in a deadly chokehold on a New York City subway train last year.

Daniel Penny, now 25, is accused of "recklessly causing the death" of Jordan Neely, a 30-year-old former street performer who witnesses say was acting erratically on the train on May 1, 2023, when Penny moved to restrain him.

The Manhattan court proceedings, which are expected to last six weeks, will place a spotlight back on a case that sparked debate and division locally and across the country.

Protesters took to the streets to demand that authorities arrest Penny — who is white; Neely was Black — while others rallied in support outside the courthouse once he was charged. The case also became a cause celebre among Republican presidential hopefuls.

Penny, who served four years in the Marines before being discharged in 2021, has been free on a \$100,000 bond. He faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted of second-degree manslaughter and up to four years if convicted of criminally negligent homicide.

Witnesses to the incident said Neely — who had struggled with drug addiction, mental illness and homelessness — had been shouting and demanding money when Penny approached him.

Penny pinned Neely to the ground with the help of two other passengers, and placed him in a chokehold for more than three minutes until Neely's body went limp. The medical examiner's office ruled the death a homicide caused by compression of the neck.

Penny's lawyers have argued that the Long Island native didn't intend to kill Neely, just to hold him down long enough for police to arrive. Penny has claimed Neely shouted, "I'm gonna' kill you" and that he was

“ready to die” or go to jail for life.

Penny’s attorney, Steven Raiser, said the defense plans to offer up other potential causes for Neely’s death, including high levels of the synthetic cannabinoid known as K2 found in his body.

They’ll also argue that video shared widely on social media proves Penny was not applying pressure consistently enough to render Neely unconscious, much less kill him.

Prosecutors, in their court filings, have argued that Penny’s actions were reckless and negligent even if he didn’t intend to kill Neely. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg’s office declined to comment ahead of the trial.

Neely’s uncle, Christopher Neely, said he and other family members have been anticipating this moment. “Justice for Jordan is all we think about,” he told The Associated Press last week.

## **In North Carolina, Trump and Harris navigate a hurricane and a rollercoaster governor’s race**

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

RUTHERFORDTON, N.C. (AP) — Renee Kyro already has voted for Republican nominee Donald Trump for the third consecutive presidential election. But she plans to volunteer for the first time, reaching out to her neighbors in hurricane-battered western North Carolina to make sure they have a voting plan amid a flurry of precinct changes.

“I want to say I’m confident he wins, but I’m worried that people are just overwhelmed and may need some help or encouragement,” she said, standing outside an early voting site in the conservative stronghold of Rutherford County. “I just can’t imagine Kamala Harris as president.”

To the east, in heavily Democratic Winston-Salem, Dia Roberts described the fear that has her writing postcards urging voters to back Harris, the vice president and Democratic nominee.

“Donald Trump is a narcissist, a liar, a wannabe dictator,” said Roberts, an independent who has voted for Democrats in the Trump era. “This should not even be close.”

But it is.

And the presidential race in North Carolina is playing out in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene and alongside a governor’s race in which the Trump-endorsed GOP nominee, Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, has seen his campaign collapse amid multiple controversies, potentially splintering GOP unity.

Both the Harris and Trump campaigns are ramping up their activity here again after the storm. Trump has three North Carolina stops Monday, including a visit to see storm damage in Asheville. Former President Bill Clinton appeared last week with Harris’ running mate, Tim Walz, and followed with several visits in eastern North Carolina.

With 15 days until Election Day, North Carolina is critical to the Electoral College math that will decide whether Trump gets a White House encore or Harris hands him a second defeat and, in the process, makes history as the first woman, second Black person and first person of south Asian descent to reach the Oval Office.

“We are going to win or lose the presidency based on what happens in North Carolina,” Republican National Chairman Michael Whatley, a North Carolinian, said last week as part of a GOP bus tour.

Pennsylvania and its 20 electoral votes have gotten more attention from Harris and Trump than other battlegrounds. But North Carolina and Georgia are the next largest swing states, with 16 electoral votes each. While Georgia yielded Democrat Joe Biden’s closest victory margin four years ago, it was North Carolina that delivered Trump’s narrowest win: less than 75,000 votes and 1.3 percentage points.

North Carolina is expected to cast as many as 5.5 million ballots, with more than 1 million votes already cast since the start of early voting last Thursday.

Harris on Monday was targeting suburban Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin — holding a series of conversations with Republican Liz Cheney that will be moderated by Bulwark publisher and Republican strategist Sarah Longwell and conservative radio host Charlie Sykes.

Hurricane Helene displaced thousands of voters

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Many North Carolina counties affected by Hurricane Helene moved Election Day precincts or changed early voting sites. Thousands of voters remained displaced or without power or water as early voting commenced.

Buncombe County, home to left-leaning Asheville, was hard-hit. Appalachian State University in Boone, the other cache of Democratic votes in the mountainous region, remains closed. But surrounding western counties, including Rutherford, add up to more GOP votes than Democrats' advantages in Asheville and Boone. That leaves both parties scrambling to check turnout operations and their math.

"We're working every channel we can, you know?" Whatley said. "We're going to be doing phone calls. We're going to be doing direct mail. We'll be doing emails and digital — basically anything we can do to let people know where to go."

Republicans like Kryo, who lives a short drive from the devastated Chimney Rock community, said she knows "plenty of Trump supporters who lost everything" and others who remain in their homes but don't have reliable internet or phone connections and may not know their polling location.

"I'll go door to door if I have to," she said.

Yet Trump and Republicans never built the same campaign infrastructure as Harris — or President Joe Biden's before he dropped out of the race in July.

"It was a flip of a coin before the storm," said GOP pollster Paul Shumaker. "The critical question is going to be: How is the rural turnout going to compare matched with the urban and suburban turnout?" Especially, Shumaker added, if Republicans "continue to have ballot erosion in the urban-suburban areas."

State Sen. Natalie Murdock, who doubles as political director for Democrats' coordinated campaign in the state, said the party has the apparatus to reach their target voters in the disaster zone. Field workers in some of Democrats' two-dozen-plus offices around the state have engaged in recovery efforts, distributing water and other supplies to residents. Murdock noted that Appalachian State is slated to be open before Election Day, with students being able to vote at their usual campus precinct.

Democrats are running both on Helene and Mark Robinson

Even before Helene, North Carolina was all the more compelling because of its history of split-ticket voting. It's one of the few states that features competitive governor's races concurrent with presidential contests. Democrats have carried the presidential electoral votes just once since 1992 (Barack Obama's narrow win in 2008). Republicans have won just one governor's race in the same span. Four years ago, Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper won reelection by 4.5 points despite Trump outpacing Biden. He's now term-limited.

Democrats hope Robinson's latest struggles, centered on CNN's revelations that the state's first Black lieutenant governor once called himself a "Black Nazi" and posted lascivious statements on a porn website, turn thousands of Cooper-Trump voters into supporters of Harris and Democratic gubernatorial nominee Josh Stein. Robinson has denied the allegations and sued CNN, calling its report defamatory.

In his campaign appearances last week, Walz took care to make two points beyond the usual pitch to any swing-state audience: He offered condolences and promised continued federal assistance to Helene victims, and he declared that Robinson "will never be the governor of North Carolina."

Said Murdock: "We are definitely making it clear how extreme the Republican ticket is."

At the least, Trump's dominance over the GOP has moved some of the state toward Harris, said Robert Brown, a High Point attorney who came to hear Walz. Just 16 years ago, Brown was on the other side of the aisle as Republican nominee John McCain's state director against Obama.

Trump's nomination in 2016, Brown said, pushed him to register as an independent and vote for Democrat Hillary Clinton. "Then after Jan. 6, I moved all the way over" and registered as a Democrat, he said.

"I've just become more and more scared and disillusioned about the direction of the party and the country," he explained, adding that he sees Harris as a center-left pragmatist who is as strong on national security as was McCain. "This really isn't that hard for me and for some other Republicans and former Republicans."

## From the desert to the Strip: How the election's fight over immigration may upend Nevada's economy

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the remote Nevada desert, the Baker Ranch couldn't survive without immigrant guest workers who come every year from Mexico.

About 300 miles to the south in Las Vegas — increasingly a vacation playground for Americans from all political and socioeconomic backgrounds — immigrants are just as vital, keeping the 24-hour economy humming all day, every day.

Immigration has become a source of fear and frustration for voters in this presidential election — with possible outcomes that could take the United States down two dramatically different paths. But immigrants who have been in the country for decades say a nuanced issue has been drowned out by seemingly simpler solutions championed by both parties.

Nowhere are the complicated economic and social realities behind the searing-hot political divide on immigration more clear than in Nevada, a toss-up state that could decide an increasingly close election.

Here are highlights from the AP's report:

How immigration has shaped the presidential race

The influx of illegal border crossings long strained city and state resources even in Democratic strongholds across the country, even as encounters between immigrants and law enforcement officials have declined sharply in recent months. And yet, immigration has fueled job growth in ways that strengthen the economy and improve the federal government's fiscal health.

Former President Donald Trump is championing hardline proposals that would force mass deportations, while Vice President Kamala Harris is calling for pathways to citizenship for millions of people in the country illegally. But Harris is also calling for increased funding for border security enforcement and strengthening existing Biden administration actions that tightened rules for immigrants to seek asylum in the U.S. when they arrive at the southern border.

"I think that our focus is completely directed into the border and not toward the people who are already here and have been here for many, many years," said Erika Marquez, immigrant justice organizer for the advocacy group Make the Road Nevada.

Bipartisan support for guest workers — to a point

Both parties have called for expanding guest worker programs in agriculture.

The Trump administration deemed guest farmworkers essential during the coronavirus pandemic, and the program's participation rose while he was in office. But he also proposed a rule freezing farmworkers' salaries for two years, loosening requirements for worker housing and restricting the transportation costs they could be reimbursed for.

The Biden administration wiped out those rules. Since then, more than 310,000 H-2A visas were issued in fiscal year 2023, compared to around 213,000 in fiscal year 2020, the last full one under Trump. But the Biden White House also imposed a series of new rules meant to better protect workers that have occasionally frustrated business owners like the Bakers.

"It is a hot potato and each side's lobbing one at the other. And, in all honesty, both are to blame," Janille Baker, who runs the ranch's financial books, said of immigration. "There is going to come a point where it has to get taken care of. You can't just keep using fearmongering and scaring people, and then being critical of the people who do or don't want to do whatever jobs."

A state economy powered by immigrants

In Nevada, nearly 19% of residents are foreign-born and 9% of the total workforce does not have U.S. legal status. If the state lost all of its workers in the country illegally, Labor Department figures suggest the direct job losses would be roughly as large as those from the 2008 financial crisis, which stalled tourism, triggered a wave of housing market foreclosures and cost the state about 9.3% of its jobs during the subsequent Great Recession.

"In our wonderful, 24-hour economy, we know that these hotels and casinos could not, should not, would



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not be able to open every day without immigrants," said Peter Guzman, president and CEO of the Latin Chamber of Commerce in Nevada.

And even rounding up people in the country illegally might not count those with temporary protected status, or the guest workers on Baker ranch, all of whom are authorized to be in the U.S.

Haydee Zetino, who scrubs lavish hotel suites at Harrah's Casino on the famed Las Vegas strip, is an immigrant from El Salvador with only temporary protected status in the U.S. The 62-year-old saw Trump try to strip away many such protections during his first term and worries it could happen again if he wins — even as she can't vote herself as a non-citizen.

"These people don't have any conscience," she said of mass deportation supporters. "They believe they can lift up the country, move the economy forward, but they don't think of those at the bottom."

A small state that could be a big factor on Election Day

The Pew Research Center estimates that 11 million people in the country illegally live in the U.S. Big states like California, Texas and Florida have larger numbers who potentially could have even more influence on workforces and communities. But all of those states are all solidly red or blue in presidential races — and aren't likely to sway the election as toss-up Nevada might.

Despite having just six electoral votes, Nevada could go for either Trump or Harris. Clark County, encompassing Las Vegas, is about 75% of the state's population and includes a sizeable number of hospitality industry workers represented by Nevada's powerful Culinary Union, which has endorsed Harris.

But Trump was able to turn out infrequent voters there in 2020, and did well in much of the rest of the state, which is rural and more conservative. Washoe County, home to Reno, is a perennial toss-up. Voters can also choose "None" of the presidential candidates, adding to the Nevada electorate's famously fickle nature.

It's all left some voters afraid of what the outcome might be.

"There's a lot of fear," said Nancy Valenzuela, a 48-year-old maid who works at the Strat casino. "There are people who don't have papers. They're like, 'They want to throw us all out.'"

## Putin hosts a summit in a bid to show the West it can't keep Russia off the global stage

By DASHA LITVINOVA Associated Press

In the coming days, Russian President Vladimir Putin will be shaking hands with multiple world leaders, including China's Xi Jinping, India's Narendra Modi, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Iran's Masoud Pezeshkian.

They will all be in the Russian city of Kazan on Tuesday for a meeting of the BRICS bloc of developing economies, defying predictions that the war in Ukraine and an international arrest warrant against Putin would turn him into a pariah.

The alliance, which aims to counterbalance the Western-led world order, initially included Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, but started to rapidly expand this year. Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia joined in January; Turkey, Azerbaijan and Malaysia formally applied, and a number of others expressed a desire to be members.

Russian officials already see it as a massive success. Putin's foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov said 32 countries confirmed participation, and more than 20 will send heads of state. Putin will hold around 20 bilateral meetings, Ushakov said, and the summit could turn into "the largest foreign policy event ever held" on Russian soil.

Optics and deals for the Kremlin

Analysts say the Kremlin wants both the optics of standing shoulder-to-shoulder with its global allies amid continued tensions with the West, as well as the practicality of negotiating deals with them to shore up Russia's economy and its war effort. For the other participants, it's a chance to amplify their voices and narratives.

"The beauty of BRICS is that it doesn't put too many obligations on you," says Alexander Gabuyev, di-



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rector of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center. "There are not that many strings attached, really, to being part of BRICS. And at the same time, there might be interesting opportunities coming your way, including just having more face time with all of these leaders."

For Putin, the summit is important personally because it shows the failure of Western efforts to isolate him, Gabuyev says.

The gathering will demonstrate at home and abroad that "Russia is really an important player that is leading this new group that will end the Western dominance — that's his personal narrative," he says.

The Kremlin will be able to talk to major players like India and China about expanding trade and bypassing Western sanctions. India is an important market for Russian commodities, while China is where Moscow hopes to get its hands on dual-use and various military-related goods, Gabuyev says.

Russia also wants more countries participating in a payment system project that would be an alternative to the global bank messaging network SWIFT, allowing Moscow to trade with its partners without worrying about sanctions.

"The Russian idea is that if you create a platform where there is China, Russia, India and Brazil and Saudi Arabia, many countries that are vital partners for the U.S., the U.S. will not be ready to go after this platform and sanction it," Gabuyev said.

## Goals for Iran and China

Russia also is expected to sign a "comprehensive strategic partnership" treaty with Iran, bolstering the increasingly close ties between Moscow and Tehran.

After the invasion of Ukraine, Iran provided Moscow with hundreds of drones and helped launch their production in Russia. The Iranian drone deliveries, which Moscow and Tehran have denied, have allowed for a constant barrage of long-range drone strikes at Ukraine's infrastructure.

Iran, in turn, wants sophisticated Russian weapons, like long-range air defense systems and fighter jets to help fend off a possible attack by Israel. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refused to comment when asked whether the treaty will include mutual military assistance.

For China, BRICS is among several international organizations — along with the security-focused Shanghai Cooperation Organization — through which it seeks to promote an alternative to the U.S.-led world order.

Xi pushed for enlarging BRICS, and the Kazan summit will consolidate economic, technological and military ties in the expanded bloc, said Willy Lam, a senior China fellow at the Jamestown Foundation.

Beijing and Moscow also want to see if a new international trading currency could "challenge so-called dollar hegemony," Lam said.

The summit will allow Xi and Putin to flaunt their close relationship. The two, who announced a "no-limits" partnership only weeks before Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, already have met at least twice this year, in Beijing in May and at a SCO summit in Kazakhstan in July.

Although they will continue to present a united front, experts are watching for subtle signs of Xi distancing himself from Putin over the war.

"While Putin will want the China-Russia relationship to appear as good as ever, Xi may also want to signal to Western states and others that Beijing officially remains 'neutral' in Russia's war in Ukraine and is not a formal ally of Moscow," said Eva Seiwert, a foreign policy and security expert with the Mercator Institute for China Studies in Berlin.

"This will be crucial for conveying the image of China as a serious and legitimate peacemaker in the Russia-Ukraine conflict."

## Balancing acts for India and Turkey

An expected Modi-Putin meeting could see some rebalancing of their ties. Western friends want India to be more active in persuading Moscow to end the war. Modi has avoided condemning Russia while emphasizing a peaceful settlement.

New Delhi considers Moscow a time-tested partner from the Cold War, cooperating on defense, oil, nuclear energy, and space, despite Russia's closer ties with India's main rival, China.

Their meeting will be the second in months. Modi visited Russia in July, saw President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Ukraine in August and traveled to the U.S. to see President Joe Biden in September.

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"India can't simply abandon Russia because of its deep defense ties, the question of the regional balance of power, and the logic of multi-alignment," said Raja Mohan, a professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies in Singapore. "At the same time, it also builds and develops its relations with the U.S. and the West because that is where the logic of India's major economic development and technological growth depends on partnership."

India and Brazil view BRICS primarily through an economic lens to promote a more equitable distribution of power in the international system, while "China and Russia see it more as a geopolitical forum," said Chietigi Bajpayee, who studies South Asia at the Chatham House in London.

India and Brazil also don't want to be "pulled into China's gravitational orbit," said Theresa Fallon of the Center for Russia, Europe, Asia Studies.

Another key participant is Turkey, which has applied to join the BRICS group. That comes at a time when the NATO member and European Union candidate is increasingly frustrated with the West. Turkey's EU membership talks have stalled since 2016 due to disputes with Cyprus and concerns over human rights.

Turkey's relations with Washington have been strained over its removal from the F-35 fighter jet program after procuring a Russian missile defense system. Erdogan also has accused the U.S. and other Western allies of alleged "complicity" in Israel's military actions in Gaza.

Membership in BRICS would help Erdogan "strengthen his own hand" at a time when ties with the West are at a low, said Gonul Tol, director of the U.S.-based Middle East Institute's Turkey program.

Middle powers like Turkey "try to extract more from both camps by being in-between camps, by having one foot in each camp," he said.

## **Immigrants help power America's economy. Will the election value or imperil them?**

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

BAKER, Nev. (AP) — Few things say America like Janille and Tom Baker's ranch, with its grazing cattle, scrub brush-dotted desert and snow-capped mountains.

If only they could get American citizens to work on it.

The ranch in remote eastern Nevada produces around 10,000 tons of hay annually, and combines cowboy culture with a dash of Manifest Destiny. Rabbits, gophers and the occasional badger always outnumber humans and the nighttime sky is dark enough to count the stars.

But the Bakers' business couldn't survive without an agricultural guest worker program that brings in Mexican immigrants for about nine months a year to help harvest crops in fields where temperatures frequently exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8 Celsius).

"When people complain that foreign workers are taking their jobs, I roll my eyes," said Janille Baker, who manages the ranch's accounting. "In any industry, everybody's trying to find help. So this anti-immigration stance doesn't really make sense to me. If everyone needs workers, how are you planning to fill those jobs?" The ranch follows federal rules that require advertising available positions and making them available first to U.S. citizens. But in the last six years, only two Americans called to inquire about jobs. A third trekked out in person, but left after seeing what the work entailed.

Immigration has become a source of fright and frustration for voters in this presidential election — with possible outcomes that could take the United States down two dramatically different paths. Nowhere are the stakes higher than in Nevada, where 19% of residents are foreign-born and around 9% of the total workforce doesn't have U.S. legal status.

The influx of illegal border crossings has strained city and state resources across the nation, even in Democratic strongholds. And yet immigration has fueled job growth in ways that strengthen the economy and improve the federal government's fiscal health.

So black and white in the candidates' rhetoric, immigration is actually incredibly complex in reality — a fact that reveals itself every day in Nevada.

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Voters say it is among their most important issues in November. How they come down on immigration, choosing former President Donald Trump 's hard-line proposals for mass deportations or Vice President Kamala Harris ' calls for a path to citizenship for millions of people in the country illegally who have been here for years, will go a long way toward determining the outcome.

Nearly 300 miles or 480 kilometers south of Baker Ranch, neon-saturated Las Vegas had almost 41 million tourists visit last year, and is seeing the issue of immigration play out differently, but with distinct parallels.

"There's a lot of fear," said Nancy Valenzuela, a 48-year-old maid who works at the Strat casino. "There are people who don't have papers. They're like, 'They want to throw us all out.'"

Valenzuela plans to vote for Harris. But others can only watch and hope their way of life isn't turned upside down. "We're here, propping up the country so the economy doesn't crash," said Haydee Zetino, who scrubs lavish hotel suites at Harrah's Casino on the famed Las Vegas strip. She is an immigrant from El Salvador with only temporary protected U.S. status and can't vote.

Absolutes sweep away nuance

If Trump deported all 11 million immigrants without legal status in the U.S., as he has suggested, the collateral risk could extend to the entire economy. Nevada's job losses alone might nearly equal what it suffered during the 2008 financial crisis. More than 10% of Nevada's population lives in homes with at least one immigrant in the country illegally, according to estimates from the advocacy group Fwd.us.

"In our wonderful, 24-hour economy, we know that these hotels and casinos could not, should not, would not be able to open every day without immigrants," said Peter Guzman, president and CEO of the Latin Chamber of Commerce in Nevada.

Trump could also revive pushes he made during his first term to cancel programs that have extended temporary legal status to Zetino and hundreds of thousands of others.

Harris has called for humane treatment at the border, particularly for children and families, and for letting longtime immigrants get citizenship. But she's also promised to revive a bipartisan package that Trump forced congressional Republicans to squash, which sought to provide \$20 billion for immigration enforcement and tightened rules for immigrants seeking U.S. asylum.

Recent Biden administration orders have imposed asylum restrictions when the border is overwhelmed. The vice president recently walked the border with Mexico in Douglas, Arizona, and called for getting tougher than Biden has — despite his administration having seen arrests for illegal border crossings fall sharply in recent months, even approaching levels recorded during Trump's final year in the White House.

Polling released last month by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research showed Trump has an advantage over the vice president on who voters trust to better handle immigration 44% vs. 37% — a gap Harris' campaign has sought to narrow by moving harder to the middle on the issue.

Immigrants say a bipartisan push toward getting tougher at the border has clouded the larger issue in ways often too complicated to break down easily along ideological lines.

"I think that our focus is completely directed into the border and not toward the people who are already here and have been here for many, many years," said Erika Marquez, immigrant justice organizer for the advocacy group Make the Road Nevada, and a recipient of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, an Obama-area effort giving limited protections to immigrants brought to the U.S. as children.

The Pew Research Center estimates that 11 million people in the country illegally live in the U.S. Big states like California, Texas and Florida have larger numbers who potentially could have even more influence on workforces and communities. But all of those states are all solidly red or blue in presidential races — and aren't likely to sway the election as toss-up Nevada might.

Clark County, encompassing Las Vegas, is about 75% of the state's population and includes a sizeable number of hospitality industry workers represented by Nevada's powerful Culinary Union, which has endorsed Harris.

But Trump is hoping to turn out infrequent voters there, and do very well in much of the rest of the state, which tends to be rural and conservative. Washoe County, home to Reno, is a perennial toss-up, though. And voters can also choose "None" of the presidential candidates, adding to the Nevada elector-

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ate's famously fickle nature.

Maria Nieto, president of the Young Democrats of Nevada, also got Obama-era protections for immigrants who arrived as children. She said she was always taught while growing up never to talk about her legal status. Now, however, Nieto, is making a point of using her story to motivate people to exercise voting rights she doesn't have.

"At times, I think that people don't realize how personal this is," she said.

The post-Election Day economic consequences might be even more dire.

A group of researchers led by Warwick J. McKibbin, an economics professor at the Australian National University, found that removing workers in the U.S. illegally would sharply reduce labor supply in the mining, agriculture, services, and manufacturing sectors. Deporting even 7.5 million workers might slash Real Gross Domestic Product by 12%.

If Nevada lost all of its workers in the country illegally, Labor Department figures suggest the direct job losses would be roughly as large as those from the 2008 financial crisis, which stalled tourism, triggered a wave of housing market foreclosures and cost the state about 9.3% of its jobs during the subsequent Great Recession.

And rounding up people in the country illegally may not even count people like Zetino, Marquez, and Nieto, nor the guest workers at Baker Ranch, all of whom are authorized to be in the U.S.

Zetino, 62, gained temporary protected status since arriving after a major 2001 earthquake in El Salvador, but saw Trump try to remove it during his term.

"These people don't have any conscience," she said of mass deportation supporters. "They believe they can lift up the country, move the economy forward, but they don't think of those at the bottom."

'No issue with people who want to come here legally'

Trump has made border security an unofficial anthem of his campaign, constantly decrying an "invasion" of people flooding into the country illegally. At the same time, he's endorsed more temporary visas for qualified foreigners, saying at a recent town hall with Spanish-language Univision, "We want workers, and we want them to come in, but they have to come in legally, and they have to love our country."

But the former president also has lately stepped up his attacks on people with temporary protected status, including spreading falsehoods about Haitians legally living in Ohio abducting and eating pets, and threatening to deport them should he win in November. Trump has further stoked tensions by suggesting that immigrants coming into the U.S. illegally are doing so to expressly take jobs from Black and Hispanic Americans.

Still, some of Trump's top supporters in Nevada are more careful to make distinctions between immigrants here legally and not. That includes former North Las Vegas Mayor John Lee, who has been endorsed by Trump as he runs for Congress and acknowledged of his state: "We are running out of labor force right now."

"We have no issue with people who want to come here legally," Lee said. "We'll train them and they'll work, and we see all the joys of America that way." But he said people in the country illegally, by contrast, have contributed to higher crime rates, including construction sites being burglarized.

Other conservatives are more explicit about the economic damage tougher immigration policies might do, though.

Guzman, of the Latin chamber, has organized forums examining how construction in Las Vegas has been slowed by not being able to find enough workers. He's pushed for expanding guest worker programs, noting on a call with an advocacy group, "I'm a registered Republican, and we are not all the same on this issue."

Florisela López Rivera has seen that nuance firsthand and worries about politics overwhelming decency.

A dishwasher at Wynn Casino in Las Vegas, López Rivera is originally from El Salvador and got temporary protected status after Hurricane Mitch's devastation in 1998. She recently gained permanent U.S. residency after her wife became a citizen, which means she's unlikely to face deportation under any circumstances.

López Rivera is a member of the Culinary Workers Union, which represents 60,000, majority-Hispanic workers in Las Vegas and Reno. A Harris supporter, López Rivera canvasses for her union to advocate for



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the vice president, stressing Harris being the daughter of immigrants.

She speaks Spanish while knocking on doors and says that she encounters some people who tell her, "I love Trump." Even then, she tries to engage them rather than simply turning away.

"When we focus on the negative, we lose the human side of things," López Rivera said.

Bipartisan support for stricter border security

Harris' calls for tightening asylum rules and stepping up enforcement at the border underscore just how much voters backing both parties want a strong hand there.

"Everybody I know, Republican or Democrat, believes border security is important," said Edgar Flores, a Democratic Nevada state senator and immigration attorney. "We have real problems with drugs, with gangs, with violence."

But move even partially toward mass deportations, Flores said, and "you're going to disturb the most essential industries in Nevada, and that's going to be replicated around the country."

Marquez, of Make the Road Nevada, said her organization accepts that there need to be stiffer controls at the border, but added, "I think a lot of people — and Trump himself — have this irrational idea that we are here and we are not good people."

"We are all working class," said Marquez, who was born in Leon, Mexico, and immigrated at age 3, when her grandmother paid smugglers to take her and her then-pregnant mother into the United States. "All we want is being able to supply food, shelter and a good education for our children and just to be able to grow as a community."

A recent Scripps News/Ipsos survey found that 86% of Republicans "strongly" or "somewhat support" mass deportations, but so do 25% of Democrats. Overall, 54% of voters support removing potentially millions of people from the country, topping the 42% who oppose it, while a third of Americans see securing the U.S.-Mexico border as the country's top immigration priority, the survey found.

'You can't get anyone to come do the work'

Back on Baker Ranch, the H-2A visa program brings immigrant workers to the fields. They harvest hay, control weeds and irrigate with wheel lines moved by hand, or fully hand irrigate, building small dams using tarps they drag to different areas so that crops can be better submerged in water.

During Trump's first term, the H-2A program's participation rose, but he also proposed a rule just before the end of his term that would have frozen farmworkers' salaries for two years, loosened requirements for worker housing and restricted the transportation costs they could be reimbursed for. The Biden administration wiped those out, but imposed new rules it says can better protect workers and has seen participation climb even higher.

Tom Baker co-owns the ranch with his brothers, and it began operating in 1954, nearly two decades before the area was electrified. He calls it "hard, hot work" that's "kind of miserable."

"These kinds of farms, without immigrants, would become infeasible because you can't get anyone to come do the work," said Baker, 54. "The wage isn't the issue. It's whether people will come do the job."

The soil — enriched by hot days and nights that turn cooler because of higher elevations — can make for superior hay, some of which goes to race and polo horse centers like West Palm Beach, Florida, home to Trump's Mar-a-Lago club.

The ranch has 26 employees, including five current H-2A immigrant workers. Many of the oldest ranch hands arrived long enough ago to get U.S. legal status through 1980s programs. Some have children who were born in the U.S. and are citizens, even if one or both of their parents are not.

The guest workers declined to comment, not wanting to attract undue attention. Still, three generations of immigrant workers at the ranch largely hail from the towns of Apozol and Juchipila in north-central Mexico.

The original arrivals now have grown children. Some of them work at the ranch and have had their own children who are now in high school and work there themselves during the summers. One former employee's wife had her baby in a ranch vehicle on the way to the hospital, about 80 miles away.

Janille Baker, 51, is no fan of Trump, but also has at times become exasperated with Biden administration regulations. Those include small things like immigrant living quarters being required to have screen doors, despite being air conditioned and already equipped with screens on the windows.

"It is a hot potato and each side's lobbing one at the other. And, in all honesty, both are to blame," she said of immigration. "There is going to come a point where it has to get taken care of. You can't just keep using fearmongering and scaring people, and then being critical of the people who do or don't want to do whatever jobs."

## Georgia islanders rushed to rescue survivors after dock walkway collapse that killed 7

By RUSS BYNUM and EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — Orange life jackets bobbed in the water, where bystanders rushed to form a human chain for passing survivors to safety. Others shouldered the task of wrapping dead bodies in blankets and carrying them to shore.

The frantic scene after an aluminum gangway collapsed Saturday at a boat dock on a Georgia barrier island capped what was supposed to have been a day of celebration, an annual festival spotlighting the culture and history of Sapelo Island's tiny Gullah-Geechee community of Black slave descendants.

The collapse occurred as visitors were boarding a ferry back to the mainland. Officials say up to 40 people were standing on the gangway when it gave out. At least 20 plunged into the Atlantic waters, where a strong tidal current threatened to pull them out to sea.

"It was chaotic. It was horrible," said island resident Reginald Hall, who charged into the water and was handed a young child to pass along to others forming a human chain 60 yards (55 meters) to the shore.

Seven people died and three others remained hospitalized Sunday, said Walter Rabon, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

He said an accident reconstruction team, working with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, was working to determine what caused a "catastrophic failure" at the state-operated dock, which had been rebuilt in 2021.

"There should be very, very little maintenance to an aluminum gangway like that," Rabon said.

A fall celebration of an island's culture and history turns tragic

Saturday was one of the busiest days of the year on largely unspoiled Sapelo Island, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) south of Savannah. An estimated 700 people traveled to the island for the Cultural Day festival organized by the few dozen residents of Hogg Hummock. The enclave of dirt roads and modest homes was founded after the Civil War by freed slaves from an island plantation.

Hog Hummock is among a shrinking cluster of small Southern communities descended from enslaved island populations known as Gullah, or Geechee in Georgia. Scholars say residents retain much of their African heritage — including a unique dialect and skills such as cast-net fishing and basket weaving — because of their separation from the mainland.

No bridge links the island to the mainland, and most rely on state-operated ferries for the 7-mile (11-kilometer) trip.

Ed Grovner works on one of those ferries. As it pulled up to the dock Saturday afternoon, the crew noticed life jackets tossed to the victims in the water, which can be 36 feet (11 meters) deep at high tide.

Grovner said his crew reached a man and a woman, but they were already dead.

"I couldn't sleep last night," Grovner told The Associated Press. "My wife said I was sleeping, I was hollering in my sleep, saying, 'I'm going to save you. I'm going to save you. I'm going to get you.'"

Island residents rushed into the water, scrambling to save lives

Hogg Hummock resident Jazz Watts was with visitors as they sampled island foods like smoked mullet and gumbo and took in demonstrations on crafting fishing nets and quilts. That's when word spread of the unfolding disaster.

Watts said he arrived at the dock to find emergency responders and civilians pulling people from the water and trying to administer CPR and first aid.

"It's devastating," Watts said. "When you see people being carried that are wrapped in blankets and they have died."

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JR Grovner loaded an injured woman into a pickup truck and drove her to an overgrown field pocked with holes dug by wild hogs that was being used for helicopter evacuations.

Residents cited the island's lack of emergency resources in a prior lawsuit

Sapelo Island residents sued McIntosh County and the state of Georgia in federal court in 2015, arguing they lacked basic services including resources for handling medical emergencies. In a 2022 settlement, county officials agreed to build a helicopter pad on the island — something Grovner, Hall and Watts all say still hasn't happened.

Watts said that a private healthcare provider had planned to open a clinic in a county-owned building long used as a community center. But the deal fell through when commissioners opted to lease the space for a restaurant.

"It's obvious that the local officials aren't doing everything they need to be doing," Watts said. "Those things would have absolutely helped because every second matters."

Patrick Zoucks, the county manager, did not immediately respond to an email message seeking comment.

The dock was rebuilt following a legal settlement with Sapelo residents

The ferry dock was rebuilt three years ago after Georgia officials settled the same 2015 lawsuit by island residents, who complained that state-operated ferry boats and docks failed to meet federal accessibility standards for the disabled.

Grovner said he complained to a ferry captain months ago that the gangway didn't seem sturdy enough, but nothing happened.

Rabon said he wasn't aware of any prior complaints.

After the collapse, the U.S. Coast Guard and local sheriff's and fire departments rushed to the island, using boats and helicopters.

Rabon said none of those killed were island residents. He identified only one, Charles Houston Jr., a chaplain for the Natural Resources agency.

Hogg Hummock, also known as Hog Hammock, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996.

But the community's population has been shrinking for decades, and some families have sold their land to outsiders for vacation homes. Last year, county commissioners approved zoning changes that doubled the size of homes allowed in Hogg Hummock. That raised fears among residents that larger homes could spur tax increases that could force them to sell land their families have held for generations.

## Yankees and Dodgers meet in World Series for 12th time in matchup of Broadway and Hollywood

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Broadway vs. Hollywood. Subway vs. Freeway. Judge vs. Ohtani.

New York neighbors who became cross-country rivals, the Yankees and Dodgers renew their starry struggle in the World Series for the first time in 43 years.

"When you're playing for the Dodgers and playing for the Yankees, it better feel different," LA manager Dave Roberts said at Yankee Stadium last June. "If not, you better do something different for a profession."

Two of baseball's most successful teams face each other starting Friday at Dodger Stadium, the Yankees coming off their 41st American League pennant and the Dodgers their 25th National League championship. New York is seeking its 28th World Series title but first since 2009, the Dodgers their eighth and second in a five-year span.

Yankees pinstripes vs. Dodgers Pantone 294. The Bronx Bombers vs. the Dem Bums' descendants. The granite-and-limestone of new Yankee Stadium on chilly autumn nights vs. Dodger Stadium in sunny Chavez Ravine, with the San Gabriel Mountains beyond the pavilions.

"It's kind of what the people wanted, what we all wanted," Dodgers star Mookie Betts said. "It's going to be a battle of two good teams, a lot of long flights across the country."

New York is 8-3 against the Dodgers in the most frequent World Series matchup, including 6-1 against

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Brooklyn and 2-2 since the rivalry became Big Apple against Tinseltown.

Mickey Owen, Al Gionfriddo, Cookie Lavagetto, Sandy Amoros, Johnny Podres, Don Larsen, Sandy Koufax and Reggie Jackson created indelible images in the matchup, which started in 1941 with one of the wackiest World Series turns.

Trailing 2-1 in the Series, Brooklyn led 4-3 with two outs in the ninth inning at Ebbets Field when Tommy Henrich swung and missed at strike three from Hugh Casey. The ball bounced away from Owen and rolled toward the Dodgers dugout as Henrich reached on the dropped third strike. Joe DiMaggio singled, Charlie Keller hit a two-run double and Joe Gordon added another two-run double later in the inning as the Yankees won 7-4 and went on to win the title in five games.

Lavagetto's two-out, pinch walk-off double in the ninth ended Bill Bevens' no-hit bid in 1947's Game 4 and two games later Gionfriddo robbed DiMaggio of a tying three-run homer.

New York beat the Dodgers again in 1949, 1952 and 1953, frustrating the fans in Flatbush, but Brooklyn finally won the title in 1955 when Podres pitched a Game 7 shutout at Yankee Stadium and Gil Hodges drove in both runs. Amoros preserved the lead when he made a running catch of Yogi Berra's sixth-inning drive in the left-field corner with two on and relayed to shortstop Pee Wee Reese, who threw to Hodges at first and doubled up Gil McDougald. Those players were celebrated in Roger Kahn's 1972 book "The Boys of Summer."

Larsen pitched the World Series' only perfect game in 1956's fifth game in the Bronx, Berra jumping into his arms after the final out, and the Yankees won Game 7 behind Johnny Kucks' three-hit shutout in what turned out to be the last World Series game at Ebbets Field.

Walter O'Malley moved the Dodgers to California after the 1957 season, and Koufax had an interlocking "LA" on his cap instead of a "B" when he struck out a then-Series record 15 in the 1963 opener at Yankee Stadium. The rivalry didn't resume until 1977 with the first of three matchups in a five-year span.

Jackson's three home runs led the Yankees to a clinching win in 1977's Game 6. The Yankees won another six-game Series the following year, highlighted by third baseman Graig Nettles' diving stops on Reggie Smith, Steve Garvey and Davey Lopes.

Los Angeles lost the first two games in the Bronx in 1981, and then won four in a row — capped by a 9-2 victory that had Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda dancing. The defeat prompted Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, his right hand bandaged after an alleged fight with Dodgers fans in a hotel elevator, to issue a written apology "to the people of New York and to the fans of the New York Yankees everywhere."

Both teams feel the history created by their predecessors.

"You put that jersey on and those pinstripes, it just feels different," Yankees slugger Juan Soto said.

Los Angeles took two of three when they met in a much-hyped series in June.

Roberts is reminded of the history when he approaches Dodger Stadium.

"I can't believe I'm driving up Vin Scully Way, when I go to work," he said. "It's overwhelming, but I try not to let my head go there too often; I just try to do my job."

## Most voters think the economy is poor, but split on whether Trump or Harris can fix it: AP-NORC poll

By STEVE PEOPLES and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Voters remain largely divided over whether they prefer Republican Donald Trump or Democrat Kamala Harris to handle key economic issues, although Harris earns slightly better marks on elements such as taxes for the middle class, according to a new poll.

A majority of registered voters in the survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research describe the economy as poor. About 7 in 10 say the nation is going in the wrong direction.

But the findings reaffirm that Trump has lost what had been an advantage on the economy, which many voters say is the most important issue this election season above abortion, immigration, crime and foreign affairs.

"Do I trust Trump on the economy? No. I trust that he'll give tax cuts to his buddies like Elon Musk," said



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poll respondent Janice Tosto, a 59-year-old Philadelphia woman and self-described independent.

An AP-NORC poll conducted in September found neither Harris nor Trump had a clear advantage on handling “the economy and jobs.” But this poll asked more specific questions about whether voters trusted Trump or Harris to do a better job handling the cost of housing, jobs and unemployment, taxes on the middle class, the cost of groceries and gas, and tariffs.

The poll found that 46% of voters prefer Harris on middle-class taxes, compared to 35% for Trump. Harris also has a slight advantage on the cost of housing. Voters are about evenly divided on whether Trump or Harris is better on prices for everyday essentials like groceries and gas, and neither candidate has an edge on jobs and unemployment.

Voters, meanwhile, are slightly more likely to prefer Trump on the issue of tariffs, which were defined in the poll as taxes on imported goods.

Poll respondent Amber Moody, 36, from Halifax, Virginia, said she trusts Trump — and Republicans in general — much more on economic matters.

“It seems to me that in my lifetime, every time a Democrat holds office, the economy suffers,” she said. “Prices go up, taxes go up and the national debt goes up. While I don’t approve of everything Donald Trump says and does, I do believe he is the better choice.”

Voters see Harris more favorably than Trump

Voters’ impressions of Harris and Trump have remained steady over the last month.

About half of voters have a very or somewhat favorable opinion of Harris, while 46% see her unfavorably. Meanwhile, about 4 in 10 voters have a positive view of Trump and about 6 in 10 have an unfavorable view. Trump’s favorability ratings have been remarkably consistent over the last few months, even after two assassination attempts and a felony conviction.

Compared to last month, views of the candidates are stable among Black and Hispanic voters, as well as among men and women. Black voters’ views of Harris are overwhelmingly positive — about three-quarters have a favorable view of the Democratic candidate — and their views of Trump are negative, with about 2 in 10 holding a favorable view. Hispanic voters also view Harris more favorably than Trump, although the gap is narrower: About 6 in 10 Hispanic voters have a favorable view of Harris and about 4 in 10 have an unfavorable view of Trump.

The poll also shows a gender gap in views of the candidates heading into the final days of the election.

About half of women voters have a favorable impression of Harris, while only around one-third see Trump favorably. Among men, about half have a favorable view of Harris and a similar share have a positive opinion of Trump.

Voters are pessimistic about the economy and the country

Overall, voters remain pessimistic about the state of the economy and the general direction of the country.

About half of voters describe the nation’s economy as very or somewhat poor. Republicans and independents are more likely than Democrats to express that view. There are modest signs of improvement, however, compared to an AP-NORC poll from October 2023, when about 7 in 10 U.S. adults thought the U.S. economy was in bad shape. The number was even worse in October 2022, when close to 8 in 10 Americans described the economy as poor.

About two-thirds of voters also say the country is headed in the wrong direction, while roughly one-third say things are moving in the right direction. Pessimism on that question has been fairly consistent over the last three years, although closer to 8 in 10 Americans thought the U.S. was heading in the wrong direction a year ago. U.S. adults were similarly gloomy just before the last presidential election, according to an AP-NORC poll from October 2020 when roughly 7 in 10 Americans felt the country was headed in the wrong direction.

Jeffrey Trimble, a 62-year-old Democrat from Hermitage, Pennsylvania, said he’s increasingly optimistic about the direction of the nation after “four years of hell” during Trump’s first term.

“We have some really good people at the top of our government who have a vision, they’re kind, they’re trying to get us back on track,” Trimble said.

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Overall, the new poll highlights signs of trouble for both candidates as they work to assemble winning coalitions.

Younger voters are considerably more pessimistic about the health of the economy than older voters, and that's not good news for Harris, whose party has long relied on strong support from voters of color and young people.

Voters under the age of 45 are also slightly less likely than voters over 45 to trust Harris to handle the cost of housing or the cost of groceries and gas, although that doesn't mean they prefer Trump. Sizable shares of younger voters — about one-quarter on both issues — trust neither candidate or both equally.

Trump's strongest issue remains immigration

On other issues, meanwhile, Trump's most consistent advantage continues to be immigration.

Forty-five percent of voters say he's the better candidate to handle immigration issues, compared to about 4 in 10 who prefer Harris. About half of white voters trust Trump more on the issue of immigration, while about one-third say this about Harris. Hispanic voters are split on which candidate they prefer to handle immigration.

Harris' strongest issues are abortion policy, with about half of voters saying she'd be better on that issue compared to about 3 in 10 for Trump; climate change, where about half prefer her leadership and about 2 in 10 prefer Trump's; and election integrity, where about half prefer Harris and about 3 in 10 prefer Trump.

The candidates are about even on the issue of crime. Foreign policy is also a key issue this fall, although neither candidate has a clear advantage on the situation in the Middle East. There are some signs of weakness on the issue for Harris within her own party, however. Only about two-thirds of Democratic voters say Harris would be the better candidate to handle the situation in the Middle East. Among Republicans, about 8 in 10 say Trump would be better.

Diana Campbell Williams, a 72-year-old Democrat who lives in Auburn, Michigan, cites foreign affairs as her top issue.

She says she's concerned about Russia, Iran and North Korea. She doesn't like Trump's questioning of NATO and his relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"I trust Harris more," Williams said. "I feel she knows more about what's going on, and I prefer the type of people she'd be surrounded by after the election."

## Oscar brings winds, heavy rains to eastern Cuba after striking the Bahamas

HAVANA (AP) — Tropical Storm Oscar brought heavy rains and winds to Cuba, an island already beleaguered by a massive power outage, late Sunday after brushing the Bahamas.

It made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph (120 kph) in the eastern Cuban province of Guantanamo, near the city of Baracoa, on Sunday evening. Oscar had weakened to a tropical storm with 70 mph (110 kph) winds by late Sunday, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

The storm was 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of Guantanamo moving west-northwest at 6 mph (10 kph).

Thunderstorms and rain, along with moderate flooding in low-lying areas, were reported in the country's eastern provinces. Cuban media said 2-meter (6.5-foot) swells were hitting the coast and roofs and walls in Baracoa had been damaged. Authorities have set up 20 centers for evacuees.

The system is expected to move across eastern Cuba on Sunday night and Monday. Forecasters said 6 to 12 inches (15 to 31 centimeters) of rain are expected across eastern Cuba through early Wednesday, with some isolated locations getting up to 18 inches (46 centimeters). A storm surge of up to 3 feet (almost 1 meter) in some areas of Cuba's north shore in the area was possible, the center said.

Oscar was expected to weaken over eastern Cuba before making a turn to the northeast and approaching the central Bahamas on Tuesday, the center said.

Oscar made landfall on Great Inagua island in the Bahamas earlier Sunday. A storm surge that could cause coastal flooding was forecast, along with heavy rain.

The hurricane's arrival comes as Cuba tries to recover from its worst blackout in at least two years,

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which left millions without power for two days last week. Some electrical service was restored Saturday. Philippe Papin of the National Hurricane Center said it was somewhat unexpected that Oscar became a hurricane Saturday.

"Unfortunately the system kind of snuck up a little bit on us," Papin said.

Hours earlier Tropical Storm Nadine formed off Mexico's southern Caribbean coast. It degenerated into a tropical depression as it moved over land.

## **Cubans struggle as power not fully restored days after blackout and hurricane hits island**

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ and MILEXSY DURAN Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Many Cubans waited in anguish late Sunday as electricity on much of the island had yet to be restored days after a country-wide blackout. Their concerns were heightened as Hurricane Oscar slammed into Cuba's eastern coast, lashing it with heavy wind and rain.

Energy Minister Vicente de la O Levy said in a press conference he hopes the country's electricity grid will be restored on Monday or Tuesday morning.

But he recognized that Oscar, which hit Cuba's eastern coast Sunday evening, will bring "an additional inconvenience" to Cuba's recovery since it will touch a "region of strong (electricity) generation." Key Cuban power plants, such as Felton in the city of Holguín, and Renté in Santiago de Cuba, are located in the area.

Rain and thunderstorms were reported in Cuba's eastern provinces and strong two-meter swells were hitting the seafront promenade in the city of Baracoa, near where Oscar made landfall. No deaths have been registered so far, but local media reported damage to roofs and walls.

Some neighborhoods had electricity restored in Cuba's capital, where 2 million people live, but most of Havana remained dark. The impact of the blackout goes beyond lighting, as services like water supply also depend on electricity to run pumps.

People resorted to cooking with improvised wood stoves on the streets before the food went bad in refrigerators.

In tears, Ylenis de la Caridad Napoles, mother of a 7-year-old girl, says she is reaching a point of "desperation."

The failure of the Antonio Guiteras plant on Friday, which caused the collapse of the island's whole system, was just the latest in a series of problems with energy distribution in a country where electricity has been restricted and rotated to different regions at different times of the day.

People lined up for hours on Sunday to buy bread in the few bakeries that could reopen.

Some Cubans like Rosa Rodríguez have been without electricity for four days.

"We have millions of problems, and none of them are solved," said Rodríguez. "We must come to get bread, because the local bakery is closed, and they bring it from somewhere else."

About half of Cuba was plunged into darkness on Thursday evening, followed by the entire island on Friday morning after one of the plants failed.

Besides the Antonio Guiteras plant, whose failure on Friday affected the entire national system, Cuba has several others, and it wasn't immediately clear whether they remained functional.

The blackout was considered to be Cuba's worst in two years after Hurricane Ian made landfall as a Category 3 storm in 2022 and damaged power installations. It took days for the government to fix them. This year, some homes have spent up to eight hours a day without electricity.

Cuba's government had said on Saturday that some electricity had been restored after one of the country's major power plants failed. But the 500 megawatts of energy in the island's electricity grid, far short of the usual 3 gigawatts it needs, had quickly decreased to 370 megawatts.

Even in a country that is used to outages as part of a deepening economic crisis, Friday's collapse was massive.

The Cuban government has announced emergency measures to slash electricity demand, including suspending school and university classes, shutting down some state-owned workplaces and canceling

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nonessential services.

Local authorities said the outage stemmed from increased demand from small- and medium-sized companies and residential air conditioners. Later, the blackout got worse because of breakdowns in old thermoelectric plants that haven't been properly maintained, and the lack of fuel to operate some facilities.

Cuba's energy minister said the country's grid would be in better shape if there had not been two more partial blackouts as authorities tried to reconnect on Saturday. De la O Levy also said Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Russia, among other nations, had offered to help.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Oscar made landfall on Cuba's eastern coast after striking the southeastern Bahamas earlier in the day. The center said the storm's center hit the province of Guantánamo, near Baracoa, on Sunday evening. Its maximum sustained winds were 75 mph (120 kph).

The system is expected to move across eastern Cuba Sunday night and Monday. Forecasters said 6 to 12 inches (15.2 to 30.5 centimeters) of rain are expected across eastern Cuba through early Wednesday, with some isolated locations getting up to 18 inches (45.72 centimeters). A storm surge of up to 3 feet (0.91 meters) in some areas of Cuba's north shore in the area was possible, the center said.

Oscar was expected to weaken over eastern Cuba before making a turn to the northeast and approaching the central Bahamas on Tuesday, the center said.

The storm's center late Sunday was located about 45 miles (75 kilometers) east of Guantánamo.

Oscar made landfall on Great Inagua island in the Bahamas earlier Sunday.

## **Thelma Mothershed Wair, a member of the Little Rock Nine who integrated an Arkansas school, has died**

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

Thelma Mothershed Wair, one of the nine Black students who integrated a high school in Arkansas' capital city of Little Rock in 1957 while a mob of white segregationists yelled threats and insults, has died at age 83.

Mothershed Wair died Saturday at a hospital in Little Rock after having complications from multiple sclerosis, her sister, Grace Davis, confirmed Sunday to The Associated Press.

The students who integrated Central High School were known as the Little Rock Nine.

For three weeks in September 1957, Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus used the National Guard to block the Black students from enrolling in Central High, three years after the U.S. Supreme Court declared segregated classrooms were unconstitutional. President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent members of the Army's 101st Airborne Division to escort the students into school on Sept. 25, 1957.

Davis said she was enrolled at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville when her sister and the other students — Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas and Carlotta Walls — integrated Central High School.

"I didn't think anybody was really going to hurt her because, you know, we've had racial incidents in Little Rock over the years," Davis said of her sister. "People would say things that were mean, but they never really hurt anybody."

Davis said in the years that followed she and her sister spoke about the experience.

"I think one time somebody put some ink on her skirt or something when she was coming through the hallway. And, of course, there was always name-calling," Davis said. "But she never really had any physical confrontations with any of the students up there."

Faubus closed all of the schools in Little Rock in 1958 to try to avoid further integration. Mothershed went out of state to finish her remaining high school classes. The academic credits transferred back to Little Rock, and she ultimately earned her diploma from Central High School.

"She was always a fighter," Davis said of her sister. "She's been sick her entire life. She was born with a congenital heart defect and was told at an early age that she would never get out of her teens. So as she approached her 16th birthday, I remember Mother talking about how afraid she was because she thought she was going to die. But she did what she wanted to do. She enjoyed life."



Mothershed earned a bachelor's degree in home economics education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Mothershed married Fred Wair in 1965. The couple have one son, Scott; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her husband died in 2005, and Mothershed Wair moved back to Little Rock, Davis said.

According to the National Park Service, Mothershed Wair worked in the East St. Louis, Illinois, school system for 10 years as a home economics teacher and for 18 years as a counselor for elementary career education before retiring in 1994. She also worked at the Juvenile Detention Center of the St. Clair County Jail in Illinois, and was an instructor of survival skills for women at the American Red Cross.

Each member of the Little Rock Nine was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal, and they donated them to the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum in Little Rock in 2011.

## **Trump works the fry station and holds a drive-thru news conference at a Pennsylvania McDonald's**

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and MARC LEVY Associated Press

FEASTERVILLE-TREVOSE, Pa. (AP) — Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump manned the fry station at a McDonald's in Pennsylvania on Sunday before staging an impromptu news conference, answering questions through the drive-thru window.

As reporters and aides watched, an employee showed Trump how to dunk baskets of fries in oil, salt the fries and put them into boxes using a scoop. Trump, a well-known fan of fast food and a notorious germophobe, expressed amazement that he didn't have to touch the fries with his hands.

"It requires great expertise, actually, to do it right and to do it fast," Trump said with a grin, putting away his suit jacket and wearing an apron over his shirt and tie.

The visit came as he's tried to counter Democratic nominee Kamala Harris' accounts on the campaign of working at the fast-food chain while in college, an experience that Trump has claimed — without offering evidence — never happened.

A large crowd lined the street outside the restaurant in Feasterville-Trevoise, which is part of Bucks County, a key swing voter area north of Philadelphia. The restaurant itself was closed to the public for Trump's visit. The former president later attended an evening town hall in Lancaster and the Pittsburgh Steelers home game against the New York Jets.

After serving bags of takeout to people in the drive-thru lane, Trump leaned out of the window, still wearing the apron, to take questions from the media staged outside. The former president, who has constantly promoted falsehoods about his 2020 election loss, said he would respect the results of next month's vote "if it's a fair election."

He joked about getting one reporter ice cream and when another asked what message he had for Harris on her 60th birthday on Sunday, Trump said, "I would say, 'Happy Birthday, Kamala,'" adding, "I think I'll get her some flowers."

Trump did not directly answer a question of whether he might support increased minimum wages after seeing McDonald's employees in action but said, "These people work hard. They're great."

He added that "I just saw something ... a process that's beautiful."

When aides finally urged him to wrap things up so he could hit the road to his next event, Trump offered, "Wasn't that a strange place to do a news conference?"

Trump has long questioned Harris' story of working at McDonald's

Trump has fixated in recent weeks on the summer job Harris said she held in college, working the cash register and making fries at McDonald's while in college. Trump says the vice president has "lied about working" there, but not offered evidence for claiming that.

Representatives for McDonald's did not respond to a message about whether the company had employment records for one of its restaurants 40 years ago. But Harris spokesman Joseph Costello said the former president's McDonald's visit "showed exactly what we would see in a second Trump term: exploiting working people for his own personal gain."

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"Trump doesn't understand what it's like to work for a living, no matter how many staged photo ops he does, and his entire second term plan is to give himself, his wealthy buddies, and giant corporations another massive tax cut," Costello said in a statement.

In an interview last month on MSNBC, the vice president pushed back on Trump's claims, saying she did work at the fast-food chain four decades ago when she was in college.

"Part of the reason I even talk about having worked at McDonald's is because there are people who work at McDonald's in our country who are trying to raise a family," she said. "I worked there as a student."

Harris also said: "I think part of the difference between me and my opponent includes our perspective on the needs of the American people and what our responsibility, then, is to meet those needs."

Trump has long spread groundless claims about his opponents based on their personal history, particularly women and racial minorities.

Before he ran for president, Trump was a leading voice of the "birther" conspiracy that baselessly claimed President Barack Obama was from Africa, was not an American citizen and therefore was ineligible to be president. Trump used it to raise his own political profile, demanding to see Obama's birth certificate and five years after Obama did so, Trump finally admitted that Obama was born in the United States.

During his first run for president, Trump repeated a tabloid's claims that Texas Sen. Ted Cruz's father, who was born in Cuba, had links to President John F. Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald. Cruz and Trump competed for the party's 2016 nomination.

In January of this year, when Trump was facing Nikki Haley, his former U.N. ambassador, in the Republican primary, he shared on his social media network a post with false claims that Haley's parents were not citizens when she was born, therefore making her ineligible to be president.

Haley is the South Carolina-born daughter of Indian immigrants, making her automatically a native-born citizen and meeting the constitutional requirement to run for president.

And Trump has continued to promote baseless claims during this campaign. Trump said during his presidential debate with Harris that immigrants who had settled in Springfield, Ohio, were eating residents' pets — a claim he suggested in an interview Saturday was still true even though he could provide no confirmation.

Trump's visit created a spectacle in Pennsylvania

"It is a fundamental value of my organization that we proudly open our doors to everyone who visits the Feasterville community," the McDonald's location's owner, Derek Giacomantonio, said in a statement. "That's why I accepted former President Trump's request to observe the transformative working experience that 1 in 8 Americans have had: a job at McDonald's."

Police closed the busy streets around the McDonald's during Trump's visit. Authorities cordoned off the restaurant as a crowd a couple blocks long gathered, sometimes 10- to 15-deep, across the street straining to catch a glimpse of Trump. Horns honked and music blared as Trump supporters waved flags, held signs and took pictures.

John Waters, of nearby Fairless Hills, had never been to a Trump rally and had hoped to see the former president so close to his house after missing other nearby rallies.

"When I drove up, all the cars, unbelievable, I was like, 'He's here's, he's coming, he's definitely coming with this all traffic,'" Waters said.

Trump is especially partial to McDonald's Big Macs and Filet-o-Fish sandwiches. He's talked often about how he trusts big chains more than smaller restaurants since they have big reputations to maintain, and the former president's staff often pick up McDonald's and serve it on his plane.

Jim Worthington, a Trump supporter and fundraiser who owns a nearby athletic complex and chaired Pennsylvania's delegation to the Republican National Convention, said he arranged Trump's visit to the locally owned McDonald's franchise.

The campaign contacted him looking for a McDonald's in Pennsylvania and Worthington started looking for one. He got in touch with Giacomantonio through a friend and talked the franchise owner through some initial nervousness.

Giacomantonio needed to know that McDonald's corporate offices would be OK with it, first. Second, he was concerned that being seen as a Trump supporter would hurt his business or a spark boycott, Worthington said.

"He certainly had concerns, but I eased his mind, and talked to him about the benefits," Worthington said.

## Moldovan president appears set to win 1st round of presidential race, but EU vote could be rejected

By STEPHEN McGRATH Associated Press

CHISINAU, Moldova (AP) — Moldova's pro-Western president early Monday looked set to win the first round of a presidential race but accused "criminal groups" of undermining a referendum asking voters to decide whether to secure a path toward European Union membership, which risked being narrowly rejected.

Nearly 95% of votes were counted in the EU referendum that asks voters to choose whether to enshrine in the country's constitution a path toward the EU. About 52% of a total 1.2 million ballots voted "no," while 47% voted "Yes."

However, ballots cast among the country's large diaspora were still being tallied and tended to favor the EU path.

"Criminal groups, working together with foreign forces hostile to our national interests, have attacked our country with tens of millions of euros, lies and propaganda, using the most disgraceful means to keep our citizens and our nation trapped in uncertainty and instability," said President Maia Sandu after about 90% of the votes had been counted.

"We have clear evidence that these criminal groups aimed to buy 300,000 votes — a fraud of unprecedented scale," Sandu added. "Their objective was to undermine a democratic process."

The two pivotal ballots were held amid ongoing claims by Moldovan authorities that Moscow has intensified an alleged "hybrid war" campaign to destabilize the country and derail its EU path. The allegations include funding pro-Moscow opposition groups, spreading disinformation, meddling in local elections and backing a major vote-buying scheme.

In the presidential race of 11 candidates, Sandu looked set to win the first round with 39% of the vote but was unlikely to win an outright majority. She will likely face Alexandr Stoianoglo, a Russia-friendly former prosecutor general who outperformed polls with around 28% of the vote, in a run-off on Nov. 3.

After polls closed at 9 p.m. local time, more than 1.5 million voters — about 51% of eligible voters — had cast ballots, according to the Central Electoral Commission.

Cristian Cantir, a Moldovan associate professor of international relations at Oakland University, told The Associated Press that votes from the diaspora could prove crucial at this late stage.

"If I were a pro-EU politician ... that's where I'd look for signs of good news," he said. "I think the ideal scenario for them would have been to have something that showed overwhelming support for the EU — and that simply did not happen."

U.S. national security spokesman John Kirby echoed Russian interference concerns this week, saying in a statement that "Russia is working actively to undermine Moldova's election and its European integration." Moscow has repeatedly denied it is interfering in Moldova.

"In the last several months, Moscow has dedicated millions of dollars to influencing Moldova's presidential election," Kirby said. "We assess that this money has gone toward financing its preferred parties and spreading disinformation on social media in favor of their campaigns."

In early October, Moldovan law enforcement said it had uncovered a massive vote-buying scheme orchestrated by Ian Shor, an exiled pro-Russia oligarch who currently resides in Russia, which paid 15 million euros (\$16.2 million) to 130,000 individuals to undermine the two ballots.

Shor was convicted in absentia last year and sentenced to 15 years in prison on fraud and money laundering in the case of \$1 billion that went missing from Moldovan banks in 2014. He denied the allegations, saying "the payments are legal" and cited a right to freedom of expression. Shor's populist Russia-friendly

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Shor Party was declared unconstitutional last year and banned.

Constantin Celac, a 37-year-old multimedia producer, said in central Chisinau that he cast his ballots in favor of Sandu and EU integration because "it is the best way" forward for Moldova. He said that while he does have concerns about Russian meddling, "I trust our government ... to fight against them."

On Thursday, Moldovan authorities foiled another plot in which more than 100 young Moldovans received training in Moscow from private military groups on how to create civil unrest around the two votes. Some also attended "more advanced training in guerrilla camps" in Serbia and Bosnia, police said, and four people were detained for 30 days.

Sandu cast her own ballot in the capital on Sunday and told the media that "Moldovans themselves must choose their own fate, and not others, nor the dirty money or the lies."

"I voted for Moldova to be able to develop in peace and liberty," she said.

A pro-Western government has been in power in Moldova since 2021, a year after Sandu won the presidency. A parliamentary election will be held next year.

Moldova, a former Soviet republic with a population of about 2.5 million, applied to join the EU in the wake of Russia's full-scale invasion of neighboring Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, and was granted candidate status that summer, alongside Ukraine. Brussels agreed in June to start membership negotiations.

Loredana Godorogea, a 29-year-old IT manager who lives in Chisinau, said she also voted in favor of the incumbent president and the path toward the EU. "I think in the next five years we can be more close economically with the European Union, and I also think a big factor will be the war in Ukraine," she said.

## 2 Navy aviators are declared dead after a fighter jet crashed in Washington state

By MARTHA BELLISLE Associated Press

Two crew members who were missing following the crash of a fighter jet in mountainous terrain in Washington state during a routine training flight have been declared dead, the U.S. Navy said Sunday.

The EA-18G Growler jet from the Electronic Attack Squadron crashed east of Mount Rainier on Tuesday afternoon, according to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. Search teams, including a U.S. Navy MH-60S helicopter, launched from the air station to try to find the crew and crash site.

Army Special Forces soldiers trained in mountaineering, high-angle rescue and technical communications were brought in to reach the wreckage, which was located Wednesday by an aerial crew resting at about 6,000 feet (1,828 meters) in a remote, steep and heavily wooded area east of Mount Rainier, officials said.

The aviators' names won't be released until a day after their next of kin have been notified, the Navy said in a statement Sunday, adding that search and rescue efforts have shifted into a long-term salvage and recovery operation as the cause of the crash is still being investigated.

"It is with a heavy heart that we share the loss of two beloved Zappers," said Cmdr. Timothy Warburton, commanding officer of the aviators' Electronic Attack Squadron. "Our priority right now is taking care of the families of our fallen aviators. ... We are grateful for the ongoing teamwork to safely recover the deceased."

Locating the missing crew members "as quickly and as safely as possible" had been top priority, Capt. David Ganci, commander, Electronic Attack Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet, said Thursday.

The EA-18G Growler is similar to the F/A-18F Super Hornet and includes sophisticated electronic warfare devices. Most of the Growler squadrons are based at Whidbey Island. One squadron is based at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

The "Zappers" were recently deployed on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The search took place near Mount Rainier, a towering active volcano that is blanketed in snowfields and glaciers year-round.

The first production of the Growler was delivered to Whidbey Island in 2008. In the past 15 years, the Growler has operated around the globe supporting major actions, the Navy said. The plane seats a pilot in front and an electronics operator behind them.

"The EA-18G Growler aircraft we fly represents the most advanced technology in airborne Electronic At-



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tack and stands as the Navy's first line of defense in hostile environments," the Navy said on its website. Each aircraft costs about \$67 million.

Military aircraft training exercises can be dangerous and sometimes result in crashes, injuries and deaths.

In May, an F-35 fighter jet on its way from Texas to Edwards Air Force Base near Los Angeles crashed after the pilot stopped to refuel in New Mexico. The pilot was the only person on board in that case and was taken to a hospital with serious injuries.

Last year, eight U.S. Air Force special Operations Command service members were killed when a CV-22B Osprey aircraft they were flying in crashed off the coast of Japan.

## Harris urges Black churchgoers in Georgia to head out to vote and gets an assist from Stevie Wonder

By COLLEEN LONG and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

JONESBORO, Ga. (AP) — Kamala Harris on Sunday summoned Black churchgoers to turn out at the polls and got a big assist from music legend Stevie Wonder, who rallied congregants with a rendition of Bob Marley's "Redemption Song."

Harris visited two Atlanta area churches as part of a nationwide push known as "souls to the polls." It's a mobilization effort led by the National Advisory Board of Black Faith Leaders, which is sending representatives across battleground states to encourage early voting.

After services, buses took congregants straight to early polling places.

At both churches, Harris delivered a message about kindness and lifting people up rather than insulting them, trying to set up an implicit contrast with Republican Donald Trump's brash style. With just 16 days left until Election Day, Harris is running out of time to get across her message to a public still getting to know her after a truncated campaign.

"There is so much at stake right now," she said at the Divine Faith Ministries International in Jonesboro. "Our strength is not based on who we beat down, as some would try to suggest. Our strength is based on who we lift up. And that spirit is very much at stake in these next 16 days."

Wonder led the crowd in singing his version of "Happy Birthday" to the vice president, who turned 60 on Sunday. When he was done, she appeared to choke up, saying, "I love you so much."

Wonder grinned and said "don't cry" before telling the crowd how important it was for people to get out and vote.

"We're going to make the difference between yesterday and tomorrow," he said.

Harris later said that she "had to check off a whole big one" on her bucket list because of Wonder singing her a birthday song, which prompted the singer to spring up and lead the congregation in a quick verse of "Higher Ground."

Pastor Donald Battle said of the election: "Georgia's gonna be the state that turns it for the vice president."

"Souls to the Polls" as an idea traces back to the Civil Rights Movement. The Rev. George Lee, a Black entrepreneur from Mississippi, was killed by white supremacists in 1955 after he helped nearly 100 Black residents register to vote in the town of Belzoni. The cemetery where Lee is buried has served as a polling place.

Black church congregations across the country have undertaken get-out-the-vote campaigns for years. In part to counteract voter suppression tactics that date back to the Jim Crow era, early voting in the Black community is stressed from pulpits nearly as much as it is by candidates.

In Georgia, early voting began on Tuesday, and more than 310,000 people voted on that day, more than doubling the first-day total in 2020. A record 5 million people voted in the 2020 presidential election in Georgia.

Earlier Sunday, the Democratic presidential nominee attended New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Stonecrest, where the congregation also sang "Happy Birthday."

New Birth Pastor Jamal Bryant called the vice president "an American hero, the voice of the future" and

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"our fearless leader." He also used his sermon to welcome the idea of America electing its first woman president, saying, "It takes a real man to support a real woman."

"When Black women roll up their sleeves, then society has got to change," Bryant said.

Harris referenced scripture as she promoted the importance of loving one's neighbor, and then drew a contrast to the current political environment.

"In this moment, across our nation, what we do see are some who try to deepen division among us, spread hate, sow fear and cause chaos," Harris told the congregation. "The true measure of the strength of a leader is based on who you lift up."

One congregant who got a hug from Harris was 98-year-old Opal Lee, an activist who pushed to make Juneteenth a federally recognized holiday.

Harris is a Baptist. Her husband, Doug Emhoff, is Jewish. She has said she's inspired by the work of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and influenced by the religious traditions of her mother's native India as well as the Black Church. Harris sang in the choir as a child at Twenty-Third Avenue Church of God in Oakland.

Her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, attended church in Saginaw, Michigan, and his wife, Gwen, headed to a service in Las Vegas.

Also Sunday, Harris sat for an interview with the Rev. Al Sharpton and was asked about the idea that she might see her support slipping among Black men — some of whom might be reluctant to vote for a woman for president. Former President Barack Obama suggested that might be an issue during a recent campaign stop for Harris in Pittsburgh.

Harris said she had garnered support from many key Black male leaders, adding, "there's this narrative about what kind of support we are receiving from Black men that is just not panning out in reality."

On Monday, she will campaign with former U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., in the suburbs of Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

## **Musk offers voters \$1 million a day to sign PAC petition backing the Constitution. Is that legal?**

By MIKE CATALINI Associated Press

Elon Musk, the billionaire founder of Tesla and Space X and owner of X who's gone all-in on Republican Donald Trump's candidacy for the White House, has already committed at least \$70 million to help the former president. Now he's pledging to give away \$1 million a day to voters for signing his political action committee's petition backing the Constitution.

The giveaway is raising questions and alarms among some election experts who say it is a violation of the law to link a cash handout to signing a petition that also requires a person to be registered to vote.

Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, the state's former attorney general, expressed concern about the plan on Sunday.

"I think there are real questions with how he is spending money in this race, how the dark money is flowing, not just into Pennsylvania, but apparently now into the pockets of Pennsylvanians. That is deeply concerning," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

A closer look at what's going on:

What is Musk doing?

Musk promised on Saturday that he would give away \$1 million a day, until the Nov. 5 election, for people signing his PAC's petition supporting the First Amendment, which protects freedom of speech, and the Second Amendment, with its right "to keep and bear arms." He awarded a check during an event Saturday in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to a man identified as John Dreher. A message left with a number listed for Dreher was not returned Sunday. Musk gave out another check Sunday.

What's the broader context here?

Musk's America PAC has launched a tour of Pennsylvania, a critical election battleground. He's aiming to register voters in support of Trump, whom Musk has endorsed. The PAC is also pushing to persuade voters in other key states. It's not the first offer of cash the organization has made. Musk has posted on

X, the platform he purchased as Twitter before renaming it, that he would offer people \$47 — and then \$100 — for referring others to register and signing the petition.

Trump, who was campaigning Sunday in Pennsylvania, was asked about Musk's giveaway, and said, "I haven't followed that." Trump said he "speaks to Elon a lot. He's a friend of mine" and called him great for the country.

What's the issue with that?

Some election law experts are raising red flags about the giveaway. Brendan Fischer, a campaign finance lawyer, said the latest iteration of Musk's giveaway approaches a legal boundary. That's because the PAC is requiring registration as a prerequisite to become eligible for the \$1 million check. "There would be few doubts about the legality if every Pennsylvania-based petition signer were eligible, but conditioning the payments on registration arguably violates the law," Fischer said in an email.

Rick Hasen, a UCLA Law School political science professor, went further. He pointed to a law that prohibits paying people for registering to vote or for voting. "If all he was doing was paying people to sign the petition, that might be a waste of money. But there's nothing illegal about it," Hasen said in a telephone interview. "The problem is that the only people eligible to participate in this giveaway are the people who are registered to vote. And that makes it illegal."

Michael Kang, an election law professor at Northwestern University's Pritzker School of Law, said the context of the giveaway so close to Election Day makes it harder to make the case that the effort is anything but a incentivizing people to register to vote.

"It's not quite the same as paying someone to vote, but you're getting close enough that we worry about its legality," Kang said.

A message seeking comment was left with the PAC on Sunday, as was a request for comment from the Justice Department.

Can the PAC and Trump's campaign coordinate?

Typically coordination between campaigns and so-called super PACs had been forbidden. But a recent opinion by the Federal Election Commissioner, which regulates federal campaigns, permitted candidates and these groups to work together in certain cases, including getting out the vote efforts.

## **Iraq's Kurdish region goes to the polls with a flagging economy and political infighting top of mind**

By STELLA MARTANY Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — Residents of Iraq's semi-autonomous northern Kurdish region went to the polls in long-awaited parliamentary elections Sunday under the shadow of ongoing rivalries, economic instability and unresolved disputes with Baghdad.

The primary competitors are the two dominant Kurdish parties: the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. The two have historically controlled different parts of the region, with the KDP overseeing the regional capital, Irbil, and Dohuk and the PUK governing Sulaymaniyah.

This division has frequently led to political deadlock. The parliamentary elections, originally set for 2022, were postponed several times amid disputes over the election law and procedures.

Ministry of Interior personnel and peshmerga forces — the regional military — voted in special elections Friday, with the general public voting Sunday.

In Friday's special election, the KDP secured a significant lead, capturing 60% of the votes, while the PUK got around 30%. The New Generation Movement, an opposition party that has seen a gradual rise in support, garnered 5.3% of the total, up from 3% in the 2018 special election. In that special election, the KDP garnered 40% of the vote and the PUK 28.5%.

While New Generation's appeal continues to grow, particularly among younger voters frustrated with the traditional political system, it still faces significant challenges in competing with the well-established dominance of the KDP and PUK.

Results of Sunday's vote were expected to be announced Monday.

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At some polling centers, there were delays due to malfunctions in fingerprint scanners used for biometric verification of voters' identities. In some cases, it was unclear if voters whose fingerprints could not be scanned would be able to vote at all.

At a center in Irbil's Ankawa district, resident Raman Ramzi said his wife and mother hadn't been able to vote due to fingerprint and ID recognition issues caused by the biometric machines. A number of other would-be voters left the station without casting a vote due to the same issue.

At another polling station in Irbil, coordinator Sirwan Gardi said that three to four percent of prospective voters' fingerprints were not being recognized by the devices, particularly older people and women.

Rizgar Maghdid, whose fingerprint was not recognized, said he felt sad because he could not vote. Voting "is an essential right of humans," he said. "I would like to vote for the person who would serve us and our country."

Regional government Prime Minister Masrour Barzani, a KDP official, called on voters to "reward service and truthfulness and punish the parties that are playing with the rights and destiny of the people of Kurdistan," using the region's local name.

The region's economic struggles are voters' primary concern. Despite its oil wealth, the Kurdish region faces significant economic issues, including delayed payment of salaries to civil servants, fluctuating oil prices, and budget cuts from Baghdad. The public is deeply dissatisfied with the economy and lack of opportunities, and many blame political leaders for mismanagement.

"People want to have electricity and get paid their salary on time, and to have more jobs. This is all they want," said Ghazi Najib, who went to the polls in Irbil.

Corruption is also among the central issues in the election. For years, the regional government has faced allegations of nepotism and lack of transparency. Many voters, particularly among the younger generation, are calling for reforms to address these concerns.

Many voters, however, have lost hope for reforms and are also skeptical of opposition parties' ability to make changes, given the longstanding hold the two major parties have over the political landscape.

Political cooperation with the central government is another key electoral issue. Relations between Irbil and Baghdad have remained tense since a 2017 referendum over independence for the Kurdish region, particularly over issues of oil revenue sharing and budget allocations.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed al-Sudani in a recent visit to Irbil said, "We are committed to ensuring the rights of the Kurdish people, but this must be done within Iraq's constitution."

In certain areas, the current elections are significantly influenced by security concerns since Islamic State group sleeper cells are still active in areas that are disputed between the regional and central governments.

"We hope that Kurdistan will be more developed, and to see more safety and reconstruction in Kurdistan," said Jamila Mohammed Amin, a voter in Irbil. "All political parties and entities should work together and achieve these goals and protect it against enemies."

## Expelled Indian high commissioner denies involvement in murder of Sikh leader in Canada

By JIM MORRIS Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — India's high commissioner to Canada has denied any involvement in the murder of a Canadian Sikh leader who was killed in British Columbia last year even though the Canadian government has named him as a person of interest in the assassination.

Sanjay Kumar Verma, who was expelled last Monday along with five other Indian diplomats, said in an interview on CTV's Question Period Sunday that the allegations are politically motivated.

"Nothing at all," Verma said when asked if he had any role in the shooting of Hardeep Singh Nijjar who was killed outside a cultural center in Surrey, British Columbia on June 18, 2023. "No evidence presented. Politically motivated."

Four Indian nationals living in Canada were charged with Nijjar's murder and are awaiting trial.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police went public this week with allega-



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tions that Indian diplomats were targeting Sikh separatists in Canada by sharing information about them with their government back home. They said top Indian officials were then passing that information to Indian organized crime groups who were targeting the activists, who are Canadian citizens, with drive-by shootings, extortions and even murder.

Verma denied the Indian government was targeting Sikh separatists in Canada.

"I, as high commissioner of India, have never done anything of that kind," he said.

Any action taken by Indian officials in Canada was "overt," said Verma.

In the interview Verma condemned Nijjar's death.

"Any murder is wrong and bad," he said. "I do condemn."

Verma also pushed back on comments made by Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly that compared India to Russia. She said Canada's national police force has linked Indian diplomats to homicides, death threats and intimidation in Canada.

"Let me see the concrete evidence she's talking about," said Verma. "As far as I'm concerned, she's talking politically."

India has rejected the Canadian accusations as absurd, and its foreign ministry said it was expelling Canada's acting high commissioner and five other diplomats in response.

Verma said "not a shred of evidence has been shared with us" about the Canadian allegations.

The RCMP has said attempts earlier this month to share evidence with Indian officials were unsuccessful.

Verma said the RCMP had not applied for the proper visas to visit India.

"A visa needs to be affixed," he said. "For any government delegation to travel to another country, you need an agenda to go by. There was no agenda at all."

Canada is not the only country that has accused Indian officials of plotting an assassination on foreign soil. The U.S. Justice Department announced criminal charges against an Indian government employee Thursday in connection with an alleged foiled plot to kill a Sikh separatist leader living in New York City.

In the case announced by the Justice Department, Vikash Yadav, who authorities say directed the New York plot from India, faces murder-for-hire charges in a planned killing that prosecutors have previously said was meant to precede a string of other politically motivated murders in the United States and Canada.

"An indictment is not a conviction," Verma said. "It will follow its judicial process."

India has repeatedly criticized the Canadian government for being soft on supporters of what is known as the Khalistan movement, which is banned in India but has support among the Sikh diaspora, particularly in Canada.

The Khalistan movement supports the establishment of an independent Sikh state in India.

The Nijjar killing in Canada has soured India-Canada ties for more than a year, but Verma doesn't expect this will impact business relations between the two countries.

"I don't see much impact on non-political bilateral relations," he said.

## Arnold Palmer's daughter reacts to Donald Trump's references to her father

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

One of the late golf legend Arnold Palmer's daughters calls Donald Trump's references to her father's genitalia "a poor choice of approaches" to honoring his memory, adding that she wasn't upset by the remarks.

"There's nothing much to say. I'm not really upset," Peg Palmer Wears, 68, told The Associated Press in an interview on Sunday. "I think it was a poor choice of approaches to remembering my father, but what are you going to do?"

On Saturday in Latrobe, Pennsylvania — the city where Palmer was born in 1929 and learned to golf from his father — Trump kicked off his rally in the campaign's closing weeks with a detailed, 12-minute story about Palmer that included an anecdote about what Palmer looked like in the showers.

"When he took the showers with other pros, they came out of there. They said, 'Oh my God. That's

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unbelievable," Trump said with a laugh. "I had to say. We have women that are highly sophisticated here, but they used to look at Arnold as a man."

Wears said that she had only had passing encounters with Trump at functions decades ago but that her father and the GOP presidential nominee, an avid golfer who owns courses around the world, primarily shared a kinship over "an interest in golf and a love of golf."

Emotional at times as she recalled conversations with her father, who died in 2016 at 87, Wears said her father "believed in the Republican Party."

"A day doesn't go by that I don't think about what my father would say about something or what's happening," Wears said. "We didn't always agree on things, but he was a quintessential American who believed fervently in this country, even when he questioned its direction."

Asked three times Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union," about what he thought of Trump's remarks, House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., refused to answer.

"I'll address it, let me answer it," Johnson said, without ever answering the question. "Don't say it again. We don't have to say it. I get it."

Gov. Chris Sununu, R-N.H., told ABC's "This Week" that he didn't like Trump's comments, including one in which he used a profanity to refer to Vice President Kamala Harris, but that the former president's remarks would not sway voters one way or the other.

"I mean it's just par for the course. He speaks in hyperbole. He gets his crowds riled up," Sununu said.

But Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, an independent who backs Harris, argued the comments show how little Trump is focusing on important issues, which will turn off voters.

"I think you have a lot of Americans, whether you are conservative, whether you're progressive or moderate, who say, 'Really?'" Sanders said on CNN. "We have major issues facing this country. Is this the kind of human being that we want as president of the United States?"

Wears, who declined to say for whom she would vote in the Nov. 5 election, said she would be casting her ballot in North Carolina, a pivotal state, and described herself as an "unaffiliated" voter.

"The people of western Pennsylvania are very smart people, and they're very hard working, and they'll make their own decisions, as I will make my own decision, using all the history and awareness I have," Wears said of the upcoming election. "And that's what I hope people go vote with."

## 'Smile 2' grinning to No. 1 at box office while 'Anora' glitters in limited release

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Horror movies topped the domestic box office charts and an Oscar contender got off to a sparkling start this weekend. "Smile 2," in its first weekend, and "Terrifier 3" in its second proved to be the big draws for general movie audiences in North America, while the Palme d'Or winner "Anora" got the best per-theater average in over a year.

"Smile 2" was the big newcomer, taking first place with a better than expected \$23 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. Parker Finn returned to write and direct the sequel to the supernatural horror "Smile," his debut. Originally intended for streaming, Paramount pivoted and sent the movie to theaters in the fall of 2022. "Smile" became a sleeper hit at the box office, earning some \$217 million against a \$17 million budget.

The sequel, starring Naomi Scott as a pop star, was rewarded with a bit of a bigger budget, and a theatrical commitment from the start. Playing on 3,619 screens, it opened slightly higher than the first's \$22 million.

Second place went to Universal and DreamWorks Animation's "The Wild Robot" in its fourth weekend with \$10.1 million, bumping it past \$100 million in North America. Family films often have long lives in theaters, particularly ones as well reviewed as "The Wild Robot," and some have speculated that it got a bump this weekend from teenagers buying tickets for the PG-rated family film and then sneaking into "Terrifier 3," which is not rated, instead. Either way, Damien Leone's demon clown movie, which cost only

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\$2 million to produce, is doing more than fine with legitimate ticket buyers. It added an estimated \$9.3 million, bringing its total to \$36.2 million.

"Rumors like that are PR gold," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "There's no better indication that that movie is red hot right now."

The No. 1 openings for "Smile 2" this weekend and "Terrifier 3" last were only possible because of the failure of "Joker: Folie à Deux." That big budget sequel continued its death march in its third weekend, falling another 69% to earn \$2.2 million, bringing its domestic total to \$56.4 million.

Warner Bros. has a better performer in "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice," which placed fourth in its seventh weekend with an additional \$5 million, bringing its domestic total to \$284 million. Star Michael Keaton also had another film open this weekend — the father-daughter dramedy "Goodrich" which stumbled in with only \$600,000 from 1,055 locations.

Rounding out the top five was the romantic tearjerker "We Live In Time," which expanded to 985 theaters following last weekend's debut on 5 screens. The A24 release starring Andrew Garfield and Florence Pugh earned \$4.2 million over the weekend. Audiences were 85% under 35 and 70% female, according to exit polls. The well-reviewed film will expand further next weekend.

One of the other brightest spots of the weekend was Sean Baker's "Anora," which opened in six locations in New York and Los Angeles and earned an estimated \$630,000. That's a \$105,000 per theater average, the best since "Asteroid City's" \$142,000 average last summer. The Neon release, a sensation at Cannes and a likely Oscar contender, stars Mikey Madison as a New York sex worker who falls for the son of a Russian oligarch.

After several weeks of would-be awards contenders and buzzy films ("Piece by Piece," "Saturday Night," "The Apprentice" among them) fizzling with audiences, "Anora's" success is a promising sign that moviegoers will still seek out arty, adult fare.

"For moviegoers, there's a lot on offer with something in every type of movie in every category," Dergarabedian said. "I think we're going to have a really strong home stretch with a great combination of movies big and small."

The Walt Disney Co. also made a splash with several re-releases. "The Nightmare Before Christmas" got a place in the top 10 with \$1.1 million, while "Hocus Pocus" made \$841,000.

Next weekend will have a major studio comic book movie with "Venom: The Last Dance" as well as an awards movie in the papal thriller "Conclave" vying for audience attention.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Smile 2," \$23 million.
2. "The Wild Robot," \$10.1 million.
3. "Terrifier 3," \$9.3 million.
4. "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice," \$5 million.
5. "We Live In Time," \$4.2 million.
6. "Joker: Folie à Deux," \$2.2 million.
7. "Piece by Piece," \$2.1 million.
8. "Transformers One," \$2 million.
9. "Saturday Night," \$1.8 million.
10. "The Nightmare Before Christmas," \$1.1 million.

## AP Top 25: Oregon is No. 1 for first time since 2012; Vanderbilt enters poll and Michigan drops out

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Oregon became the fourth team this season to hold the No. 1 ranking in The Associated Press college football poll, moving into the top spot on Sunday for the first time in 12 years after Texas lost at home to Georgia.

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Vanderbilt made its first appearance since the 2013 season, at No. 25, and defending national champion Michigan fell out after a second straight loss dropped it to 4-3.

Unbeaten Oregon followed its one-point home win over Ohio State with its first road shutout in 32 years, a 35-0 rout of Purdue, and received 59 of 61 first-place votes.

Georgia, which has won three straight games since its loss to Alabama, made a three-spot jump to No. 2 on the strength of its 30-15 win at previously No. 1 Texas. The Bulldogs got the other two first-place votes.

No. 3 Ohio State and No. 4 Penn State were idle Saturday and held their spots. Texas dropped to No. 5 after Georgia held it 28 points under its scoring average.

Miami prevailed in a wild game at Louisville and remained No. 6, and Tennessee rose four spots to No. 7 following its win over Alabama. LSU, Clemson and Iowa State rounded out the top 10.

No team this season has held the No. 1 spot for more than three straight weeks. Georgia topped the poll in the preseason but a one-point win at unranked Kentucky in Week 3 bumped the Bulldogs out. Texas took over for two weeks, then gave way to Alabama following the Crimson Tide's win over Georgia.

Alabama lasted one week at No. 1, getting upset at Vanderbilt after its win over Georgia. That allowed Texas to return to the top for two weeks.

Chip Kelly was coach of the only other Oregon teams to reach No. 1. The 2012 Ducks, led by Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota, were in the top spot for one week in November 2012 after following a 10-0 start with a loss to Stanford. The 2010 team, which lost to Auburn in the BCS title game, spent six weeks at No. 1.

## Poll points

This marks the first time since 2012 that four teams will play a game as the No. 1 team in the same season. Oregon was among the four that year. The others were Southern California, Alabama and Notre Dame. The other seasons since 2000 with four or more No. 1 teams were 2007 (4), 2008 (6) and 2010 (4).

Tennessee's 24-17 win over Alabama produced the biggest moves in the poll. The Volunteers jumped from No. 11 to No. 7. The Crimson Tide dropped eight spots to No. 15, their lowest ranking since 2010.

Texas' loss to Georgia was the first by a No. 1 team at home against a top-five opponent since Miami beat Florida State 17-16 in 1991.

## In-and-out

Vanderbilt's previous ranking was No. 24 in the final poll of the 2013 season. The Commodores, who beat Ball State to improve to 5-2, are off to their best start since opening 5-0 in 2008. That also was the last time Vandy was ranked in the regular season.

Michigan, which scored its fewest points in a game since 2014 in its 21-7 loss at Illinois, had been ranked in 54 consecutive polls since 2021.

## Conference call

SEC 9 — (Nos. 2, 5, 7, 8, 14, 15, 18, 21, 25).

Big Ten — 5 (Nos. 1, 3, 4, 13, 20).

ACC — 4 (Nos. 6, 9, 19, 22).

Big 12 — 3 (Nos. 10, 11, 16).

American — 2 (Nos. 23, 24).

Mountain West — 1 (No. 17).

Independent — 1 (No. 12).

## Ranked vs. Ranked

—No. 20 Illinois at No. 1 Oregon. The Illini play the top-ranked team for the first time since 2007. They won 28-21 at Ohio State that year.

—No. 5 Texas at No. 25 Vanderbilt. First matchup since these teams met 12 times between 1899-1928. Commodores haven't beaten two Top 25 opponents in the same season since 2008.

—No. 8 LSU at No. 14 Texas A&M. This has become one of the SEC's better series lately. The teams have split their last three meetings.

—No. 12 Notre Dame at No. 24 Navy. This will be the 11th time in 97 meetings, and first since 2019, that both teams are ranked when they meet.



—No. 21 Missouri at No. 15 Alabama. Nothing comes easily for either team this season. The two-loss Crimson Tide haven't dropped three games before November since 2006.

## Trump boosts a hard-right Christian worldview that paints the election as 'spiritual warfare'

By MATT BROWN Associated Press

LIVONIA, Mich. (AP) — Standing before hundreds of people in a suburban Detroit chapel, at an event organized by Donald Trump's campaign, Marlin J. Reid declared that God had called on them to vote for the former president.

"You are being called upon to stand up and face down this darkness and face down these lies and refuse to stop speaking, but to speak up and to stand up and make it known that we are not going to take this," said Reid, the pastor of New Wine Glory Ministries in Livonia, Michigan. "We are not going to lie down, we are not going to allow you to take our country and take our rights and our freedoms."

"Even if it means war, we are not going to allow you to take it," Reid said to cheers.

Trump's campaign has directly nourished a fusion of hard-right politics and theology to energize evangelical Christians in swing states. The campaign has launched a "Believers for Trump" program and conducted several calls with conservative faith leaders, overwhelmingly evangelical pastors, on how to mobilize their congregations for Trump. The Republican nominee plans an event Monday near Charlotte, North Carolina, with allied pastors.

The "Believers for Trump" initiative includes outreach to Black voters, a traditionally Democratic constituency with which Trump has tried to increase his support. The Oct. 5 stop in Michigan included Black speakers such as Ben Carson, a longtime Trump surrogate who was his housing secretary. Carson urged evangelicals not to shy away from what he called "corrupt" earthly politics.

"Unless Jesus Christ is on the ballot, you're always choosing between the lesser of two evils," Carson said to applause. "That's why God gave you a brain."

Pastor Lorenzo Sewell, who spoke at the Republican National Convention and whose Detroit church hosted a Black conservative roundtable with Trump over the summer, rallied the crowd and proclaimed that the United States must remain a Christian country.

Democrats have also stepped up outreach to churchgoers

Churches in African American communities have long conducted "Souls to the Polls" efforts to mobilize Black voters. Black pastors have a tradition of speaking on political issues with a moral and spiritual lens. Similarly, conservative evangelical pastors have often frankly discussed opposition to abortion in the past but refrained officially from endorsing GOP candidates.

Democrats have also stepped up outreach to churchgoing voters.

On Friday, the Democratic National Committee hosted a call to launch its "Souls to the Polls" effort with the civil rights activist Martin Luther King III, who endorsed Harris and called Trump "a disaster for Black America." The campaign has kicked off its own "Souls to the Polls" program and set up a faith advisory board of progressive faith leaders that includes Harris' pastor, Amos C. Brown, who leads Third Baptist Church in San Francisco.

Harris has visited Black churches this month, including New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta on Sunday morning.

The engagement of faith voters in the 2024 election underscores an unprecedented blending of partisan politics with Christianity at a moment when many churches have seen attendance decline and as issues such as the coronavirus pandemic and liberalizing cultural norms dominate debate within many congregations.

At the close of his event with Carson, Reid boasted that the gathering had already prompted some backlash online for bringing politics into a religious space.

"I'm getting attacked on Facebook. I'm being told by several people, I'm going to go to jail and I'm breaking the law, and you can't have politics in church," he said.

He noted that he had not registered his church as a nonprofit that has to remain officially nonpartisan

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specifically so he could say what he wanted.

"I knew this day was coming a long time ago. We're a different kind of charter," he said.

Trump and conservative Christians have embraced each other

A former New York playboy who was once viewed with deep skepticism by evangelical Christian leaders, Trump is now embraced as a champion of religious liberty by the Christian right. GOP events are filled with Christian iconography and many Trump's supporters say he has been divinely blessed, particularly after he survived an assassination attempt at a July rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. One man at Trump's October rally in Butler carried a large wooden cross.

Trump often posts Christian prayers and images. He has licensed a "God Bless the USA" Bible — made in China and selling for \$59.99 — that includes copies of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence and Pledge of Allegiance alongside the King James Version text and the lyrics to his campaign walkout song, "God Bless The USA."

The campaign's program for Christians includes a "Believers and Ballots" program. It aims to boost vote-by-mail and in-person early voting efforts by training "Church Captains" who will coordinate their respective congregations on behalf of the campaign, according to a program overview. That overview includes a disclaimer warning churches to consult legal counsel about how congregations can participate in the program.

Trump-aligned groups including Turning Point USA and the America First Policy Institute have outlined plans to mobilize conservative Christian voters in the election around cultural topics such as abortion, LGBTQ rights and public education curricula.

"How many times do we need to emphasize that there are civilizational defining issues on this? If we lose, it'll be largely because pastors and Christians arrogantly say to God, 'We don't care. We're more religious than Donald Trump. I hope they enjoy the gulags,'" said Charlie Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA.

The Trump campaign has had missteps

The campaign has had missteps in its outreach to faith voters.

Trump posted an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sept. 8, when Catholics celebrate the Nativity of Mary, eliding the nuance of the two figures. While his campaign has been eager to spotlight Black pastors who support Trump, the campaign also incorrectly listed one Detroit Black pastor as a supporter in its promotional materials. That pastor is an ardent Harris backer.

In July, Trump faced backlash for telling an audience of conservative Christians that they "won't have to vote again" after the November election. "Christians, get out and vote. Just this time," Trump said. "You won't have to do it anymore. Four more years. You know what? It'll be fixed. It'll be fine. You won't have to vote anymore, my beautiful Christians."

Evangelical leaders in Trump's orbit have increasingly used the rhetoric that he is "anointed" to fight "spiritual warfare" against Democrats.

White evangelical Christians overwhelmingly support Trump this year, according to a poll by the Pew Research Center. White Catholic voters also largely support the former president's reelection bid. But Trump significantly lags in support among other faith communities, including mainline protestant Christians, Hispanic Catholics, Black protestant voters, Jewish and Muslim Americans, and atheist or agnostic voters, according to Pew.

Not all evangelical Christians are turning out for Trump. Some faith leaders have launched an Evangelicals for Harris campaign targeting their fellow evangelicals to turn out for her.

The event in Livonia featured scant Biblical references. Carson, in his remarks, claimed that immigrants who arrived in the U.S. illegally were violent criminals intentionally sent by foreign countries to the border "where foolish people would take care of them."

"Frankly, we see the opposite on the other side," Albert Mughannem, a realtor in Livonia who came to support Carson. "We see evil, we see demons."

## **The US is investigating an unauthorized release of classified documents on Israel's attack plans**

By ZEKE MILLER, MIKE BALSAMO, ERIC TUCKER and TARA COPP Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is investigating an unauthorized release of classified documents that assess Israel's plans to attack Iran, three U.S. officials told The Associated Press. A fourth U.S. official said the documents appear to be legitimate.

The documents are attributed to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency, and note that Israel was still moving military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran's blistering ballistic missile attack on Oct. 1. They were sharable within the "Five Eyes," which are the U.S., Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

The documents, which are marked top secret, were posted to the Telegram messaging app and first reported Saturday by CNN and Axios. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The investigation is also examining how the documents were obtained — including whether it was an intentional leak by a member of the U.S. intelligence community or obtained by another method, like a hack — and whether any other intelligence information was compromised, one of the officials said. As part of that investigation, officials are working to determine who had access to the documents before they were posted, the official said.

The U.S. has urged Israel to take advantage of its elimination of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar and press for a cease-fire in Gaza, and has likewise urgently cautioned Israel not to further expand military operations in the north in Lebanon and risk a wider regional war. However, Israel's leadership has repeatedly stressed it will not let Iran's missile attack go unanswered.

In a statement, the Pentagon said it was aware of the reports of the documents but did not have further comment.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment over the leak of the two documents.

The documents first appeared online Friday via a channel on Telegram, claiming they had been leaked by someone in the U.S. intelligence community, then later the U.S. Defense Department. The information appeared entirely gathered through the use of satellite image analysis.

One of the two documents resembled the style of other material from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency leaked by Jack Teixeira, an Air National Guardsman who pleaded guilty in March to leaking highly classified military documents about Russia's war on Ukraine and other national security secrets.

The Telegram channel involved in the leak identifies itself as being based in Tehran, Iran's capital. It previously published memes featuring Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and material in support of Tehran's self-described "Axis of Resistance," which includes Middle East militant groups armed by the Islamic Republic.

## **Ukraine's 'victory plan' receives mixed reactions from Western allies**

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's plan to end Ukraine's nearly three-year war with Russia has received mixed reactions from Western allies so far.

The "victory plan" that Zelenskyy outlined at home and abroad includes a formal invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western long-range missiles to strike military targets in Russia — two steps Kyiv's allies have been reluctant to support before.

U.S. backing is crucial if Zelenskyy is to get support from other allies for proposals he believes are necessary to strengthen Ukraine's position on the battlefield and ahead of any peace negotiations. But analysts say the Biden administration is unlikely to make a decision before the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 5,

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as it may not appeal to voters.

"They seem to be just doing very little now and waiting for the election," said Phillips O'Brien, professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. "So much of the strategy will live or die in Washington."

Analysts said the plan is a step in the right direction for Ukraine's military efforts. They also described it as ambitious, given allies' fears of escalation with nuclear-armed Russia. Ukraine has previously secured Western support for requests once deemed unrealistic, such as Patriot air defense systems and F-16 jets.

Presenting the plan now puts on the radar for the next U.S. administration, analysts said, though it's unknown how the next president will receive it.

After returning from making his case to the European Council, Zelenskyy said he expects the White House to provide feedback. "They will be here soon with some form of response," he said.

Will the plan bring victory to Ukraine?

Zelenskyy laid out the five-point plan as Ukraine's troops struggle to hold back Russian slow but steady advances in eastern Ukraine. The plan includes three "secret annexes" that were presented only to some leaders. It also addresses partners' concerns about Ukraine's strategy after the failed summer 2023 counteroffensive.

Zelenskyy described the main goal as "to strengthen us and force Russia to come to the negotiating table with all partners."

The plan won't immediately alter the battlefield situation, but it will help Ukraine wear down Russia and give more means to keep going in the attrition war.

"I think people were potentially expecting some sort of more operational plan on winning the war," said Justin Crump, a former British tank commander who heads Sibylline, a strategic advisory firm. "That's a naive opinion to have expected a plan to have provided operational details that would obviously be of use to the enemy."

Some Ukrainian analysts blame the name of the plan, adding that it was likely chosen for marketing purposes. Ukrainian analyst Yurii Bohdan said the goal is get resources.

"To win such war (of attrition), Ukraine needs to increase its resilience and exhaust its opponent," said Glib Voloskyi, an analyst from a Ukrainian think tank, Come Back Alive Initiatives Center. "The side that falls last wins."

What was the allies' response?

U.S. reaction was muted and noncommittal, though it did issue a new \$425 million package of security assistance for Ukraine the day that Zelenskyy presented the plan to lawmakers.

"It's not my position to publicly evaluate his plan," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said. "We have been supporting him by providing security assistance in a major way for 2 1/2 years. We are going to continue to do that."

In Europe, reactions ranged from categorical opposition to strong support.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot stated in Kyiv on Saturday that he will work with Ukrainian officials to rally other nations to get behind the proposal.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz stood by his refusal to supply Taurus long-range cruise missiles to Kyiv.

"Our position is clear: We are supporting Ukraine as strongly as possible," he said. "At the same time, we are taking care that NATO does not become a party to the war so that this war doesn't culminate in an even bigger catastrophe."

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, widely seen as having the warmest relations of any EU leader with Russian President Vladimir Putin, called Zelenskyy's plan "more than frightening" in a Facebook post.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov mocked Zelenskyy's plan as "ephemeral," and Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova called it "a set of incoherent slogans."

What's at stake for Ukraine?

Without an invitation to join NATO, Ukraine won't have an "assurance that its geopolitical future will not be a bargaining chip with Russia," said Voloskyi, the Ukrainian analyst.



Ukrainian officials say there are no other guarantees for Ukraine besides NATO to protect against Russia's aggression after the war.

Zelensky made ambiguous comments suggesting that nuclear weapons are the only other security alternative. Some thought he was talking about self-made nuclear weapons, sparking strong reaction among Ukrainians, many of whom were pessimistic about the prospects for an invitation to NATO.

Zelensky later clarified that he was highlighting the dire situation for Ukraine by referencing the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, in which Ukraine relinquished its nuclear arsenal in exchange for security guarantees from major nuclear powers, including the U.K., the U.S., and Russia.

Without Western support, Ukraine will struggle to endure a protracted war with Russia, backed by North Korea, Iran, and China. If Ukraine falls, it will be forced to negotiate on Russia's terms.

"Getting help from outside is a key part of winning the war," O'Brien said.

## **In part of swing state Michigan, neighbors skip presidential signs in a heated campaign season**

By COREY WILLIAMS and MIKE HOUSEHOLDER Associated Press

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — The lawn of Nick Hannawa's suburban Detroit home is lined with political signs backing candidates for prosecutor, supervisor and local trustee. But Hannawa isn't promoting his presidential pick.

He says he doesn't want the headaches in an polarized election year.

In this part of swing state Michigan, many of Hannawa's neighbors in upper-middle class and affluent neighborhoods have a similar attitude about a public display on behalf of their preferred presidential candidate. It's easier, they say, to opt out of this once-typical show of support outside their house.

"Some people love Donald Trump. Some people hate Donald Trump," said Hannawa, 37. "I voted for Donald Trump. I'm going to vote for Donald Trump again. If I put that sign in my yard again, is it really going to make a difference or is someone not going to like me?"

Hannawa's home county of Oakland was a political battleground for years but flipped to Democrats in the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections. Republicans have not given up on the area, aiming to win back conservative voters one house at a time.

For years, urban areas have been heavily Democratic and rural areas vote overwhelmingly Republican, said David Dulio, director of the Center for Civic Engagement at Oakland University in Michigan. "And it's always the suburbs where the campaigns really fight it out."

For some residents, skipping yard signs is another symptom of weariness with the amped-up tension of American politics, particularly in the White House race between Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Trump, the former president.

Putting out a sign can have an effect on neighborhood dynamics long past campaign season, said Anand Edward Sokhey, a political science professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder and co-author of "Politics on Display: Yard Signs and the Politicization of Social Spaces."

"They are very much a person signaling 'This is me. This is who I am.' And other people are reacting," he said. "You may not always know that neighbor's name, but you remember — for years — that house had a Trump sign, that house had a Harris sign."

A recent survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and USAFacts found that about 6 in 10 Americans say they need to limit how much information they consume about the government and politics to avoid feeling overloaded or fatigued. In recent weeks, there have been isolated but startling instances of intimidation or violence tied to shows of support for a campaign.

Last month, a white suburban Detroit man, angry that he received Harris mailings, was charged with assault after he was accused of yelling obscenities and racial slurs and then threatening a Black postal carrier with a knife.

In Ohio, a Republican county sheriff posted on social media that people with Harris yard signs should

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have their addresses written down so immigrants can be sent to live with them. The post was removed after threat of legal action by the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio.

Many neighbors "have stated they're afraid to put signs in their front lawns," Edward Shehab, another Bloomfield Township resident, said. "People are kind of like 'I know who I'm going to vote for, and I don't need to tell people what we're going to do.'"

Shehab, 64, has Trump-Vance yard signs outside his home this fall even though four years ago his signs backing Trump and then-Vice President Mike Pence were stolen.

To Dulio, there's a noticeable lack of presidential yard signs this election year around the Detroit area. "People just don't want to — even Trump supporters — they just don't want to hear it from their neighbors," Dulio added. "They don't want to take the risk of somebody confronting them or tearing down their lawn sign or whatever might happen."

Hannawa said that chance of conflict is why he's instead limiting his signs to local candidates.

"I don't do the presidential politics (signs). There is so much tension around it," Hannawa said. "I'm an attorney, and I have clients on all sides of the political field."

Danny Watson lives about a mile or so from Shehab and doesn't have any election signs in his Bloomfield Hills yard. The retired medical professional said he identifies as an independent but feels posting political leanings isn't good for business.

"It makes interactions with patients difficult," Watson said. "I didn't want to offend either group of clients I would deal with."

One of the four political signs in Jack Robertson's yard in Madison Heights is a Trump sign. He's an outlier in the neighborhood several miles north of Detroit.

"A lot of people say, 'I'm not putting a sign out. Neighbors down the street will get mad. They'll do this or that,'" Robertson said. "So what? You have a right to do what you want to do. As long as you're not hurting anybody in the process."

## Juan Soto's 3-run homer in 10th sends Yankees past Guardians 5-2 and into World Series for 41st time

By TOM WITHERS AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Juan Soto was supposed to be the difference-maker, the one who pushed the New York Yankees back to the top.

They're one step away.

Soto hit a three-run homer with two outs in the 10th inning and the Yankees advanced to their 41st World Series — and first in 15 years — by beating the Cleveland Guardians 5-2 in Game 5 of the AL Championship Series on Saturday night.

Baseball's biggest brand is going back to October's main stage.

Soto, who was acquired in a seven-player trade from San Diego in December, pushed the Bronx Bombers into position with one big swing.

This was why he came, for this moment and for so many more.

"Obviously he put up an amazing season statistically speaking, but in the biggest moments, that's what he does," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "And it shouldn't be taken for granted."

The Yankees, who missed the playoffs a year ago, will try to win their 28th title, facing either the New York Mets or Los Angeles Dodgers. Game 6 of the NL Championship Series is Sunday night at Dodger Stadium.

With the score tied 2-2 in the third consecutive tight game in three nights at Progressive Field, Austin Wells walked with one out in the 10th and Alex Verdugo followed with a grounder to Guardians second baseman Andrés Giménez, whose soft toss to the bag was dropped by rookie shortstop Brayan Rocchio for an error.

Hunter Gaddis struck out Gleyber Torres and had Soto in a 1-2 count before New York's stylish outfielder, who fouled off four pitches, sent a towering shot over the wall in center.

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"Just an at-bat for the ages," Boone said.

Soto danced down the first-base line and paused to celebrate with his teammates before circling the bases.

"I was just saying to myself: 'You're all over that guy. You're all over that guy. He ain't got anything,'" said Soto, who moved alongside Boone as the only New York players to homer in an extra-inning, series-clinching win.

Luke Weaver got the final three outs, with Lane Thomas flying out to right field for the last one, which was caught by Soto — naturally.

When he got to New York, there were those who wondered how he would fit in. Could he handle the searing spotlight of playing in the Big Apple, where every game is dissected like a season? Could he co-exist alongside Aaron Judge?

Not only has Soto fit in, he's led the charge.

"He's just easy to be around," Boone said. "You bring a superstar player in, how is he going to look? What's he going to be like? He's just one of the guys. That's been rewarding to see, man, I don't have to go out of my way to worry about him. He's good. I feel like I've developed a great relationship with him, but he's one of the guys."

The 25-year-old Soto is eligible for free agency this winter, and Yankees fans chanted "Re-sign Soto!" during the postgame festivities. He's expected to get a contract upward of \$600 million, and his heroics in Game 5 may have raised his price.

"I think we should re-sign Soto," third baseman Jazz Chisolm Jr. said. "Seven-hundred million dollars, final offer!"

Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run homer and was named ALCS MVP as the Yankees took care of the Guardians in five games. It wasn't easy.

New York won the first two at Yankee Stadium without much fanfare or any major drama. However, it was a different story in Cleveland as all three games at Progressive Field were nail-biters.

The Guardians rallied to win Game 3 on two, two-run homers in their last two at-bats, and the Yankees held on to win Game 4 after blowing a four-run lead.

"This was a roller coaster and we were able to just keep punching back," Stanton said. "We know there's much more work to do and it's only uphill from here and we got to get it done."

Cleveland just didn't have enough and a surprising season under first-year manager Stephen Vogt ended just short of a World Series. The franchise remains without a title since 1948, baseball's current longest drought.

"There's only one team that gets to win the last game of the year, and unfortunately it's not going to be us," Vogt said. "But we accomplished a lot as a group. We got better. We worked extremely hard. I couldn't be more proud of this group. We just didn't get quite as far as we wanted to."

The Yankees are back in the World Series, where their fans expect them to be every year.

The club's 82-80, fourth-place finish in the AL East last season led to some "soul searching as an organization" during the winter, according to Boone, who has been widely criticized but is one of just three managers to take New York to playoffs in six of his first seven seasons.

While the team's core stayed mostly intact, getting Soto in a blockbuster trade on Dec. 7 — New York sent five players to San Diego for the three-time All-Star — accelerated the team returning to title contender.

"That was a good day," Boone said with a laugh before the game.

Stanton's 446-foot rocket into the left-field bleachers tied it at 2 in the sixth and chased Tanner Bibee, who had struck out New York's dangerous DH in his first two at-bats and held the Yankees scoreless for the first five innings.

It was Stanton's fourth homer in this series — his third in three days — and his 16th in the postseason, moving him into fourth place on the club's career list behind Bernie Williams (22), Derek Jeter (20) and Mickey Mantle (18).

"That's as good a swing that you can put on a ball," Boone said.

Boone, who is from one of baseball's royal families, finally eased the pressure after falling short of ex-

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pectations.

"We've had some great groups, some great camaraderie, some great clubhouses," Boone said. "This group is as close as I've ever seen, and they trust each other. They lean on each other. They love each other. They play for each other."

Like Soto, Chisholm was an outsider before joining the Yankees in a July trade from Miami. But from the moment he arrived, he knew he joined something special.

"I thought I was just going to come to baseball team," he said. "But came into a family."

## TRAINER'S ROOM

Yankees: LHP Nestor Cortes (elbow strain) had another successful live batting practice session. The reliever remains on track to join the Yankees on their World Series roster. Boone said Cortes would throw again early next week. Cortes went 9-10 with a 3.77 ERA in 30 starts.

## Will US convenience stores find the secret to selling better food?

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans who think of petrified hot dogs, frozen burritos and salty snacks when they imagine getting food at a gas station or truck stop may be pleasantly surprised during their next road trip: U.S. convenience stores are offering them more and better — though not necessarily healthier — choices.

From 7-Eleven to regional chains like QuikTrip, the operators of c-stores, as they're known in the trade, are looking overseas for grab-and-go inspiration, adding sit-down seating at some locations, expanding their coffee menus to rival Starbucks and experimenting with made-to-order meals for busy families.

The moves are happening as convenience stores seek ways to offset slowing sales of cigarettes, maps and soft drinks. By tempting customers' palates with fresh deli sandwiches and build-your-own burgers, the humble food marts want to become an alternative to fast-food restaurants for busy Americans who crave easy, interesting and less expensive eating options.

"It has been a decades-long journey to go from food that was perceived as desperation to destination," Jeff Lenard, vice president of strategic industry initiatives for the National Association of Convenience Stores, said.

Once known for breakfast and lunch, convenience chains like Wawa, with more than 1,000 East Coast locations, as well as small operators like York, Pennsylvania-based Rutter's, have moved into dinner time with soup, chicken and fish dishes. Rutter's, which operates 90 stores, plans a new store format with expanded seating as it adds 50 new locations in the next five years.

Casey's General Stores, the nation's third-largest convenience store operator with 2,500 outlets mostly in the Midwest and the South, introduced warm chicken, pork and hamburger sandwiches on brioche-style buns this year. The company, already known for serving pizza that customers enjoy, created a limited-time menu that included pies and sliders made with smoked pulled pork, barbecue sauce and pickles.

"We really are approaching this like a restaurant as we always have, but more so now," Carrie Stojack, the Iowa-based chain's vice president of brand and strategic insights, said. "Prices have gotten really high. So what's happening is that convenience stores are becoming a real viable option for guests."

In keeping with their quest, convenience stores are expanding delivery services to build on a customer base they found during the COVID-19 pandemic. 7-Eleven plans to take its 7Now delivery app nationwide, allowing users to have pizza, the chain's signature Slurpees and thousands of other items brought to their doors.

The nation's largest convenience store chain, owned by Japanese company Seven & i Holdings, offers select Japanese items like chicken teriyaki, rice balls, miso ramen and sweet chili crisp wings at some U.S. locations and at its recently acquired Speedway and Stripes stores. Visitors to Japan and Hawaii often respond with envy and astonishment when they taste what's on offer at a 7-Eleven in Tokyo or Honolulu.

The chain's North American subsidiary said it works with some of the same food manufacturers and commissaries that serve Seven-Eleven Japan. That includes Warabeya, which is expanding its U.S. operations to help deliver fresh food to stores and provide an assortment of offerings to suit regional tastes.



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"Our team draws inspiration from around the world to introduce new items like mangonada donuts with Tajín, barbecue pork sliders, chicken curry bowls and everything breakfast sandwiches," the subsidiary said in a statement after declining interview requests.

Seven & i Holdings disclosed earlier this month plans to close 444 U.S. locations amid slowing sales, inflationary pressures and an accelerated decline in cigarette purchases. The company also is fielding a buyout offer from Alimentation Couche-Tard, the Canadian owner of the Circle K convenience stores.

Appealing convenience store food isn't entirely new and has varied widely by region. Buc-ee's, the Texas-born chain with 50 stores in the South, has a cult following among fans who regularly stop for breakfast tacos and snacks like caramel-coat corn puffs called Beaver Nuggets.

Pennsylvania residents, meanwhile, happily debate the relative culinary merits of the food from Wawa (Try the Gobbler, a hot turkey sandwich with stuffing, gravy, and cranberry sauce, they advise), Sheetz (the expansive menu of hot and customizable food includes breakfast bagels and quesadillas) and Landhope Farms, beloved for its hand-dipped ice cream cones and milkshakes.

TikTok and YouTube videos of people eating nothing but convenience store food for a day or comparing the dishes from different chains have helped drive interest in food on the road.

Anderson Nguyen, 26, a TikTok content creator based in San Francisco, tried the chicken and macaroni and cheese from Krispy Krunchy Chicken, which operates most of its locations inside gas stations and convenience stores.

"I generally don't buy too much stuff from these convenience stores," Nguyen said. But he said his experience at Krispy Krunchy Chicken would make him reconsider.

The coronavirus created a unique role for the sector. Most restaurants closed temporarily at the height of the pandemic, while many convenience stores remained open.

Non-fuel sales at U.S. convenience stores increased 36% between pre-pandemic 2018 and last year, growing from \$242 billion to almost \$328 billion, according to a National Association of Convenience Stores analysis of sales data from roughly 20,000 locations. During the same period, cigarettes as a percentage of those sales fell from 31% to 20%.

In upping their food offerings, convenience stores now threaten to take business from fast-food chains like McDonald's, Burger King and Wendy's, which used summer deals to revive sales, experts said.

Jonathan Raduns, CEO of food merchandising at retail consultancy Merchandise Food LLC, did a spot check online of similar items offered at specific fast-food restaurants and convenience chains that showed convenience store food was actually cheaper.

For example, a large pepperoni pizza at a Casey's in London, Ohio, cost \$13.99 versus a similar version at a Domino's, which cost \$14.99. And a large coffee at convenience store chain Parker's Kitchen in Savannah, Georgia, sold for \$2.49 versus \$3.48 for similar size at a Starbucks in the same area.

Virginia-based convenience chain Arko, which operates stores under such banners as 1-Stop and Express-Stop, has focused on being an affordable alternative. At the beginning of the year, it rolled out what it described as an "inflation-busting" 12-inch pizza that cost \$4.99 for members of Arko's free loyalty program and \$7.99 for non-members.

"It took us months to come up with good quality and something people can actually afford," Arko Corp. CEO Arie Kotler said.

Nutritionists and organizations like the American Heart Association encourage service station retailers to focus on fruit and other fresh food that's healthy.

Kristen Lorenz, a registered dietitian with a private practice in Grand Rapids, Michigan, said convenience food operators have been adding healthier options like lettuce wraps and yogurt parfaits. Previously, the prepared food consisted of meat on a roller and pizza that looked "dry and wrinkly."

Among Lorenz's favorites: customized sandwiches at Sheetz and Wawa.

"Everyone has to get gas and everyone has to eat," she said. "So offering a variety of healthy choices that Americans can choose from is good. And what's great about these stores is they still have the traditional items that can make a road trip fun. You could get a small bag of chips."

## Voting groups that got a boost from Harris' candidacy are still working to persuade voters of color

BY AYANNA ALEXANDER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Left-leaning voter engagement groups that saw a surge in support and energy after Vice President Kamala Harris replaced President Joe Biden as the Democrats' White House nominee are aligning with a key pillar of her campaign in the final stretch before Election Day — trying to turn out uncommitted voters of color.

But many of those groups are finding they still have much work to do to introduce Harris and her policies. The challenges reflect Harris' late campaign start, as well as attempts to overcome the earlier lack of enthusiasm for a rematch between Biden and former President Donald Trump. They also reflect inroads that Republicans have been trying to make in particular with Black and Latino voters.

Activists with Siembra NC, a grassroots organization that focuses on Latino communities in North Carolina, found many potential voters are willing to vote in downballot races for state and local offices while leaving the top of the ticket blank. Their feeling is that the closer-to-home races affect their daily lives, while neither Trump nor Harris addresses all their desires in a presidential candidate.

"What we've had to do is a lot of conversations around trust-building, and that takes time," said Kelly Morales, the group's co-director. "It's really about helping folks see that not casting a vote is also a political decision."

The organization hosted a get-out-the vote event followed by a block party in late September in Greensboro. Labor policies, Harris' position on the border and Trump's rhetoric about the Latino community were top issues, Morales said.

The group, which endorsed Harris, ended up knocking on nearly 1,000 doors during the event and had attendees from multiple counties.

Persuading voters of color, particularly Black and Latino men, has become a priority for the Harris and Trump campaigns with early voting underway across the country, with increased outreach to both groups in a recognition that the race is likely to come down to seven swing states.

Like Siembra NC, many voter engagement groups saw a renewed sense of enthusiasm after Harris became the Democratic nominee. At 59, she is more than two decades younger than Biden, who's 81. If she wins, Harris would be the first Black woman, the first Asian American and the first South Asian American elected president.

But as the Nov. 5 election nears, motivating undecided voters in the battleground states is a challenge.

"We have to be mindful that exuberance and excitement does not lead to us not doing the work. You still have to get people out," said Michael A. Blake, founder and CEO of KAIROS Democracy Project, a nonpartisan group that is focusing on engaging young voters and people of color.

Activists say the biggest obstacles are restrictive voting laws passed in several Republican-controlled states after the 2020 election, attempts by right-leaning groups to purge voter rolls and conflict in the Middle East.

That's been evident for groups such as Asian Americans Advancing Justice in Atlanta, despite the initial excitement over South Asian representation on both sides of the presidential ticket: Usha Vance, wife of Ohio Sen. JD Vance, Trump's running mate, would be America's first South Asian second lady if Trump wins.

"While there's an excitement, there's also this desire to hold whichever party is at the top of the ticket accountable to what our communities need," said Murtaza Khwaja, the group's executive director.

In Texas, which has a closely watched Senate race, officials said they had removed more than 1 million voters from the rolls since 2021. This raised concern among voter outreach groups such as Asian Texans for Justice over whether eligible voters might have been purged but would run out of time to correct it before the election.

Language barriers add to the already complex process, said executive director Lily Trieu. Texas has seen a roughly 63% growth in its Asian population since 2012 and has nearly 1.1 million eligible Asian American and Pacific Islander voters as of this year, according to APIA Vote, a nonpartisan advocacy group that

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focuses on Asian and Pacific Islander voters.

"These are new hurdles that we're seeing in response to this rise and enthusiasm," Trieu said.

Biden's decision to drop out of the race this summer meant a late start for the Harris campaign but led to a wave of voter registrations, significant increases in volunteers and a jump in donations to left-leaning voting groups.

Voto Latino said it registered more than 50,000 people in the 10 days after Biden withdrew on July 21. By comparison, the nonprofit advocacy group registered 2,250 people in July 2016 and 25,150 in July 2020.

More than half of this year's new registrations were for voters age 18 to 29. Most of the increase has come in Arizona and North Carolina, important swing states, and Florida, Trump's adopted home state. The group registered over 11,000 Latino voters in Arizona alone, more than half after Biden's announcement.

"With Kamala Harris on top of the ticket, with enthusiasm that is organically coming out of young people, the charge among donors and folks who care about a robust democracy should be where can we close the voter registration gap," said Maria Teresa Kumar, the group's president and CEO.

Black fraternities and sororities, known collectively as "The Divine Nine," have been a source of strength for Harris. She was a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority while attending Howard University, one of the nation's most prominent historically Black universities.

On a recent afternoon, dozens of students at Spelman College in Atlanta lined up at a voter registration drive organized by the campus chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha and its brother chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha, at nearby Morehouse College.

The chapter president, Taylor Kerr, a psychology major at Spelman, said the organizations held the event because it was important for students to be civically engaged and have the opportunity to ask questions about registering and voting. The organizations were not allowed to endorse candidates.

Caleb Cage, a 21-year-old religion major at Morehouse, said he was there because of the excitement of having the chance to vote for a historic candidate.

"With Harris at the top of the ticket, there's just a lot more energy," he said. "People are more ecstatic and a lot more involved," he said.

After Biden's decision to leave the race, Delta Sigma Theta, a historically Black sorority, released a paid advertisement — the first of its kind — that centered on Black people and issues such as bodily autonomy and the right to learn about Black history, which has recently been under attack by some conservative school boards and state legislatures.

The ad was broadcast across various networks and streaming platforms, focusing on battleground states such as Georgia and Pennsylvania. The sorority already had a public service announcement running before the switch on the Democratic ticket, but changed it to focus on what it sees as being at stake for Black Americans.

Kerry-Ann Hamilton, the executive producer of the ad, said the campaign reached more than 200,000 potential voters. It was also intended in part to reach men and those who vote infrequently, said Elsie Cooke-Holmes, Delta Sigma Theta's international president.

"It's about making sure that we get to our community, get to lower-propensity voters, those who might feel like there's no reason for me to go to vote," she said. "All of that is important, on all counts. It's about all of us."

## Learning about God from dogs, Orthodox monks breed and train canines in upstate New York monastery

By GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, New York (AP) — After he and his fellow monks sang morning prayers in their church nestled in a forest, Brother Luke walked back to his residence to be greeted by a different kind of choir.

Lucy and Iso excitedly woofed as they spotted the Orthodox monk, who heads the monastery's German shepherd breeding program, coming to take them and 10-week-old Pyrena for their morning walks.

For nearly six decades, the monks of New Skete in upstate New York have financially supported their

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community and deepened their spiritual life by breeding German shepherds and running on-site, weeklong training programs for all kinds of canines.

"One of the things that a dog teaches is about God — forgiveness and love and connection, those are attributes of God," Brother Luke said on a sunny October morning, while Lucy nosed around fallen leaves and Iso kept a vigilant eye on his monk. "In the rough and tumble of life, we don't always exhibit God's love as well as the dog does."

The New Skete monks' path from Catholic to Orthodox

The small community — today comprising 10 monks and about the same number of adult German shepherds — was started by Franciscan friars who were seeking a more contemplative yet rooted spiritual structure than the Catholic orders were providing them, said Brother Marc. One of the founders — and now 82 — he directs the choir at New Skete together with Brother Luke.

They were inspired by the "explosion of wonderfulness" of the Second Vatican Council to return to ancient but simpler and more accessible practices, like those of the first ascetics in the Egyptian desert, from whom the name skete derives, and who also received pilgrims and performed other community services. The monks officially joined the Orthodox Church in America more than four decades ago; icons of male and female saints from Eastern and Western Christianity adorn the golden walls of the larger of the monastery's two churches.

By the late 1970s, what had started as a gift of one German shepherd, Kyr, to protect and keep company to the little band of brothers on a forested mountainside where New York and Vermont touch, was revolutionizing their monastic life.

"He became part of the emotional life of the community. All these celibate men living together, where's the heart in all this?" Brother Marc recalled of Kyr and how his presence brought joy and smoothed over any tensions.

When Kyr died, the monks decided to get more dogs, and to breed them to help sustain the monastery, which like most convents around the world needs to pay for its own upkeep. Then they had to take on training them, so the growing pack could peacefully share the dormitory, refectory and even church with the brothers.

Training for dogs — and humans — starts at the Orthodox monastery

Visitors were impressed by the well-behaved German shepherds and asked the brothers to train their dogs too. One of the early clients turned out to be an editor who encouraged the monks to write about their training philosophy, which was far gentler than the norm at the time.

More than half a dozen widely popular books and a TV series later, the monks today train about 120 dogs a year in the monastery, said Brother Christopher, the prior and director of the training program.

"Training the dogs became for me a means to see more broadly the mystery of God's presence in creation," said Brother Christopher, who joined the monastery in 1981. "Dogs are absolutely guileless, they don't lie. They mirrored me back to myself in a way that was very helpful to my own self-knowledge."

Building a sustainable relationship between dog and owner, grounded in connection but also structure, is key to the training. Far beyond obedience to basic commands like sit or heel, the pets — and their humans — need to learn the balance of letting dogs be dogs while providing the affection and emotional support their owners seek.

The vast majority of America's 100 million pet dogs doesn't need a professional trainer. But many do if their owners want their company in public places or they're struggling with behaviors ranging from chewing furniture to lunging at the neighbors, said Marc Goldberg, a trainer in Chicago and former president of International Association of Canine Professionals.

The monastery, certified by the association, is the only religious institution among its thousands of members, he added. And while owners of all faiths or none are welcome, the monks infuse their spiritual principles into their relationship with the dogs — in line with a tradition of including animals in spirituality that ranges from Native American practices to the medieval legend of St. Francis taming a wolf that's portrayed in New Skete's refectory.



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"Monks work very hard but there's a peacefulness to the life that is palpable," said Goldberg, who has co-authored several training books with the brothers.

Dog training is expensive – the monks charge about the average for boarding and training, \$3,500 for 2.5 weeks, which has become a more reliable source of income than the breeding program. The latter is kept small to give all dogs attention and avoid turning them into a puppy mill, Brother Christopher said.

From dog to God, what the New Skete monks learned through training

Whether in the breeding or the training program, the dogs bring the community closer to God's creation, encourage paying attention to each present moment, and naturally model Christian virtues, the brothers say.

"A relationship with a dog can sensitize us to a deeper connection with all of creation. That's humbling," said Brother Christopher. "We're simply part of this wondrous world that is ultimately interconnected."

For Brother Luke, who had never been around dogs before joining the monastery in 1995, the first raucous welcome from the German shepherds jumping out by the dormitory came as a bit of a shock. Today, he's in awe of witnessing up close "the reality of life," whether observing the competition in mating season or one of his dogs whelping.

"They're forgiving, perfectly natural, they are what God created them to be. Those are lessons we could learn," he said. "Over time, dogs teach us a lot about ourselves. They think we're better than we are."

And among all the hard work of keeping up a monastery — hosting visitors, supporting community services like a food pantry in the nearby village of Cambridge, studying Scriptures and intensely praying — the dogs offer simple, nurturing affection.

Most monks keep their dogs in their rooms, so they come back to furiously wagging tails and melting eyes that signal it's the happiest moment of the dog's day.

"My gosh, that just does something very deep," Brother Christopher said. "It's an experience of unconditional love."

## Trump kicks off a Pennsylvania rally by talking about Arnold Palmer's genitalia

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

LATROBE, Pa. (AP) — Donald Trump's campaign suggested he would begin previewing his closing argument Saturday night with Election Day barely two weeks away. But the former president kicked off his rally with a detailed story about Arnold Palmer, at one point even praising the late, legendary golfer's genitalia.

Trump was campaigning in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, where Palmer was born in 1929 and learned to golf from his father, who suffered from polio and was head pro and greenskeeper at the local country club.

Politicians saluting Palmer in his hometown is nothing new. But Trump spent 12 full minutes doing so at the top of his speech and even suggested how much more fun the night would be if Palmer, who died in 2016, could join him on stage.

"Arnold Palmer was all man, and I say that in all due respect to women," Trump said. "This is a guy that was all man."

Then he went even further.

"When he took the showers with other pros, they came out of there. They said, 'Oh my God. That's unbelievable,'" Trump said with a laugh. "I had to say. We have women that are highly sophisticated here, but they used to look at Arnold as a man."

Trump senior adviser Jason Miller told reporters before the speech that Trump planned to preview his closing argument against Vice President Kamala Harris and "start to get into that framing." Candidates have traditionally used their final days on the campaign trail to sum up for the electorate why they deserve to win the White House.

Trump eventually hit many of his favorite campaign themes but didn't offer much in the way of new framing of the race or why he should win it. He instead boasted of creating strong tax policies and a strong military during his first term in office.

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He slammed Harris as “crazy” and added a profanity.

“You have to tell Kamala Harris that you’ve had enough, that you just can’t take it anymore, we can’t stand you anymore, you’re a s— vice president,” Trump said to roars of the crowd. “The worst. You’re the worst vice president. Kamala, you’re fired. Get the hell out of here.”

He also criticized Harris for suggesting during her unsuccessful run for president in 2020 that she’d support a ban on hydraulic fracking, which is important to Pennsylvania’s economy and a position Harris’ campaign says she no longer supports.

Trump invited on stage members of a local steelworkers union that endorsed him. He donned a construction hat with his name on it.

He also said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called him amid Israeli’s ongoing war with Hamas in Gaza.

“He said, ‘It’s incredible what’s happened,’” Trump said of the Netanyahu call before moving to a criticism of President Joe Biden, saying that the Israeli prime minister “wouldn’t listen to Biden.”

Trump praised the raucous crowd, which was outside and at an airport, but also made a point of suggesting that there was more conspicuous security around him following two assassination attempts, saying, “They give you a little extra security nowadays, you notice?”

“I got more machine guns than I’ve ever seen -- look at these guys,” he said referring to security. He was interrupted by cries from the crowd of “USA! USA!” before continuing, “We’ve got more guys, and every one of them is like central casting too, holy s—.”

Then he tied it back to Latrobe’s native son, adding, “They look like Arnold. Can’t look better than Arnold.”

## Today in History: October 21, Pistorius convicted in shooting death

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Oct. 21, the 295th day of 2024. There are 71 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 21, 2014, Paralympic runner Oscar Pistorius was convicted of culpable homicide for shooting and killing his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp. The conviction was later upgraded to murder; Pistorius was released on parole in January 2024.

Also on this date:

In 1797, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution, also known as “Old Ironsides,” was christened in Boston’s harbor.

In 1805, a British fleet commanded by Adm. Horatio Nelson defeated a French-Spanish fleet in the Battle of Trafalgar; Nelson, however, was killed.

In 1940, Ernest Hemingway’s novel “For Whom the Bell Tolls” was first published.

In 1944, U.S. troops captured the German city of Aachen (AH’-kuhn) — the first German city to fall to American forces in World War II.

In 1959, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Guggenheim Museum opened in New York.

In 1966, 144 people, 116 of them children, were killed when a coal waste landslide engulfed a school and some 20 houses in Aberfan, Wales.

In 2013, a seventh grader at Sparks Middle School in Sparks, Nevada, shot and killed a teacher and wounded two classmates before taking his own life.

In 2021, Actor Alec Baldwin was pointing a gun on a movie set in New Mexico when it went off and killed cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and wounded director Joel Souza. Charges of involuntary manslaughter against Baldwin were dropped in July 2024.

Today’s Birthdays: Rock singer Manfred Mann is 84. TV’s Judge Judy Sheindlin is 82. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is 75. Former first daughter Patti Davis is 72. Film director Catherine Hardwicke is 69. Actor Ken Watanabe (wah-tah-NAH’-bee) is 65. Sen. Ted Budd, R-N.C., is 53. Actor Will Estes is 46. Reality TV star Kim Kardashian (kahr-DASH’-ee-uhn) is 44. MLB pitcher Zack Greinke is 41. Actor Glenn Powell is 36. Country singer Kane Brown is 31. Singer Doja Cat is 29.