

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Saturday, Oct. 26

State Cross Country at Rapid City  
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 209 N Main  
Groton Day at the Dacotah Prairie Museum, program at 1 p.m.

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

Good morning!

**JESUS**  
**I**  **love**  
**YOU**

"The Lord is my Shepherd  
I have everything I need."

Thank You Jesus!  
I never would have made  
it without You!

## Sunday, Oct. 27

United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: St. John's at 9 a.m., Zion at 11 a.m., Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with Milestones (Jr. K and Kindergarten), 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

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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.**

## **E. Coli Outbreak Expands**

E. coli illnesses linked to McDonald's Quarter Pounder burgers have spread to 75 people across 13 states, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced yesterday. Twenty-two people have been hospitalized, with one person dead.

The update comes three days after the CDC opened an investigation, initially reporting 49 E. coli cases, including 10 hospitalizations and one death. Federal regulators haven't confirmed the outbreak's source, though initial investigations point to the onions on the burgers as a likely source after Taylor Farms (the sole supplier of McDonald's onions) issued an onion recall at its facility in Colorado. The incident has prompted fast-food chains like Burger King, KFC, Pizza Hut, and Taco Bell to temporarily remove raw onions from their items in some locations.

Escherichia coli, commonly known as E. coli, are bacteria typically found in the intestines of humans and other animals. They help to digest food and produce vitamins. However, some strains have evolved, causing illnesses by producing toxins that damage the lining of the intestines.

## **Japanese voters head to polls tomorrow in Japan's snap elections.**

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's ruling Liberal Democratic Party faces its most significant electoral challenge for the first time since 2009 amid corruption scandals and declining public support. Analysts predict the opposition, particularly the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, may gain ground. Ishiba called the parliamentary elections after taking office Oct. 1 following the resignation of Japan's former Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

## **Robotaxi developer Waymo raises record \$5.6B in funding.**

The funding round is the largest for Alphabet's autonomous vehicle division, Waymo, as it looks to expand its robotaxi services across more cities. The round—led by Alphabet and joined by venture firms including Andreessen Horowitz, Fidelity, and T. Rowe Price—brings Waymo's total capital raised to more than \$11B. Waymo operates in San Francisco, Phoenix, and Los Angeles, and plans to expand to Austin and Atlanta as part of a partnership with Uber.

## **Grateful Dead cofounder and bassist Phil Lesh dies at 84.**

Lesh played for the Grateful Dead for its entire 30-year history and also cowrote some of the band's most noteworthy songs, including "St. Stephen," "Dark Star," "Cumberland Blues," and "Box of Rain." The Grateful Dead was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1994 and disbanded in 1995 after the death of the group's leader, Jerry Garcia. Lesh had faced health challenges later in life, including battles with prostate and bladder cancer. No cause of death was made public.

## **'Well Man' identified from 800-year-old Norse saga.**

Researchers have linked ancient DNA from skeletal remains found in a well at Sverresborg Castle in Norway to the "well man" mentioned in the medieval Sverris Saga. The research indicates the remains likely belong to a man who died during a 1197 raid and was thrown into the well to poison the water supply, corroborating the historical narrative. The finding represents the first instance of physically identifying an individual described in historical texts through genomic analysis.

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## India, China begin implementing Himalayan border pact.

India and China have begun withdrawing their troops from an undefined 2,100-mile-long disputed Himalayan border, marking a step toward deescalating a four-year military standoff. The withdrawal follows a recent agreement between the two nations to resume military patrols along the border, which had been a source of tension since deadly clashes in July 2020 that killed 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese soldiers.

## Boeing reportedly exploring sale of parts of its space business.

The aerospace company's space business up for sale includes its troubled Starliner vehicle and operations that support the International Space Station. The sale exploration is reportedly at an early stage and may not result in a deal. The report comes after a SpaceX capsule carried four astronauts from the space station back to Earth after their return was delayed due to problems with Boeing's capsule and Hurricane Milton.

## Humankind(ness)

Today, we're sharing a story from reader Gloria M. in Safety Harbor, Florida.

"I live in a condo community and our power was out for several days. One of our neighbors had a generator and put a power bank outside so that all of his neighbors would be able to charge their cell phones. In addition, he placed a coffee maker out there as well and filled it with water. All you had to do was to bring your own K-Cup! What a thoughtful & wonderful thing to do."



There was lots of activities going on Friday during the volleyball match as Groton Area had a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. (Photo by Paul Kose!)



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## Walker Reaches the Big 4000 in Loss to No. 3 Huskies

Aberdeen, S.D. – The No. 22 Northern State University volleyball team fell to No. 3 St. Cloud State from Wachs Arena on Friday evening. It was a tight battle through the first two sets with Northern fall 25-21, 25-23, and 25-20.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 0, SCSU 3

Records: NSU 14-5 (6-5 NSIC), SCSU 18-2 (12-0 NSIC)

Attendance: 697

### HOW IT HAPPENED

The Wolves hit .240 in the loss with 36 kills, 32 assists, 35 digs, three aces, and a match high eight blocks

The Huskies hit .295 with 51 kills, 48 assists, 46 digs, five aces, and five blocks

Hanna Thompson led the Northern State offense with 15 kills, hitting .481, with three digs and two blocks

The trio of Abby Brooks, Morissen Samuels, and Victoria Persha each recorded two blocks, while Abby Meister led the floor defense with nine digs

Keri Walker dished out 28 assists and added seven digs, three kills, two blocks, and one ace

Brooks added eight kills, while Reese Johnson notched five digs, three assists, and one ace

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Hanna Thompson: 15 kills, .481 attack%, 3 digs, 2 blocks

Keri Walker: 28 assists, 7 digs, 3 kills, 2 blocks, 1 ace

### BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

Keri Walker surpassed the 4000 career assist milestone on Friday evening; she is just the fourth Wolf all-time and third in the rally scoring era to accomplish the feat

### UP NEXT

Northern State remains at home tomorrow afternoon, hosting Minnesota Duluth. First serve is set for 3 p.m. in the trick-or-treat with the Wolves match. Kids in costume will be admitted free and are able to trick-or-treat following the competition.



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## Secretary of State Provides Information Regarding Absentee Voting

(Pierre, S.D.) – South Dakota’s General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Polls will be open from 7:00am to 7:00pm local time.

For those who intend to vote absentee, the deadline to request a ballot is 5:00pm local time on Monday, November 4, 2024. Remember to allow for adequate mail processing time when returning your absentee ballot to your county auditor’s office by mail. You may also drop off your absentee ballot in-person at your county auditor’s office.

All absentee ballots must be delivered to the county auditors by the time that polls close on election day in order to be counted. If an absentee ballot is received after that time, it may not be opened or counted, regardless of when it was mailed.

Voters may verify whether they have already requested an absentee ballot and check the status of their absentee ballot by searching the Voter Information Portal (VIP), which we encourage you to do, on the Secretary of State’s website: <https://vip.sdsos.gov/VIPLogin.aspx> or contacting their county auditor. More information on absentee voting can be found at <https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/voting/absentee-voting.aspx>.

**GROTON**  
AN EXHIBIT IN THREE PARTS  
OCT 5 - DEC 28, 2024

DACOTA PRAIRIE MUSEUM  
HISTORY · ART · CULTURE

PAST PRESENT FUTURE

**GROTON DAY OPEN HOUSE**  
SATURDAY OCT 26 @ 1:00PM

WITH SPEAKERS FROM  
THE GROTON COMMUNITY!

21 S. MAIN ST. ABERDEEN SD 605 626-7117 DACOTAHPRAIRIEMUSEUM.COM

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**BROWN COUNTY  
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY**

**October 29, 2024 8:45 A.M.**

**COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD**

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Opportunity of Public Comment
4. Public Hearing for Liquor License Transfers:
  - a. Stacy Gossman DBA: Nacho Business to County Line Developers
  - b. Stacy Gossman DBA: Flying Pig to County Line Developers
5. Public Hearing for Package (Off-Sale) Liquor License for County Line Developers
6. Second Reading/Possible Adoption of the following Ordinances:
  - a. Ord. #279 – Rezone
  - b. Ord. #280 – Rezone
  - c. Ord. #281 – Rezone
  - d. Ord. #282 – Rezone
7. Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager
  - a. Grandstand Bids
  - b. Discuss Contract; Approve/Authorize Publication for Clubhouse Bids during the Fair 2025-2027
  - c. Discuss Lease Agreement; Approve/Authorize Publication for Hay-land Bids
8. Scott Bader, Planning & Zoning Director
  - a. Copier
9. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent
  - a. R-O-W for NorthWestern Energy
  - b. Department Update
10. Judy Dosch, Building Superintendent & Randy Zens, Asst. Building Superintendent
  - a. Change Order Request from Building Restoration Corp.
11. Consent Calendar
  - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2024
  - b. Claims
  - c. HR Report
  - d. Claim Assignments
  - e. Auditor's Report of Accounts
  - f. Abatements
  - g. Travel Request
  - h. Liquor License Renewals
12. Other Business
13. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
14. Adjourn

Brown County Commission Meeting

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone: <https://meet.goto.com/BrCoCommission>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (872) 240-3311

Access Code: 601-168-909 #

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>

Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the county commission but may not exceed 3 minutes. Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes (or at the discretion of the board).

Public comment will be accepted virtually when the virtual attendance option is available.

Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at

<https://www.brown.sd.us/department/commission>

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**Work Session with Maintenance following the Commission Meeting**

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## Groton Youth Rally set for Wednesday, Nov. 6

The Groton Youth Rally with Bryan Drake, and illusionist and speaker will be Nov. 6th at the Groton Area High School at 7pm and doors open at 6:30pm. Free admission! All ages welcome! Sponsored by the Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church.

Contact Pastor Josh Jetto at 605-397-2696 with any questions.

Bryan Drake is an excellent communicator. His passion for Jesus is contagious. He is not just a stage performer but he interacts with people at the event. Bryan leaves everyone with minds blown, but also his act connects with his spiritual walk with Christ and will bring a powerful gospel message.



**Bryan and Karla Drake present "Three Deceptions".**

Their awe-inspiring and innovative illusions leave the audience astounded and amazed. They not only entertain, but also bring a positive message to your students that will leave them both challenged and encouraged.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

**GROTON AREA HIGH SCHOOL**

**6:30PM DOORS OPEN**

**7:00PM SHOW BEGINS**

**ALL AGES WELCOME / FREE ADMISSION**

**Sponsored by Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church**



## Names Released in Charles Mix County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: SD Highway 46, mile marker 287, one mile west of Wagner, SD

When: 2:40 p.m., Monday, October 21, 2024

Driver 1: Margaret Ella Roberts, female, 87 years old from Wagner, SD, serious, non-life-threatening injuries

Vehicle 1: 2021 Subaru Outback

Seat Belt Used: Under investigation

Passenger 1: Robert Carl Roberts, male, 94 years old from Wagner, SD, fatal injuries

Seat Belt Used: Under investigation

Driver 2: Daniel Edward Sagmiller, male, 65 years old from Piedmont, SD, no injuries

Vehicle 2: 2023 Peterbilt 389 tractor/trailer

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Charles Mix County, S.D.- A 94-year-old man died in a two-vehicle collision Monday near Wagner, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Margaret Ella Roberts, the driver of a 2021 Subaru Outback, and Daniel Edward Sagmiller, the driver of a 2023 Peterbilt 389 tractor/trailer, were both westbound on SD Highway 46 just west of Wagner. Roberts pulled over and began a U-turn, colliding with the Peterbilt.

She was flown to a Sioux Falls hospital with serious, non-life-threatening injuries. Her passenger, Robert C. Roberts, was taken to the Wagner Community Hospital with injuries, but passed away a short time later. Sagmiller had no 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.

## Names Released in McCook County Fatal Crash

What: Three vehicle fatal crash

Where: Interstate 90, mile marker 366, two mile southeast of Salem, SD

When: 7:13 a.m., Sunday, October 20, 2024

Driver 1: Destiny Annmarie Fine, 26-year-old female from Canistota, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2002 Mazda Protege

Seat Belt Used: No

Driver 2: Faron Lee Scarberry, 56-year-old male from Alexandria, SD, minor injuries

Vehicle 2: 2005 Dodge Ram

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Driver 3: Keith Allen Smith, 44-year-old male from Milesville, SD, injuries not reported

Vehicle 3: 1995 Peterbilt Semi with livestock trailer

Seat Belt Used: Not reported

McCook County, S.D.- A Canistota, SD woman died Sunday morning in a three-vehicle collision two miles southeast of Salem, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Destiny Annmarie Fine, the driver of a 2002 Mazda Protege was traveling westbound on Interstate 90 near mile marker 366 when her vehicle left the roadway and collided into a start of a guardrail, then re-entered the roadway, where a 2005 Dodge Ram driven by Faron L. Scarberry collided with the rear end of the Mazda. A Peterbilt semi driven by Keith Allen Smith then collided with the front of the Mazda.

Fine was airlifted to a Sioux Falls hospital where she was pronounced deceased. Scarberry sustained minor injuries. No injuries were reported for the driver of the Peterbilt. Alcohol is considered to be a factor in the initial collision with the guardrail.

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.

## NOTICE OF SALE

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 AM

State Nebraska Bank & Trust vs Brian Dolan & Kristen Dolan

(06CIV22-000424-01)

2012 Chevy Avalanche



An Execution of Judgement in the above referenced matter was received by the Brown County Sheriff's Office on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. The amount of the Judgment is \$33,157.48, \$260.50 Cost, \$373.39 Pre-Judgement interest, plus continuing costs, and interest, as provided by law. This amount does not include Sheriff's Office fees and costs related to this matter. The property to be sold pursuant to the Execution is: 2012 Chevy Avalanche, VIN 3GNTKFE79CG124632. Odometer Reading: 206,206.

**THIS PROPERTY WILL BE AUCTIONED AND SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, WITH THE SALE BEING FINAL, SOLD AS IS WITH NO WARRANTIES EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED. CASH IS REQUIRED ON THE DAY OF SALE.**

The sale will be held at the Brown County Court House, 101 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE, Aberdeen, SD 57401 on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 AM.

DAVE LUNZMAN, SHERIFF OF BROWN COUNTY.

By: Nate Smith, Deputy, 605-626-7100 ext. 509.



We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

## Direct Election Represents the Views, Values and Interests of Voters

Our ongoing review of the origins and rationales that undergird the Electoral College reveals a central point that cannot be ignored. The disturbing vice of the Electoral College, as we have seen, is that it undermines our political system by providing presidential candidates with an incentive to visit competitive states, particularly large competitive states, at the expense of small states.

In a system providing for the direct election of the president, which would more effectively represent the views, interests and values of voters across America, including the principle of political equality, which is grounded on the foundational one-person, one-vote doctrine, every vote would matter, and every vote could make a difference. A citizen's vote in South Dakota would count as much as a citizen's vote in a swing-state such as Georgia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Michigan. Under a direct election system that counts every vote, regardless of state geographic boundaries, presidential candidates would have incentive to court voters across the entire country instead of spending the bulk of their efforts in a handful of battleground states. Former Republican presidential candidates, including President Gerald Ford and Bob Dole, observed that a national popular vote would motivate candidates to pay attention to states and areas within states that are typically ignored because they are considered safe for one party or the other. Under the direct election system, voters in small, as well as large states, would receive greater attention.

Selection of the president based on a direct election in which every vote counts toward a grand national tally, moreover, would provide incentive for candidates to urge supporters throughout America to go to the polls. Citizen participation would increase as voters realize their votes can make a difference. Our civic culture would be improved because citizens would be talking about politics and key issues, discussing and debating the future of the nation, mindful of the impact of electoral politics on their own lives, and the impact they could have on electoral politics. Party-building efforts in the weaker, non-competitive states would increase once it is understood that their voters are not standing on a tiny island, far removed from the political process that selects the president. Candidates, in turn, will have a stronger interest in clarifying their positions on issues, which they should be encouraged to do, as they vie for votes in areas and states long ignored. States, and areas within states, will become more competitive. At bottom, voter apathy and disenfranchisement, the scourge of a healthy, vibrant republic, would be diminished with the recognition that the republic can, indeed, be home to vigorous discussions that can sway votes and influence elections.

Contrary to assertions by advocates of the Electoral College, direct election of the president would not impair federalism. In fact, the drafters of the Constitution did not frame the Electoral College as a principle of federalism. No delegate in the Constitutional Convention referenced the Electoral College as an element of the of the federal system. The Electoral College was not created to serve or protect state interests. If it had been, the Framers would have required states to choose electors as agents of state officials. But delegates did not do that. Rather, the Electoral College was designed to place the presidency beyond the reach of state politicians. As such, the Electoral College has been justly characterized by the political scientist, Martin Diamond, as "an anti-states-rights device."

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As such, the Electoral College is neither a feature of federalism nor essential to its preservation. If it were abolished and replaced by direct election of the president, states would still have the same powers and duties that they currently have under the Constitution. Protection of federalism, central to our constitutional structure, is found in the quality of representation provided by members of the House and Senate and by state legislatures and governors, not in the framework of the Electoral College.

Scrutiny of the Electoral College reveals that it undercuts the essential republican principle of political equality, and the fundamental premise of government based on the consent of people. Contrary to assertions, it doesn't serve the interests of small states, which do not embody coherent, unified interests and communities. At this juncture in American history, citizens should reassess the desirability of retaining the Electoral College as our system for electing the president.

*David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota NewsMedia Association and this newspaper.*



**The sidewalk on the north side of City Hall was removed on Friday by Joe Foertsch. The sidewalk will be replaced and the sump pump that has run on the north side out to the street will be redirected directly to the storm sewer drain. Assisting with the sump pump project were Dwight Zerr, Jessie Anderson, Paul Kosel and Joe Foertsch.** (Photo by

Paul Kosel)



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



LICENSE YOUR DOG.



**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



## Netters have clean sweep over Redfield

Groton Area's volleyball team posted a clean sweep win over Redfield in all three matches Friday in Groton.

The varsity team won, 24-21, 25-14 and 25-18.

Scoring for Groton Area:

Laila Roberts: 3 kills, 2 ace serves, 1 assisted block, 13 digs.

Sydney Locke: 2 ace serves.

Taryn Traphagen: 4 kills, 1 solo block.

Chesney Weber: 12 kills, 2 ace serves, 6 assists.

Kella Tracy: 2 kills.

Elizabeth Fliehs: 1 ace serve, 17 assists.

Jerica Locke: 2 ace serves, 14 digs.

Rylee Dunker: 6 kills, 1 solo block, 1 assisted block.

Jaedyn Penning: 4 kills, 3 ace serves, 6 digs.

Emma Kutter: 1 kill.

Scoring for Redfield:

Kinley Smith: 3 kills, 1 solo and 1 assisted block.

Layla Hardie: 1 ace serve.

Cecilia Suchor: 4 kills.

Hayden Gall: 8 assists.

Kendyl Siebrecht: 18 digs.

Katryn Evans: 8 digs.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match, 25-16 and 25-21. McKenna Tietz and Emerlee Jones each had seven kills, Liby Althoff had five ace serves and one kill, Talli Wright had three ace serves and one kill, and Kella Tracy and Makenna Krause each had one kill.

Groton Area won the C match, 25-17 and 25-13.

The varsity match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bary Keith of Valley Plains Equipment, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Fans of Jaedyn Penning, Groton Ag Partners, Groton American Legion, Groton Chamber, Groton Dairy Queen, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, Subway of Groton and The Meathouse in Andover. The junior varsity match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Adam and Nicole Wright.

Groton Area will wrap up the regular season on Monday on the road at Faulkton.



**Emily Clark returned home for the weekend and she played in the GHS Pep Band Friday night.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Elizabeth Flihs**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Emma Kutter**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Jerica Locke and Laila Roberts**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



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**Jaedyn Penning**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Jerica Locke**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Laila Roberts**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Kella Tracy**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



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**Rylee Dunker**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Sydney Locke**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Freshman boys pose last night during Breast Cancer Awareness Night at the Groton Area home volleyball game. L-R Alex Allen, John Bisbee, Layne Johnson, Brysen Sandness, Kason Oswald, T.C. Schuster, Noah Scepaniak, and Jace Johnson. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)**



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**Taryn Traphagen**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Chesney WEber**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

## 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**





## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Help us celebrate our birthday!

This story was published two years to the day since the launch of South Dakota Searchlight. We're able to produce news and commentary free for all South Dakotans because of support for our nonprofit mission. Will you help us celebrate our first two years?

SUPPORT

## Businesses and interest groups drive spending against tax repeal measure

**Proponent group's finances are intermixed with abortion-rights campaign**

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - OCTOBER 25, 2024 5:19 PM

Twenty-five South Dakota companies and organizations have contributed money to defeat a tax-repeal measure on the Nov. 5 ballot, while the supporting group's fundraising is difficult to analyze because of the group's dual focus on the tax measure and an abortion-rights amendment.

Initiated Measure 28 would remove the 4.2% state sales tax on anything sold for "human consumption," excluding alcohol and prepared food. Supporters intend the measure to repeal state sales taxes on groceries. Opponents say the measure is poorly written and would apply to a broader array of goods and services.

The opponent committee, South Dakotans Against a State Income Tax, raised over \$200,000 since its formation in June and spent



**Nathan Sanderson, executive director of the South Dakota Retailers Association, speaks at a press conference July 9, 2024, in Sioux Falls. Sanderson is the treasurer of a committee opposing Initiated Measure 28.** (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

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about \$90,000, according to new campaign finance reports. The committee's name comes from the claim by some Initiated Measure 28 opponents that sales tax revenue losses from the measure could eventually lead to an income tax.

The proponent committee, Dakotans for Health, took in about \$840,000 since its last report in May. A large portion of that — \$540,000 — came earlier this week from a political nonprofit, Think Big America, founded by Democratic Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker to support abortion rights nationwide.

Dakotans for Health circulated the petitions to put the sales-tax measure and an abortion-rights measure, Amendment G, on the ballot. Dakotans for Health's campaign finance reports include its total fundraising and do not distinguish between money raised or spent for one measure or the other. As of earlier this week, Dakotans for Health had spent about \$300,000 on advertising.

Other notable contributions to Dakotans for Health include:

\$100,000 from Michelle Locher, a Florida resident who also donated \$1 million to a political action committee supporting Florida's proposed constitutional amendment on abortion rights.

\$10,000 from Jim Conyngham, of Austin, Texas.

\$10,000 from Barb Christianson, a Rapid City resident.

\$5,000 from Tom Daschle, a Democrat who formerly represented South Dakota in the U.S. Senate.

South Dakotans Against a State Income Tax is chaired by Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken and lists Nathan Sanderson, executive director of the South Dakota Retailers Association, as its treasurer.

Among the contributing groups are the Retailers Association, South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation, South Dakota Education Association, the South Dakota Licensed Beverage Dealers and Gaming Association Political Action Committee, the Sioux Falls Development Foundation, South Dakota Bankers Association, and South Dakota Pork Producers Council.

The group has also received some large individual donations, the biggest one being a \$10,000 contribution from Dana Dykhouse, CEO of Sioux Falls-based First PREMIER Bank. There are no limits on contributions to ballot question committees in South Dakota.

TenHaken has come out against the food tax repeal over concerns it would remove taxes on more than groceries, and because he and other mayors are concerned that the measure could impact cities' ability to collect sales taxes.

The South Dakota Legislative Research Council estimates the measure could cause state revenue losses between \$134 million and \$646 million annually, depending on how it's interpreted. The South Dakota Municipal League says revenue losses for cities could total \$51 million annually.

Supporters say the measure would not impact cities, and its impact to the state would be at the lower end of the estimates. They say revenue lost to the state would be retained as savings by grocery shoppers, including the low-income South Dakotans for whom the measure was drafted.

Among the 45 states that collect a statewide sales tax, South Dakota is currently 36th in combined state and local rates, making its combined rate one of the lowest, according to the nonprofit and nonpartisan Tax Foundation. South Dakota and Mississippi are the only sales-tax states that apply their full tax rates to groceries.

*Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.*

## State Supreme Court overturns conviction based on failures of court-appointed attorney

**Sisseton defense lawyer didn't interview key witnesses before trial**

BY: JOHN HULT - OCTOBER 25, 2024 4:46 PM

The South Dakota Supreme Court has overturned an aggravated assault conviction based on the poor performance of the defendant's court-appointed Sisseton lawyer.

The issue of ineffective public defenders has been top of mind for the state court system over the past two years. The state convened a study group on the issue at the behest of Chief Justice Steven Jensen, who told lawmakers that the state lacks enough well-trained attorneys, especially in rural areas, to protect the rights of defendants.

The study group's members have noted repeatedly that failure to properly defend clients can lead to appeals and overturned convictions. Lawmakers signed off on the creation of a statewide public defender's office this year, and the Unified Judicial System recently hired a Sioux Falls lawyer to head up the office.

In the future, that state-level office will handle all criminal appeals to the state Supreme Court by "indigent" defendants who can't afford an attorney, while counties will continue to pay for those defendants' attorneys in the lower courts.



**The entrance to the South Dakota Supreme Court at the state Capitol in Pierre.** (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

### Decision has roots in 2019 dispute

Thursday's ruling offers a window into the sorts of issues that animated concerns about the state's unique, county-led approach to indigent defense.

Christopher Schocker, 59, was convicted of aggravated assault of a law enforcement officer in 2019 after a tense interaction with an officer from the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

Schocker was upset with the officer for seizing a deer poached by someone else. He refused to help the officer load the deer into his vehicle, cursed at him, and at one point approached the officer slowly with a knife. He put the knife down when ordered to do so by the officer.

He was initially charged with possession of a firearm while intoxicated and possession of a firearm by a person with a prior drug conviction, in addition to the aggravated assault charge. A jury convicted him of the felony assault charge; a judge sentenced him to 25 years in prison and suspended 15 of them.

Schocker appealed his conviction to the state Supreme Court, arguing that there wasn't enough evidence to convict him.

At his trial, he'd been represented by Robert Doody, who was court-appointed. Doody withdrew from



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that appeal, leaving it to be argued by another court-appointed attorney.

In his latest appeal, Schocker argued that his conviction was unjust because Doody had been ineffective. Doody had not interviewed two of the witnesses on the scene, and hadn't kept up communication with his client.

"Schocker and Doody disagree on the number of times Doody and Schocker spoke; however, Schocker claimed that Doody never called him while he was incarcerated and did not answer his letters," the state Supreme Court's Thursday ruling says.

At a trial over the matter of ineffective assistance, Doody testified that he didn't need to interview the two on-scene witnesses, and that not doing so was "part of his trial strategy."

A bodycam video of the incident was evidence enough, he said.

"I didn't think that those two gentlemen had anything to really offer that wasn't already on the videotape," the Sisseton lawyer said at the trial.

Another defense attorney, however, testified that Doody had done more than missed a chance to interview other witnesses. That attorney, Aberdeen's Brandon Taliaferro, said Doody had failed to pursue Schocker's only viable defense, namely that he'd been holding the knife to cut the tag off the deer that the officer was dragging to his vehicle.

Another person at the home where the altercation took place had put her own deer tag on the poached deer prior to the officer's seizure of the animal. The tag was legitimate, but it belonged to someone who hadn't shot the deer.

One of the witnesses Doody didn't interview testified that had he been asked, he could've told the jury that Schocker was after the deer tag, not the officer.

A circuit court judge sided with Schocker. In Thursday's ruling, the state Supreme Court agreed.

Doody's "incomplete and inadequate investigation of the facts" showed that he'd failed to perform his duties as a defense attorney on Schocker's behalf.

"Here, there were few witnesses, and their contact information was at Doody's disposal," Justice Scott Myren wrote. "Yet, he made no effort even to contact those witnesses. This decision fell below an objective, reasonable standard of performance."

Chief Justice Steven Jensen and Justice Patricia DeVaney voted with Myren in the 3-2 decision. Justices Janine Kern and Mark Salter dissented.

Kern's dissent agrees that Doody's performance was deficient, but she wrote that it ought not be enough to overturn Schocker's conviction.

"I am unable to conclude that, but for this error, there is a 'reasonable probability' that Schocker would not have been convicted," Kern wrote.

## Case does not effect law practice

The Schocker decision is the second time this year the Supreme Court overturned a lower court's actions for one of Doody's former clients.

In March, the justices undid the sentence of one of his clients. In that case, the Supreme Court chastised the judge. Doody had asked to be removed from the case on the date of the client's sentencing because of a "serious communication breakdown," but the judge said no and sentenced the client anyway.

The justices said that was the wrong decision, and overturned the client's five-year sentence.

Schocker filed a lawsuit against Doody after the lower court ruled that the lawyer had performed poorly. The case, in which Schocker is asking for damages as a result of his incarceration at the state penitentiary, is ongoing.

Neither the Supreme Court ruling nor Schocker's lawsuit, should he emerge victorious, would impact Doody's law license. An ineffective assistance of counsel ruling alone does not affect a lawyer's good standing with the State Bar of South Dakota, whose director confirmed that Doody is still a member.

The Bar is independent of its disciplinary board, whose investigations, hearings and findings in cases of alleged unethical conduct – an ineffective assistance finding in a case isn't an ethical breach – are confi-

dential under state law unless the board makes the complaint or reprimand public, the attorney involved asked for it to be made public, or the conduct involves the attorney being convicted of a serious crime.

Doody did not return a message seeking comment on the case.

*John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.*

## Ethanol is fueling support of South Dakota carbon pipeline ballot measure

**One opposition committee relies on contributions from individuals and ag businesses; another receives money from national groups**

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - OCTOBER 25, 2024 3:05 PM

Money from ethanol producers is clashing with contributions from individuals and farm-and-ranch corporations — plus some funding from national climate activists — in the fight over a carbon-dioxide pipeline law on South Dakota's Nov. 5 ballot.

Committees supporting the law have raised at least \$2.3 million, all from ethanol companies, since their last reports in May, and they've spent \$1.5 million. Committees opposing the law have raised at least \$224,000 and spent over \$160,000. Individuals and farm-and-ranch corporations put forth about \$150,000 to defeat the bill, making up a majority of the money raised on the vote-no side.

The information comes from new campaign finance reports filed this week.

State lawmakers and Gov. Kristi Noem adopted Senate Bill 201 during the last legislative session. Opponents collected over 31,000 petition signatures to put the legislation on the ballot as Referred Law 21. A yes vote supports the law, while a no vote opposes it.

The law includes financial and other protections for landowners and counties affected by pipelines. It also shifts a burden to local governments, requiring them to prove their restrictions on pipelines are reasonable, instead of pipeline companies having to prove them unreasonable.



**Walt Bones, left, representing Protect South Dakota's Ag Future, and Jim Eschenbaum, representing South Dakota Property Rights and Local Control Alliance, participate in an election forum on Sept. 19, 2024, at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell.** (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

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## Proponent finances

A ballot question committee backing the law, Protect South Dakota's Ag Future, is chaired by former South Dakota Agriculture Secretary Walt Bones. The committee spent \$167,000 on advertising using a contribution of that amount from Gevo, a company that hopes to produce ethanol-based aviation fuel in South Dakota. Gevo is backing the law as part of its plans to use carbon capture technology in its production process.

Another ballot question committee, Vote Yes for a Strong South Dakota, raised \$2.2 million from ethanol producers, including \$1 million from POET, the Sioux Falls-based world's largest ethanol company, and \$400,000 from Glacial Lakes Energy, an ethanol producer with multiple locations in South Dakota. Another \$200,000 came from Gevo. The committee has spent \$1.4 million, mostly on ads.

## Opponent finances

Opponents of the law, through the SD Property Rights and Local Control Alliance ballot question committee, raised \$189,000. Aside from the individual donations and farm-and-ranch corporation contributions, an additional \$27,500 was raised through fundraising events such as silent auctions.

South Dakota Searchlight questioned the committee's treasurer, Rep. Tina Mulally, R-Rapid City, about the legality of reporting only the amount of the silent auction proceeds without the names of auction buyers. South Dakota requires individual campaign contributions above \$100 to be disclosed with the contributor's name.

"Those silent auctions were for a yard sign, a pie, a print," Mulally said. "They were all little items. Mostly signs."

Several county Republican parties donated a combined \$4,400. South Dakotans for Safe and Responsible Renewable Energy is one of two political action committees listed as contributing, totaling \$2,800; however, no committee by that name is listed on the state campaign finance website.

## Jane Fonda and other national money

Another opponent group, a ballot question committee affiliated with Dakota Rural Action, received its \$35,000 in funding from the South Dakota Rural Voters political action committee. It received its funding from two national groups – New World Foundation and Jane Fonda Climate PAC – which support social and climate justice efforts.

Referred Law 21 arose from controversy surrounding Iowa-based Summit Carbon Solutions, which has partnered with ethanol plants in the Midwest — including in eastern South Dakota — to capture CO2 and transport it to North Dakota for underground storage.

The project aims to benefit from federal tax credits for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Some landowners along the route oppose the pipeline due to concerns about eminent domain — a legal process for gaining access to land from unwilling owners — and potentially hazardous leaks.

Referred Law 21, described as a compromise bill by Republican legislative leaders, does not address eminent domain but includes landowner protections. It requires pipeline companies to cover damages, mandates CO2 pipelines be buried at least 4 feet deep, and compels companies to share rupture modeling data. The law says counties can also collect up to \$1 per linear foot of pipeline for property tax relief and road repairs.

*Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.*



## 'Too shameful to acknowledge': Biden delivers historic apology for Indian boarding schools

BY: SHONDIN SILVERSMITH, ARIZONA MIRROR - OCTOBER 25, 2024 6:44 PM

Standing solemnly in front of a crowd full of Indigenous people on the grassy field of a tribal elementary school near Phoenix, President Joe Biden issued a formal apology to Indigenous communities across the country for the role the United States government had in the Native American boarding school system, which harmed Indigenous people for generations.

"After 150 years, the United States government eventually stopped the program, but the federal government has never formally apologized for what happened," Biden said. "Until today — I formally apologize, as president of the United States of America, for what we did."

Biden's apology was met with loud cheers from the crowd. He is the first sitting president in the last 10 years to visit a Tribal Nation.

He told the community that it was long overdue and that it was only fitting that it was given at a tribal school within an Indigenous community deeply connected to culture and tradition.

"I have a solemn responsibility to be the first president to formally apologize to the Native peoples, Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, Native Alaskans and federal Indian boarding schools," he said. "It's long, long, long overdue. Quite frankly, there's no excuse that this apology took (150) years to make."

Biden said the pain that the federal Indian boarding school policy has caused will always be a significant mark of shame for the United States.

"For those who went through this period, it was too painful to speak of," he said. "For a nation, it was too shameful to acknowledge."

"This formal apology is the culmination of decades of work by so many courageous people," Biden said, acknowledging many who were sitting in the audience, including the boarding school survivors and descendants.

"I know no apology can or will make up for what was lost during the darkness of the federal boarding school policy," Biden said. "But, today, we're finally moving forward into the light."



**President Joe Biden delivers remarks at Gila Crossing Community School on Oct. 25, 2024, on the Gila River Indian Community. Biden formally apologized for the trauma inflicted by the federal government's forced Native American boarding school policy.** (Rebecca Noble/Getty Images)

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Biden's apology, delivered Friday at the Gila River Crossing School on the Gila River Indian Community, comes three years after Interior Secretary Deb Haaland launched the first ever federal investigation into Native American Boarding Schools.

Haaland spoke before Biden, and was welcomed to the stage by Miss Gila River Susanna Osife as "Auntie Deb." Haaland, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna, told the crowd that thinking about our ancestors today is important because they persevered, and their stories are everywhere.

"We tell those stories because Native American history is American history," Haaland said.

The Department of Interior released the final boarding school report in July. It provided eight recommendations from the Department of Indian Affairs for the federal government that would support a path to healing for tribal communities.

At the top of that list was a call for the United States to acknowledge and apologize for its role in the federal Indian boarding school policies that have harmed — and continue to harm — Indigenous peoples across the country.

"Today is a day for remembering, but it's also a day to celebrate our perseverance," Haaland said. "In spite of everything that has happened, we are still here."

While boarding schools are places where affluent families send their children for an exclusive education for most of the United States, Haaland noted how different the prospect was for Native Americans.

"For Indigenous peoples, they served as places of trauma and terror for more than 100 years," she said. "Tens of thousands of Indigenous children as young as four years old were taken from their families and communities and forced into boarding schools run by U.S. government institutions."

Haaland said that the federal Native American Boarding School system has impacted every Indigenous person she knows, and they all carry the trauma that those policies and schools inflicted.

"This is the first time in history that a United States cabinet secretary has shared the traumas of our past, and I acknowledge that this trauma was perpetrated by the agency that I now lead," Haaland said. "For decades, this terrible chapter was hidden from our history books, but now our administration's work will ensure that no one will ever forget."

Haaland launched the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative in 2021 to shed light on the "horrific era of our nation's history."

The initiative compiled two reports and visited dozens of Indigenous communities, hearing from survivors and descendants so that their experiences are all documented because the goal of Native American Boarding Schools was to assimilate and eradicate Indigenous people.

Haaland said the investigation into these boarding schools are shared in those reports and it shows the "loud and unequivocal truth" that the federal government took deliberate and strategic actions through boarding school policies to isolate Indigenous children from their families and steal from them the languages, cultures, and traditions that are fundamental to Indigenous people.

"As we stand here together, my friends and relatives, we know that the federal government failed," She said. "It failed to annihilate our languages, our traditions, our life ways. It failed to destroy us because we persevered."

The Federal Boarding School Initiative's report called on Congress and federal agencies to take action, and Haaland said that some of those recommendations are already being put into effect.

For instance, Haaland said the department is working alongside the departments of Education and Health and Human Services to invest in the preservation of Native languages.

"We are developing a 10-year national plan guided by tribal leaders and Native language teachers," Haaland said, and more details about their efforts will be released later.

"The painful loss of our Indigenous languages has been a consistent topic as we have met with survivors across our nation," she said.

Another effort Haaland highlighted is the department's collaboration with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition to create an oral collection of first-person narratives from boarding school survivors.



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Haaland said this collaboration is a way to ensure that future generations are told the stories of the boarding school era and understand the impacts and intergenerational trauma caused by boarding school policies.

As the crowd listened to Biden give his speech, protesters with O'odham Solidarity made their voice heard as one walked toward the stage holding a sign calling for justice for Palestinians.

As Biden delivered his remarks, one protester yelled from the crowd: "No, what about the people in Gaza."

The protest was met with shouts from the crowd as a man in the crowd yelled: "Get out of here." But Biden said let her talk.

"Let her go," Biden said as the protester was being removed. "There's a lot of innocent people being killed and it has to stop."

Even after the protestors voiced their concerns, the community's attention went back to Biden as he continued his speech about the boarding school years as well as his investments to Indian Country.

## 'It was long overdue'

Crystalyne Curley said she thought of her grandfathers as Biden delivered his apology, which brought back memories of the stories they would tell of their time at boarding schools and the trauma they experienced.

"It's a bittersweet moment," Curley said. "I think there is a lot of a mix of emotions, because each of our Navajo citizens has a tie to the trauma that has happened within our boarding schools."

Curley serves as speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and has heard stories about the federal boarding school system from her community for generations.

"It was long overdue," Curley said. "I really commend our president Biden for taking that step and being the first one to have that courage to say, 'Yes, we done wrong.'"

Curley said that is something that many Indigenous people have been waiting to hear, including the Navajo people.

"Many of our children didn't come home," she said, and the policies' lingering effects include the loss of language and culture.

The Department of the Interior investigated the federal Indian boarding school system across the United States, identifying more than 400 schools and over 70 burial sites.

Arizona was home to 47 of those schools, which were attended by Indigenous children who were taken away from their families and attempted to assimilate them through education — and, often, physical punishment.

The legacy of the federal Indian boarding school system is not new to Indigenous people. For centuries, Indigenous people across the country have experienced the loss of their culture, traditions, language and land.

Multiple federally operated boarding schools were established in the Navajo Nation in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, and many of them are still operational today, though under different policies than when they were constructed.

Curley said that there are still a lot of federally operated Bureau of Indian Education schools in operation on the Navajo Nation, but some families still hesitate to enroll their children in them because of the boarding school history.

She hopes that this apology will lead to the federal government investing in the education system within tribal nations.

"Start investing back into our children and our mental, spiritual, (and) psychological health that this has caused for many decades," she added.

Curley said she hopes that the momentum of Biden's apology will be carried on into the next administration by acknowledging the wrong done to Indigenous communities.

Now that an official apology has been given, Curley said that healing needs to take place and that comes in the form of investing in Indigenous communities, something she said is best done by funding public and mental health resources, as well as reinvesting in the culture and language revitalizations within their

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communities.

"For healing to take place, it takes at least two generations," Curley said.

After Biden issued his apology, Native organizations and advocates from across Indian Country called for action.

Cheryl Crazy Bull, the president and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, said that the federal government and philanthropists need to make a significant investment in restorative and healing approaches as well as institutions to repair the harm done by the boarding school era.

"The Native people who we support, from our youngest children to our college students, deserve that investment," she said.

Crystal Echo Hawk, the founder and CEO of IllumiNative, called Biden's apology a significant step toward justice for Indian Country, but said it must not be the end of the government's efforts.

"True accountability requires comprehensive action — beginning with full transparency about the extent of these abuses and the return of Native children's remains to their families and communities," she said.

"We must continue to demand further accountability of the harms done to Native peoples, especially the Native children who experienced neglect, inhumane conditions, physical and sexual abuse, and death under the guise of education," Echo Hawk said. "The federal government must commit to supporting Native-led healing initiatives, language revitalization programs, and cultural preservation efforts to effectively begin repairing the damage of the past."

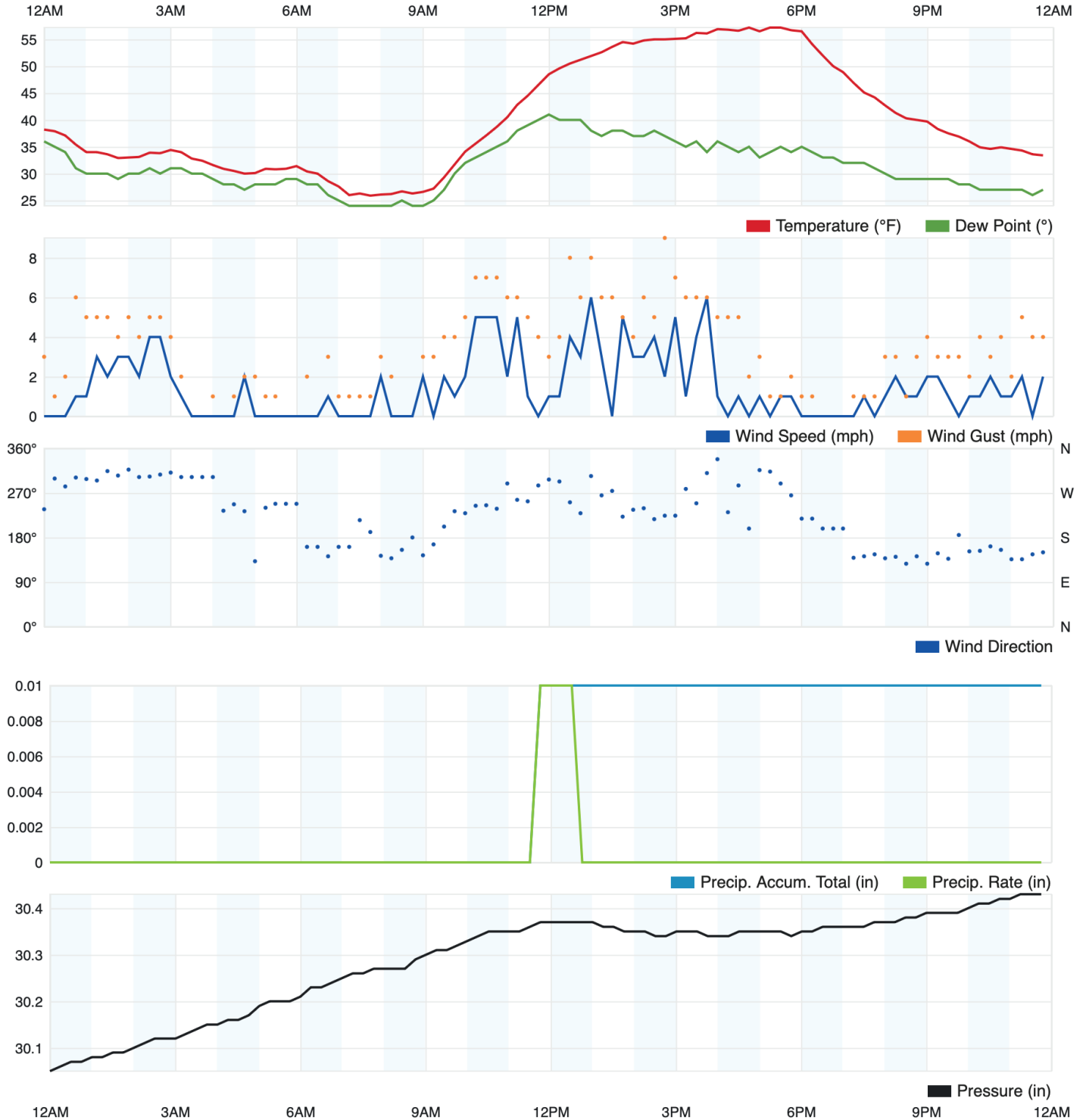
*Shondiin Silversmith is an award-winning Native journalist for the Arizona Mirror based on the Navajo Nation. Silversmith has covered Indigenous communities for more than 10 years, and covers Arizona's 22 federally recognized sovereign tribal nations, as well as national and international Indigenous issues.*



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 61 °F

Mostly Sunny  
then Partly  
Sunny and  
Breezy

Tonight



Low: 34 °F

Mostly Clear

Sunday



High: 67 °F

Sunny

Sunday Night



Low: 48 °F

Decreasing  
Clouds

Monday



High: 71 °F

Sunny



## Dry Through Monday

October 26, 2024  
2:45 AM

Today

Highs: 58-68°



Sunday

Highs: 65-74°



Monday

Highs: 68-73°



Lows: 32-38°



Lows: 43-51°



Conditions will remain dry and mild for the rest of the weekend and start of next week. We will see increasing moisture moving into the region with precipitation late Tuesday through Wednesday, and while it will mostly be as rainfall, cant rule out some flakes of snow mixed in up along the ND/SD state line



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 57 °F at 4:48 PM

Low Temp: 26 °F at 7:53 AM

Wind: 9 mph at 2:41 PM

Precip: : 0.01

Day length: 10 hours, 26 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 83 in 1922

Record Low: -3 in 2020

Average High: 54

Average Low: 29

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.89

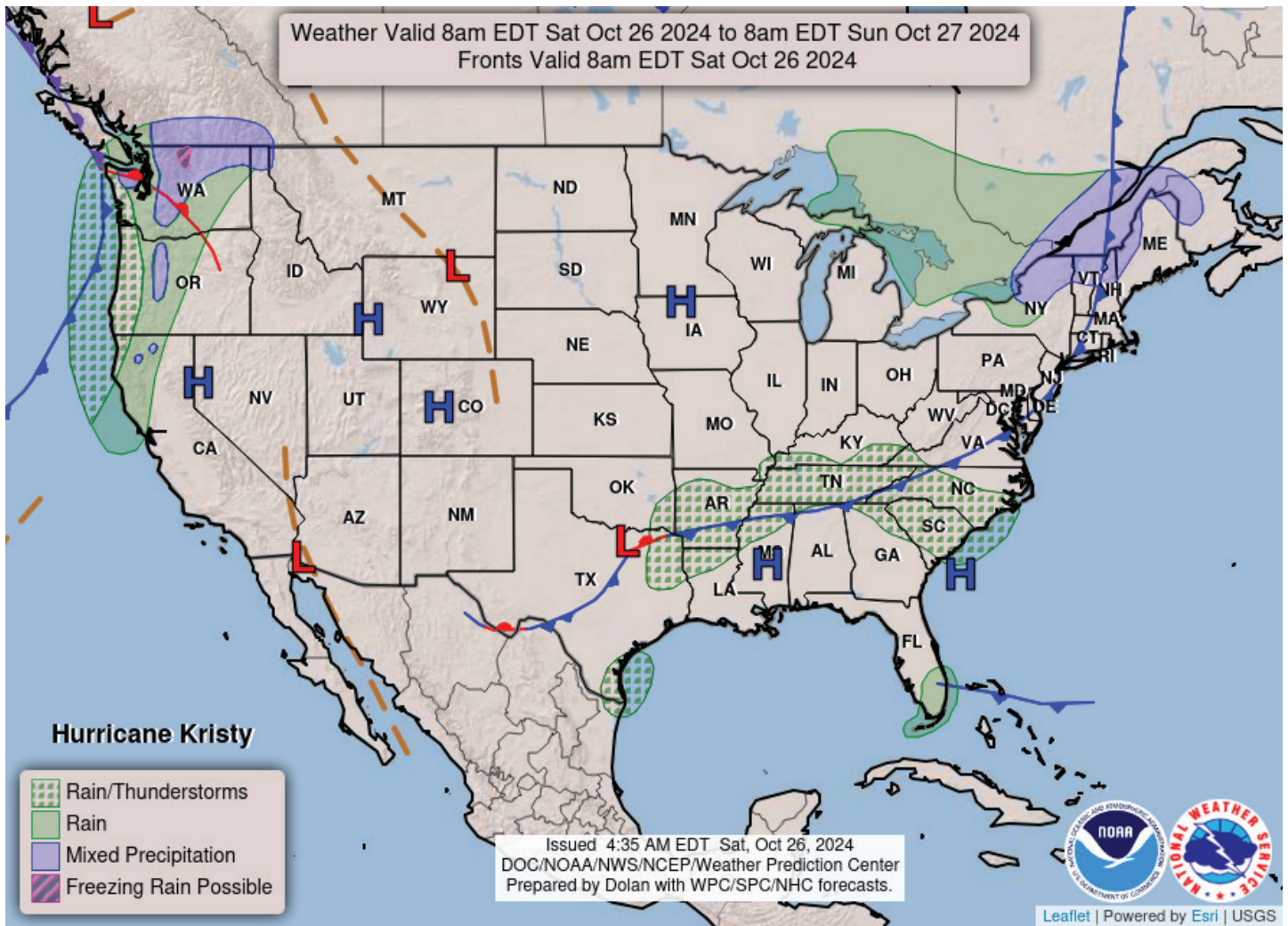
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.07

Average Precip to date: 20.22

Precip Year to Date: 19.82

Sunset Tonight: 6:29:31 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:04:25 am



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## Today in Weather History

October 26, 1919: Record cold occurred across the area on this day in 1919. Temperatures fell below zero at many locations across central and northeast South Dakota and into west-central Minnesota. The record lows were 3 degrees below zero at Aberdeen, 4 degrees below zero at Wheaton, 5 degrees below zero at Kennebec, 8 degrees below zero at McIntosh, and a much below average low of 10 degrees below zero at Miller.

October 26, 1996: A rare and significant late-season tornado outbreak took place as a low-pressure system trekked across the North-Central US. A series of low-topped supercells during the morning and afternoon hours produced a total of 26 tornadoes; 3 in Nebraska, 9 in northeastern South Dakota, and 14 across west-central and central Minnesota. Five of these were rated F2, and while no fatalities resulted, 15 people were injured, and there was a good deal of property damage. To help put the extraordinary timing of this event in perspective, in the 66 years of record-keeping from 1950-2015, Minnesota has only recorded 15 other October tornadoes, and South Dakota 9.

October 26, 2010: A record-breaking surface low-pressure area moved across the Northern Plains and brought high winds to all of central and northeast South Dakota from the early morning of the 26th into the early evening of the 27th. Big Fork, Minnesota, measured a surface low pressure of 955.2 millibars. Sustained northwest winds of 40 to 50 mph with gusts to 60 to 75 mph caused scattered property damage across the region along with blowing several vehicles off the road. Along with the high winds came snowfall of 1 to 5 inches, which resulted in treacherous driving conditions. Several schools started late on the 27th due to the slippery roads and strong winds. The high winds, combined with slick roads at times, blew several semis and other vehicles off the road on Interstate-29 and other locations across the region. Only minor injuries occurred with these incidents. The high winds damaged many traffic signs and signals, downed many power lines and poles, along with downing branches and several trees. As a result, several hundred customers were without power for a time across the area. The high winds caused roof and siding damage to many buildings along with damaging some fences. A shed was also destroyed near Sisseton.

1865: A hurricane sank the steamship USS Mobile off the Georgia coast. The wreck, laden with 20,000 gold coins, was found in 2003.

1952: There have been thousands of weather reconnaissance and research flights into hurricanes in the Atlantic and Pacific since the mid-1940s. There have been several close calls, but only four flights have been lost. A B-29 Super-fortress flight into Super Typhoon Wilma 350 miles east of Leyte in the Philippines disappeared on this date. No trace was ever found of the plane or crew. In the last report, the flight was in the Super typhoon's strongest winds, which were around 160 mph.

1997: An autumn snowstorm pummeled central and south-central Nebraska with record early season snows. Wind-driven snowfall amounts totaled as much as two feet by storms' end. Several highways were closed, including Interstate 80, as near-blizzard conditions developed. Once the snow subsided, the record early season snow totals were tallied. Guide Rock measured twenty-four inches of snow, Clay Center twenty-three inches, and Hastings seventeen inches. A fifty-mile wide swath of snow more than fifteen inches fell from near Alma to York. Amounts further north averaged from four to eight inches. The heavy, wet snow was responsible for many power outages in the area as tree limbs broke and fell on power lines. At one point, the town of Hardy had no power and could not be accessed by vehicles due to the snow. Numerous schools and businesses remained closed several days following the storm. Many highways, including Interstate 80, closed at the height of the storm. On Highway 136 east of Alma, road crews worked for ten hours carving through a ten-foot drift that covered the road. Record cold accompanied the snow as temperatures dropped to the single digits on the morning of the 26th.

1998: Hurricane Mitch, the second deadliest hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean, reached Category 5 strength on this day.

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Our Daily Bread®

Love God. Love Others.

## Hope in God

Bible in a Year :

Jeremiah 9-11

1 Timothy 6

Our goal [is] to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

2 Corinthians 5:9

Today's Scripture & Insight: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Jeremy didn't realize what he was getting into when he arrived at the university for his three-year course and asked for the cheapest dorm room available. "It was awful," he recounted. "The room and its bathroom were terrible." But he had little money and little choice. "All I could do," he said, "was think, I have a nice home to go back to in three years' time, so I'll stick with this and make the most of my time here."

Jeremy's story mirrors the everyday challenges of living in an "earthly tent"—a human body that will die (2 Corinthians 5:1), operating in a world that is passing away (1 John 2:17). Thus we "groan and are burdened" (2 Corinthians 5:4) as we struggle to cope with the many difficulties life throws at us.

What keeps us going is the certain hope that one day we'll have an immortal, resurrected body—a "heavenly dwelling" (v. 4)—and be living in a world free of its present groaning and frustration (Romans 8:19-22). This hope enables us to make the most of this present life God has lovingly provided. He'll also help us to use the resources and talents He's given us, so we can serve Him and others. And that's why "we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it" (2 Corinthians 5:9).

By: Leslie Koh

## Reflect & Pray

How can you start each day reminding yourself of the hope you have because of God? How can you encourage others with this hope?

Father, I look forward to being with You in Your heavenly home. Thank You for the promise and strength this hope gives me each day.



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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.25.24

23 26 35 41 43 7

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$250,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.23.24

18 38 42 44 47 3

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$12,600,000**

NEXT 14 Hrs 42 Mins  
DRAW: 45 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.25.24

1 3 15 33 36 5

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

NEXT 14 Hrs 57 Mins  
DRAW: 45 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.23.24

10 16 17 31 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$73,000**

NEXT 14 Hrs 57 Mins  
DRAW: 45 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.23.24

1 42 43 58 66 20

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

NEXT 15 Hrs 26 Mins  
DRAW: 45 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.23.24

2 15 27 29 39 20

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$20,000,000**

NEXT 15 Hrs 26 Mins  
DRAW: 45 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  
09/20/2025 NSU Gypsy Day  
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm  
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm



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

### Friday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Baltic def. Lennox, 25-8, 25-23, 25-22

Bridgewater-Emery def. Sanborn Central-Woonsocket, 25-23, 25-22, 25-19

Castlewood def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland, 25-20, 25-8, 25-22

Centerville def. Colome, 25-13, 25-16, 25-14

Clark-Willow Lake def. Britton-Hecla, 25-14, 25-13, 25-22

Colman-Egan def. Garretson, 24-26, 25-21, 22-25, 25-19, 15-8

Corsica/Stickney def. Scotland, 25-12, 25-22, 25-17

Dakota Valley def. Vermillion, 25-10, 25-8, 25-11

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Madison, 25-11, 25-22, 25-19

Faith def. Bowman County, N.D., 25-19, 25-17, 23-25, 25-16

Great Plains Lutheran def. Wilmot, 25-15, 25-13, 25-18

Groton def. Redfield, 25-22, 25-13, 25-18

Hamlin def. Deuel, 25-8, 25-13, 25-9

Hanson def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-18, 25-21, 25-18

Highmore-Harrold def. Stanley County, 23-25, 25-11, 23-25, 25-21, 15-12

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Sully Buttes, 25-8, 25-11, 25-12

Kimball-White Lake def. Wessington Springs, 25-22, 25-23, 25-23

Lakota Tech def. Crow Creek Tribal School, 25-19, 25-7, 25-6

Lyman def. Belle Fourche, 18-25, 25-22, 25-22, 18-25, 15-10

McCook Central-Montrose def. Canistota, 25-23, 13-25, 25-18, 25-18

Menno def. Avon, 25-15, 25-16, 25-14

Miller def. Ethan, 25-16, 25-18, 25-18

Mitchell def. Tea, 25-21, 25-21, 26-24

Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Howard, 25-19, 25-12, 25-17

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. T F Riggs High School, 25-15, 25-18, 25-9

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Sioux Falls Jefferson, 25-18, 25-20, 25-16

Sisseton def. Tiospa Zina, 25-6, 25-19, 25-11

Tiospaye Topa def. McLaughlin, 18-25, 25-14, 25-23, 25-17

Wall def. New Underwood, 25-22, 25-22, 15-25, 25-15

Warner def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-17, 25-23, 25-14

Waverly-South Shore def. Waubay/Summit, 25-14, 20-25, 20-25, 25-21, 15-10

Webster def. Florence-Henry, 25-9, 25-21, 25-11

East/West Tournament=

Rapid City Central def. Brookings, 25-15, 21-25, 25-18

Rapid City Central def. Yankton, 25-21, 25-23

Rapid City Christian def. Bennett County, 21-25, 25-21, 25-20, 25-19

Spearfish def. Brookings, 25-19, 25-22

Spearfish def. Yankton, 25-21, 25-16

Watertown def. Rapid City Central, 25-9, 25-15

Watertown def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-20, 25-16

Watertown def. Spearfish, 25-12, 25-12

New Underwood Triangular=

Edgemont def. New Underwood, 25-15, 25-5

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Edgemont def. Wall, 25-19, 25-14, 25-20  
Sturgis Triangular=  
Brandon Valley def. Douglas, 25-7, 25-13  
Brandon Valley def. Sturgis Brown High School, 29-27, 25-19  
Harrisburg def. Douglas, 25-6, 25-10  
Harrisburg def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-12, 25-13

Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

## Friday's Scores

The Associated Press  
PREP FOOTBALL=  
All Nations A State Tournament=  
Quarterfinal=  
Crazy Horse 60, Tiospa Zina 56  
Little Wound 56, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte/Tiospaye Topa 32  
Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud 32, Todd County 24  
White River 70, Marty 0

Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

## Israel attacks Iran in series of pre-dawn airstrikes targeting military infrastructure

By JON GAMBRELL, ADAM SCHRECK and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel attacked military targets in Iran with a series of pre-dawn airstrikes Saturday in retaliation for the barrage of ballistic missiles the Islamic Republic fired upon Israel earlier in the month.

The Israeli military said its aircraft targeted facilities that Iran used to make the missiles fired at Israel as well as surface-to-air missile sites. There was no immediate indication that oil or missile sites were hit — strikes that would have marked a much more serious escalation — and Israel offered no immediate damage assessment.

Explosions could be heard in the Iranian capital, Tehran, though the Islamic Republic insisted they caused only “limited damage” and Iranian state-run media downplayed the attacks. Iran’s army said two of its troops had been killed in the attack, Iran’s Al-Alam television reported.

Still, the strikes risk pushing the archenemies closer to all-out war at a time of spiraling violence across the Middle East, where militant groups backed by Iran — including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon — are already at war with Israel.

Following the airstrikes, Iran’s Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying it had a right to self-defense, and “considers itself entitled and obligated to defend against foreign acts of aggression.”

The first open Israeli attack on Iran

“Iran attacked Israel twice, including in locations that endangered civilians, and has paid the price for it,” said Israeli military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari.

“We are focused on our war objectives in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. It is Iran that continues to push for a wider regional escalation.”

Photos and video released by Israel showed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, wearing a black casual jacket, and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant meeting with military advisers and others in a conference room at a military command and control center in the Kirya military base in Tel Aviv.

The strikes filled the air for hours until sunrise in Iran. They marked the first time Israel’s military has openly attacked Iran, which hasn’t faced a sustained barrage of fire from a foreign enemy since its 1980s

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war with Iraq.

Israel is also widely thought to have been behind a limited airstrike in April near a major air base in Iran in which the radar system for a Russian-made air defense battery was hit.

Saturday's attack came as part of Israel's "duty to respond" to attacks on it from "Iran and its proxies in the region," Hagari said.

"The Israel Defense Forces has fulfilled its mission," Hagari said. "If the regime in Iran were to make the mistake of beginning a new round of escalation, we will be obligated to respond."

Israel's attack effectively sent the message to Iran that it would not remain silent, while not taking out highly visible or symbolic facilities that could prompt a significant response from Iran, said Yoel Guzansky, a researcher at Tel Aviv's Institute for National Security Studies who formerly worked for Israel's National Security Council.

At the same time, it also gives Israel room for further escalation if needed, and the targeting of air defense systems weakens Iran's capabilities to defend against future attacks, he said, adding that if there is Iranian retaliation, he expects it to be limited.

"There's more chances of Iranian restraint because of their interests, because of pressure from the outside, and because of the nature of the Israeli attack ... that allows them to save face," he said.

In the aftermath of the strikes, the streets of the Iranian capital were calm, children went to school and shops opened as usual, with the only sign of concern being long lines at the gas stations — a regular occurrence in Tehran when military violence flares or during natural disasters when people stock up on fuel.

Mixed reactions at home and abroad

Israel's opposition leader, Yair Lapid, criticized the decision to avoid "strategic and economic targets" in the attack.

"We could and should have exacted a much heavier price from Iran," Lapid wrote on X.

The United States warned against further retaliation, indicating that the overnight strikes should end the direct exchange of fire between Israel and Iran, and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said "Iran should not respond."

"We need to avoid further regional escalation and urge all sides to show restraint," he said while attending a summit in Samoa.

Saudi Arabia was one of multiple countries in the region condemning the strike, calling it a violation of Iran's "sovereignty and a violation of international laws and norms."

The kingdom's foreign ministry said it rejected the escalation in the region and "the expansion of the conflict that threatens the security and stability of the countries and people of the region."

Iran-backed Hamas called the attack "an escalation targeting the region's security and its people's safety."

Nuclear facilities and oil installations were all seen as possible targets for Israel's response to Iran's Oct. 1 attack, before U.S. President Joe Biden's administration won assurances from Israel in mid-October that it would not hit such targets, which would be a more severe escalation.

Iran's military said the strikes targeted military bases in Ilam, Khuzestan and Tehran provinces, without elaborating.

It closed its airspace during the attack but Iran's Civil Aviation Organization said flights were resuming at 9 a.m., Iranian state news agency IRNA reported.

Iran's state-run media acknowledged blasts that could be heard in Tehran and said some of the sounds came from air defense systems around the city. But beyond a brief reference, Iranian state television for hours offered no other details.

Iran may be trying to bring an end to the escalating tit-for-tat attacks

Iran's move to quickly downplay the attack may offer an avenue for it not to respond, averting further escalation.

Iran fired a wave of missiles and drones at Israel in April after two Iranian generals were killed in an apparent Israeli airstrike in Syria on an Iranian diplomatic post. The missiles and drones caused minimal damage, and Israel — under pressure from Western countries to show restraint — responded with a lim-



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ited strike it didn't openly claim.

In Lebanon, dozens were killed and thousands wounded in September when pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah exploded in two days of attacks attributed to Israel. A massive Israel airstrike the following week outside Beirut killed Hezbollah's longtime leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and several of his top commanders.

On Oct. 1, Iran launched at least 180 missiles into Israel in retaliation, sending Israelis scrambling into bomb shelters but causing only minimal damage and a few injuries.

Netanyahu immediately said Iran had "made a big mistake."

Israel then ratcheted up the pressure on Hezbollah by launching a ground invasion into southern Lebanon. More than a million Lebanese people have been displaced, and the death toll has risen sharply as airstrikes hit in and around Beirut.

Antipathy between the two countries goes back decades

Israel and Iran have been bitter foes since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Israel considers Iran to be its greatest threat, citing its leaders' calls for Israel's destruction, their support for anti-Israel militant groups and the country's nuclear program.

During their yearslong shadow war, a suspected Israeli assassination campaign has killed top Iranian nuclear scientists and Iranian nuclear installations have been hacked or sabotaged, all in mysterious attacks blamed on Israel.

Meanwhile, Iran has been blamed for a series of attacks on shipping in the Middle East in recent years, which later grew into the attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on shipping through the Red Sea corridor.

The shadow war has increasingly moved into the light since Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas and other militants attacked Israel. They killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took some 250 hostages into Gaza. In response, Israel launched a devastating air and ground offensive against Hamas, and Netanyahu has vowed to keep fighting until all of the hostages are freed. Some 100 remain, of whom roughly a third are believed to be dead.

More than 42,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, according to local health officials, who don't differentiate between civilians and combatants but say more than half of the dead have been women and children.

## Trump leaves Michigan rallygoers waiting in the cold for hours to tape Joe Rogan podcast

By JILL COLVIN, JONATHAN J. COOPER and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — Many of Donald Trump's supporters left a Michigan rally before he arrived after the former president kept them waiting for three hours to tape a popular podcast interview.

Those who remained at the outdoor rally on an airport tarmac huddled in the cold Friday night as they waited for the former president to touch down in the battleground state.

Trump apologized to the crowd for the delay, which he blamed on an interview with Joe Rogan, the nation's most listened-to podcaster and an influential voice with younger male voters Trump is aggressively courting.

The interview, taped in Austin, Texas, was released Friday night and ran a whopping three hours, with Trump telling many familiar stories from his rallies and other interviews but also engaging with Rogan on topics like the existence of UFOs.

Democrat Kamala Harris was also in Texas Friday for an appearance with superstar Beyoncé in Houston at an event highlighting the conservative state's abortion ban, which was enacted after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. Three of the justices who voted to overturn Roe were nominated by Trump.

Minutes before Trump's Michigan rally was scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Eastern, his spokesman posted on the social media platform X that Trump was just leaving Texas, more than two hours away by air. Trump recorded a video from his plane urging his supporters to stay, noting it was Friday night and promising, "We're going to have a good time tonight."

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Trump eventually took the stage at the Traverse City airport, where temperatures dipped to about 50 degrees Fahrenheit (10 degrees Celsius). The crowd erupted into cheers as video screens showed Trump's plane arriving and then him walking off his plane and down the steps.

"I am so sorry," he said. "We got so tied up, and I figured you wouldn't mind too much because we're trying to win."

Attendees who hadn't left bundled up, some covered by blankets, as they waited for him to land. The crowd sounded and looked disengaged as North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum and former Republican gubernatorial candidate Tudor Dixon tried to kill time onstage. Hats were thrown to attendees.

Among those who stuck around at Trump's rally were John and Cheryl Sowash, who live in Traverse City, and arrived at the airport at 4 p.m.

"Things happen," said John. "He spoke to a lot more people talking to Joe Rogan than he did here."

Indeed, Cheryl said she was worried about Trump, who had missed speaking to a larger crowd.

"He's gonna be disappointed, because there were twice as many people here. He missed it," she said.

Rogan interview underscores Trump's focus on masculinity

His interview with Rogan created another opportunity for the Republican nominee to highlight the hyper-masculine tone that has defined much of his 2024 White House bid. Trump has made masculinity a central theme of his campaign, appearing on podcasts targeting young male voters and tapping surrogates who sometimes use crude language.

Throughout the lengthy conversation, Trump told familiar stories but occasionally dropped new color and nuance.

Rogan pressed Trump on whether he's "completely committed" to bringing Robert F. Kennedy Jr. into his administration.

"Oh, I completely am," Trump responded, but added he and Kennedy disagree on environmental policies. He said he'll tell Kennedy to "focus on health, do whatever you want."

Kennedy has been instrumental in spreading skepticism about vaccines, rejecting the overwhelming consensus among scientists that the benefits of inoculation outweigh the rare risk of side effects.

Trump again seemed to entertain the idea of eliminating federal income taxes, telling Rogan, "Yeah, sure why not?" when asked by the podcast host if he was serious about it.

He also repeated at length his grievances about the 2020 election but said, "If I win, this will be my last election."

Trump said he's "never been a believer" in theories about extraterrestrial life visiting Earth. He said he is asked constantly about what the U.S. government knows about "the people coming from space." He said as president he was told "a lot" but he dodged Rogan's entreaties to discuss alien life in detail.

And he criticized federal subsidies aiming to significantly boost U.S. semiconductor manufacturing, one of President Joe Biden's signature achievements. Chipmakers have credited the legislation for enabling billions of dollars in new factories, including in battleground state Arizona.

He also ripped Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy that has long been aligned with the U.S.

"You know, Taiwan, they stole our chip business," Trump told Rogan. "OK. They want us to protect and they want protection. They don't pay us money for the protection, you know? The mob makes you pay money, right?"

Trump called Chinese President Xi Jinping, whose Beijing government considers Taiwan a breakaway province, a "brilliant guy, whether you like it or not."

The podcaster is known for his hours-long interviews on "The Joe Rogan Experience," which is listed as No. 1 in the United States, according to Spotify's charts. He calls women "chicks" and once laughed as a comedian friend described repeatedly coercing young female comics into sex.

Rogan and Trump have a complicated relationship. Rogan had previously said that he declined to host Trump on his podcast before because he did not want to help him.

Earlier this year, Trump criticized Rogan after the podcaster said that Kennedy, then a candidate, was the only person running for president who made sense to him. Kennedy has since suspended his bid,

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endorsed Trump and joined him on the campaign trail.

Trump mocks Harris' rally with Beyoncé and drives immigration message

In Michigan and at an earlier press conference in Texas, Trump repeatedly mocked his opponent's rally in Houston. "Kamala is at a dance party with Beyoncé," he told the Michigan crowd.

He used his trip to Texas, his second stop in a border state in two days, to escalate his already dark and apocalyptic rhetoric against illegal immigration.

"We're like a garbage can for the rest of the world to dump the people that they don't want," Trump told supporters Friday in Austin. Trump has continued to push the unfounded idea that foreign governments actively send criminals to the U.S.

Harris said the remark is "just another example of how he really belittles our country."

"The president of the United States should be someone who elevates discourse and talks about the best of who we are, and invests in the best of who we are, not someone like Donald Trump, who is constantly demeaning and belittling who the American people are," Harris told reporters in Houston before her event.

As the temperature in Michigan dropped Friday night and many in the crowd streamed out, Trump suggested that his campaign advisers have urged him not to repeat his past statements about being the "protector" of women.

The former president mimicked advice he said he was getting: "Sir, please don't say you're going to protect women." But he said he planned to keep saying it. "I mean, that's our job."

That too was a response of sorts to the Harris event, which was focused on protecting reproductive rights and included a string of women talking about having their health threatened by strict abortion restrictions.

Trump's rally was also interrupted twice by audience members needing medical attention. After the second incident, Trump asked organizers to play the song Ave Maria to fill the time.

That was reminiscent of a recent Trump rally in Pennsylvania when medical attention being required in the audience caused Trump to sway to that and other songs for nearly 40 minutes.

This time, though, he continued speaking after "Ave Maria" ended.

## Freeman hits 1st walk-off slam in World Series history as Dodgers top Yankees 6-3 in classic opener

By BETH HARRIS AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A nail-biter all night with a Hollywood ending.

Game 1 of Yankees-Dodgers certainly delivered.

Freddie Freeman hit the first game-ending grand slam in World Series history with two outs in the 10th inning to give the Los Angeles Dodgers a 6-3 victory over the New York Yankees in a drama-filled opener Friday.

"Might be the greatest baseball moment I've ever witnessed, and I've witnessed some great ones," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts marveled.

Hobbled by a badly sprained right ankle, Freeman homered on the first pitch he saw — a 92 mph inside fastball from Nestor Cortes — and raised his bat high before beginning his trot as the sellout crowd of 52,394 roared.

"I cannot believe what just happened," Roberts said. "That's what makes the Fall Classic a classic, right, because the stars come out and superstars make big plays, get big hits, in the biggest of moments. ... I'm speechless right now."

It was reminiscent of Kirk Gibson's stunning homer that lifted Los Angeles over the Oakland Athletics in Game 1 of the 1988 World Series at Dodger Stadium — one of the most famous swings in baseball lore.

Gibson, sidelined by leg injuries, came off the bench and connected against Hall of Fame closer Dennis Eckersley.

"I played the whole game, though," Freeman said with a smile.

Freeman, an eight-time All-Star who missed three games during the National League playoffs because of his bum ankle, didn't have an extra-base hit this postseason until legging out a triple in the first inning



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Friday.

"Actually felt pretty good," said Freeman, who will donate his game spikes to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. "The last six days we treated it really well. I've been feeling pretty good. Right when I ran out to give high-fives to my teammates, I felt pretty good, because that was the first time I ran all week. So, ankle's good."

After the home run, Freeman ran over to his father.

"I was just screaming in his face. I'm sorry, dad," Freeman said, laughing. "He's been there since I was a little boy, throwing batting practice to me every day. So this is a moment, it's my dad's moment."

Giancarlo Stanton launched a two-run homer for New York in this much-hyped, star-studded matchup between two of baseball's most storied and successful franchises — the third straight World Series opener to go extra innings.

"You can't sit here and mope. You can't sit here and complain. You can't shoulda, coulda, woulda," Yankees slugger Aaron Judge said. "It's time to go to work. We lost this game. Learn from it. See where we can improve and go out there and win the next one."

In the top of the 10th, Anthony Volpe grounded into a fielder's choice to shortstop, scoring Jazz Chisholm Jr. from third after he stole two bases, to give New York a 3-2 lead.

The speedy Chisholm singled off winning pitcher Blake Treinen and then stole second. Following an intentional walk to Anthony Rizzo, Chisholm swiped third base uncontested as Treinen was slow to the plate with Max Muncy playing deep at third.

Tommy Edman made a diving stop to his left on Volpe's grounder, but couldn't get it out of his glove initially. He tossed to second to get Rizzo out as Chisholm came flying home with the go-ahead run.

But the Dodgers weren't done.

Gavin Lux walked against losing pitcher Jake Cousins with one out in the bottom of the 10th and went to second on Edman's infield single to second. Defensive replacement Oswaldo Cabrera knocked down the ball with his glove but it leaked into the outfield.

That brought up star slugger Shohei Ohtani, a left-handed hitter. Yankees manager Aaron Boone went to his bullpen again for Cortes, a lefty starter who hadn't pitched since Sept. 18 because of an elbow injury.

After missing the AL playoffs, Cortes was added to the World Series roster Friday.

"I ran into the (batting) cage and I told the guys in the cage, this game should have been the first baseball game ever on pay-per view," Dodgers center fielder Kiké Hernández said.

Left fielder Alex Verdugo made a running catch in foul territory to retire Ohtani on Cortes' first pitch. Verdugo's momentum sent him tumbling over the low retaining wall, advancing both runners one base because by rule it became a dead ball when Verdugo wound up in the stands.

With first base open, New York intentionally walked Mookie Betts to load the bases and set up a lefty-on-lefty matchup of Cortes against Freeman.

"I was on time for the heater," Freeman said.

His drive into the right-field pavilion sent Dodgers fans into a frenzy. It was the third walk-off homer in World Series history for a team that was trailing, following Gibson's shot and Joe Carter's drive for the Toronto Blue Jays that won the 1993 World Series against Philadelphia.

Nelson Cruz hit the only other game-ending grand slam in postseason history, for Texas in the 2011 American League Championship Series against Detroit.

"That's stuff, you're 5 years old in the backyard right there," Freeman said. "That's a dream come true, but it's only one. We've got three more."

This is the 12th time the Yankees and Dodgers are meeting in the World Series, the most frequent matchup in major league annals, but their previous October clash was 43 years ago.

While the Dodgers are seeking their eighth title and second in five years, the Yankees are in the Fall Classic for the first time since winning No. 27 in 2009.

The first Series with a pair of 50-home run hitters in Judge (58) and Ohtani (54) opened quietly as Gerrit Cole, the 2023 AL Cy Young Award winner, and Jack Flaherty dueled through four scoreless innings.

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Judge struck out swinging in his first three at-bats before hitting a single off Brusdar Graterol with two outs in the seventh.

Ohtani was 0 for 3 before ripping a double off the right-field wall in the eighth. He raced to third on the play when second baseman Gleyber Torres mishandled Juan Soto's throw, which became costly when Ohtani scored on a sacrifice fly by Betts that tied it 2-all.

With two outs in the ninth, Torres sent a long drive to left-center. A fan wearing a Dodgers jersey reached over the wall and caught the ball. Umpires ruled fan interference and gave Torres a double, a call confirmed on video replay. The fan immediately left the area.

Soto was intentionally walked before Judge popped out against Treinen to end the inning.

The Dodgers broke through for a 1-0 lead in the fifth when Hernández tripled past Soto in right field and scored on Will Smith's sacrifice fly.

The Yankees answered right back in the sixth. Soto singled leading off before Judge struck out swinging for the third time. Stanton followed with a 412-foot shot to left off Flaherty for his 17th career postseason homer. Stanton grew up in the nearby San Fernando Valley, not far from Flaherty's hometown of Burbank.

Stanton, the ALCS MVP, connected on a knuckle-curve that hung slightly at the bottom of the strike zone. His sixth homer in 11 games this postseason came off his bat at 116.6 mph.

After last weekend's pennant-clinching win at Cleveland, Stanton said, "This ain't the trophy I want. I want the next one."

The Yankees then loaded the bases. Chisholm singled off Anthony Banda and stole second. After Rizzo struck out, Volpe was intentionally walked. Austin Wells reached on an infield single that Edman smothered with a dive to save a run before Verdugo struck out swinging against his former team.

Fernando Valenzuela, the 1981 NL Cy Young Award winner and Rookie of the Year who died earlier this week at age 63, was honored with a moment of silence before the game.

UP NEXT

Game 2 is Saturday evening at Dodger Stadium, with Yankees LHP Carlos Rodón pitching against \$325 million rookie Yoshinobu Yamamoto.

Rodón is 1-1 with a 4.40 ERA in three starts this postseason, with 22 strikeouts over 14 1/3 innings. Yamamoto is 1-0 in three postseason starts with a 5.11 ERA and 11 strikeouts in 12 1/3 innings.

## Israel strikes Iran as payback for missile attack, risking escalation of Mideast wars

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Israel pounded Iran with a series of airstrikes early Saturday, saying it was targeting military sites in retaliation for the barrage of ballistic missiles the Islamic Republic fired upon Israel earlier in the month.

Explosions could be heard in the Iranian capital, Tehran, though the Islamic Republic insisted they caused only "limited damage."

The attack risks pushing the archenemies closer to all-out war at a time of spiraling violence across the Middle East, where militant groups backed by Iran — including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon — are already at war with Israel.

Saturday marked the first time Israel's military has openly attacked Iran, which hasn't faced a sustained barrage of fire from a foreign enemy since its 1980s war with Iraq.

Israel's hourslong attack ended just before sunrise in Tehran, with the Israeli military saying it targeted "missile manufacturing facilities used to produce the missiles that Iran fired at the state of Israel over the last year." It also said it hit surface-to-air missile sites and "additional Iranian aerial capabilities."

Israel offered no initial damage assessment.

Initially, nuclear facilities and oil installations all had been seen as possible targets for Israel's response to Iran's Oct. 1 attack, but in mid-October the Biden administration won assurances from Israel that it would not hit such targets, which would be a more severe escalation.

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"The regime in Iran and its proxies in the region have been relentlessly attacking Israel since Oct. 7, ... including direct attacks from Iranian soil," Israeli military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said in a prerecorded video statement early Saturday. "Like every other sovereign country in the world, the state of Israel has the right and the duty to respond."

Iran's military said the strikes targeted military bases in Ilam, Khuzestan and Tehran provinces and caused "limited damage," without elaborating.

The United States warned against further retaliation, indicating that the overnight strikes should end the direct exchange of fire between the Israel and Iran.

Israel's military said explosions have been heard over northern Israel following its activity in southern Lebanon, but there "is no indication of a security incident."

### Iran downplays Israel's attack

Iran's state-run media acknowledged blasts that could be heard in Tehran and said some of the sounds came from air defense systems around the city.

But beyond a brief reference, Iranian state television for hours offered no other details and even began showing what it described as live footage of men loading trucks at a vegetable market in Tehran in an apparent attempt to downplay the assault.

A Tehran resident told The Associated Press that at least seven explosions could be heard in the first wave of attacks, which rattled the surrounding area. The resident spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

As explosions sounded, people in Tehran could see what appeared to be tracer fire light up the sky. Other footage showed what appeared to be surface-to-air missiles being launched.

Iran closed the country's airspace early Saturday, and flight-tracking data analyzed by AP showed commercial airlines had broadly left the skies over Iran, and across Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

Iran's move to quickly downplay the attack may offer an avenue for it not to respond, which could risk a further escalation.

"The Israel Defense Forces has fulfilled its mission," Hagari said in a later video. "If the regime in Iran were to make the mistake of beginning a new round of escalation, we will be obligated to respond."

### Israel's assault was a response to Iranian attacks

Iran fired a wave of missiles and drones at Israel in April after two Iranian generals were killed in an apparent Israeli airstrike in Syria on an Iranian diplomatic post. The missiles and drones caused minimum damage, and Israel — under pressure from Western countries to show restraint — responded with a limited strike it didn't openly claim.

Iran launched at least 180 missiles into Israel on the evening of Oct. 1, sending Israelis scrambling into bomb shelters but causing only minimal damage and a few injuries. Iran said the barrage was retaliation for attacks in recent months that killed leaders of Hezbollah, Hamas and the Iranian military. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu immediately said Iran had "made a big mistake."

Before Iran's October attack, Israel had landed a series of devastating blows against Hezbollah, which has been firing rockets into Israel near-daily for over a year — ever since the deadly Hamas attack against Israel that sparked the war in Gaza.

Dozens were killed and thousands wounded in September when pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah exploded in two days of attacks attributed to Israel. A massive Israel airstrike the following week outside Beirut killed Hezbollah's longtime leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and several of his top commanders.

Israel then ratcheted up the pressure on Hezbollah by launching a ground invasion into southern Lebanon. More than a million Lebanese people have been displaced, and the death toll has risen sharply as airstrikes hit in and around Beirut.

Israel has said it will continue to strike Hezbollah until it is safe for Israeli citizens displaced from their homes near the Lebanon border to return. Hezbollah has vowed to keep firing rockets into Israel until there is a cease-fire in Gaza.

### The US warns against retaliation



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The White House indicated that Israel's strikes on Iran should end the direct exchange of fire between the two enemy countries, while warning Tehran of "consequences" should it respond.

A senior White House official said the administration believed the Israeli operation should "close out" the direct military exchange between Israel and Iran, and said other allies were in agreement.

United States President Joe Biden was updated throughout Israel's operation, the official said, while underscoring that the U.S. had no involvement in the attack.

The official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House, said the Israeli operation "was extensive, it was targeted, it was precise."

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke with his Israeli counterpart, Yoav Gallant, about Israel's strikes on military targets in Iran, Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said late Friday.

Austin reiterated that the U.S. was committed to its ally's security and that Israel has a right to defend itself, though Washington was determined to prevent the conflict from expanding, the Pentagon press secretary said in a statement.

Israel's strike is the latest in the Mideast wars

When Hamas and other militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, they killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took some 250 hostages into Gaza. In response, Israel launched a devastating air and ground offensive against Hamas, and Netanyahu has vowed to keep fighting until all of the hostages are freed. Some 100 remain and roughly a third are believed to be dead.

More than 42,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, according to local health officials, who don't delineate between civilians and combatants but say more than half of the dead are women and children.

Israel and Iran have been bitter foes since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Israel considers Iran to be its greatest threat, citing its leaders' calls for Israel's destruction, their support for anti-Israel militant groups and the country's nuclear program.

During their yearslong shadow war, a suspected Israeli assassination campaign has killed top Iranian nuclear scientists and Iranian nuclear installations have been hacked or sabotaged, all in mysterious attacks blamed on Israel.

Meanwhile, Iran has been blamed for a series of attacks on shipping in the Middle East in recent years, which later grew into the attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on shipping through the Red Sea corridor.

Since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, the shadow war has increasingly moved into the light.

## Harris and Beyoncé ignite a Houston rally with a double-barreled argument against Trump

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, COLLEEN LONG and NADIA LATHAN Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Kamala Harris and Beyoncé ignited a Houston rally with a double-barreled argument against Donald Trump on Friday, with the superstar telling the Democratic nominee's biggest crowd ever that it was "time to sing a new song" as Harris warned that her GOP opponent was dead set on further eroding women's rights.

The rally was set in reliably Republican Texas, to highlight the growing medical fallout from the state's strict abortion ban, but the message was intended to register in the political battleground states, where Harris is hoping that the aftereffects from the fall of Roe v. Wade will spur voters to turn out to support her quest for the presidency.

"For all the men and women in this room, and watching around the country, we need you," Beyoncé said in a rare political appearance. The megastar's speech was lofty, joyful and optimistic — a temper to the seriousness of the topic and of the message Harris was there to bring.

"I'm here as a mother, a mother who cares deeply about the world my children and all of our children live in," Beyoncé said. "A world where we have freedom to control our bodies, a world where we're not divided."

Harris came out to huge cheers. She told the crowd that Trump had erased half a century of hard-fought progress when he appointed the Supreme Court justices who overturned Roe and touched off a growing healthcare crisis.

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She listed off downstream effects she sees from various bans. Women who never intended to end a pregnancy are suffering devastating complications when they can't get care. They have fewer options, and fewer medical students are choosing to specialize in women's health.

"For anyone watching from another state, if you think you are protected from Trump abortion bans because you live in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Nevada, New York, California, or any state where voters or legislators have protected reproductive freedom, please know: No one is protected," Harris warned. "Because a Donald Trump national ban will outlaw abortion in every single state."

"All that to say, elections matter," she said.

Trump has been inconsistent in his message to voters on abortion and reproductive rights, though he's said he'd veto a national abortion ban. He has repeatedly shifted his stance and offered vague, contradictory and at times nonsensical answers to questions on an issue that has become a major vulnerability for Republicans in this year's election.

Trump was also in Texas Friday, where he predicted he'd break records for the number of people deported from the United States if he wins the election. He taped a podcast with Joe Rogan before heading to a rally in Traverse City, Michigan, where he took the stage three hours late.

Harris was joined at the rally by women who have nearly died from sepsis and other pregnancy complications because they were unable to get proper medical care. Some of them have already been out campaigning for Harris and others have told their harrowing tales in campaign ads that seek to show how the issue has ballooned into something far bigger than the right to end an unwanted pregnancy.

Since abortion was restricted in Texas, the state's infant death rate has increased, more babies have died of birth defects and maternal mortality has risen.

The crowd waited for hours, wearing flashing red, white and blue LED bracelets as "trust women" and "freedom" flashed on big screens between acts.

"Sometimes they forget about us because we're a Republican state," Rhonda Johnson, who has been living in Houston for 19 years, said. "But I'm glad she's here."

Reproductive rights, the economy and LGBTQ issues were key reasons for Yannick Djomatchoua in his decision to support Harris and wait in the hours-long line to see her. "It's very personal," he said, adding that he knew friends who had to make difficult decisions due to the state's abortion restrictions.

Harris' campaign has taken on Beyoncé's 2016 track "Freedom" as its anthem, and the message dovetails with the vice president's emphasis on reproductive freedom. Beyoncé was joined by her mother, Tina Knowles, and her former bandmate Kelly Rowland, who all spoke about Harris' historic candidacy and a dream of a more united nation.

"Our voices sing a chorus of unity," Beyoncé said. "They sing a song of dignity and opportunity — are y'all ready?"

Harris was also joined by country legend Willie Nelson, who sang some of his greatest hits, including "On the Road Again."

"Hey, how are y'all doing?" the 91-year-old Nelson asked the crowd. "Are we ready to say Madam President?"

Increasingly, in 14 states with strict abortion bans, women cannot get medical care until their condition has become life-threatening. In some states, doctors can face criminal charges if they provide medical care.

Democrats warn that a winnowing of rights and freedoms will only continue if Trump is elected. Republican lawmakers in states across the U.S. have been rejecting Democrats' efforts to protect or expand access to birth control, for example.

"In America, freedom is not to be given. It is not to be bestowed. It is ours. By right. And that includes the fundamental freedom of a woman to make decisions about her own body and not have the government telling her what to do," Harris said.

There is some evidence to suggest that abortion rights may drive women to the polls as it did during the 2022 midterm elections. Voters in seven states, including some conservative ones, have either protected abortion rights or defeated attempts to restrict them in statewide votes over the past two years.

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About 6 in 10 Americans think their state should generally allow a person to obtain a legal abortion if they don't want to be pregnant for any reason, according to a July poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Democrats also hope Harris' visit will give a boost to Rep. Colin Allred, who is making a longshot bid to unseat Republican Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. Allred said Friday that if you vote to overturn a woman's constitutional right, as Cruz did, then you should lose your job.

Texas encapsulates the post-Roe landscape. Its strict abortion ban prohibits physicians from performing abortions once cardiac activity is detected, which can happen as early as six weeks or before.

As a result, women are increasingly suffering worse medical care. That's in part because doctors cannot intervene unless a woman is facing a life-threatening condition, or to prevent "substantial impairment of major bodily function."

"Texas' abortion bans unleashed by Donald Trump almost cost me my life and have left me with physical and emotional scars," said Ondrea Cummings, who lost her 16-week baby and nearly died from sepsis when she couldn't get care fast enough.

"I never thought I would have this type of personal experience. If it can happen to me, it can happen to anyone."

## Russian actors made fake video depicting mail-in ballots for Trump being destroyed, FBI says

By MELISSA GOLDIN, MIKE CATALINI and ALI SWENSON Associated Press  
YARDLEY, Pa. (AP) — Russian actors were behind a widely circulated video falsely depicting mail-in ballots for Donald Trump being destroyed in Pennsylvania, U.S. officials confirmed on Friday.

The video had taken off on social media Thursday but was debunked within three hours by local election officials and law enforcement after members of the public reported it.

U.S. officials said in a statement sent by the FBI that they believe the video was "manufactured and amplified" by Russian actors. The officials said it's part of "Moscow's broader effort to raise unfounded questions about the integrity of the U.S. election and stoke divisions among Americans."

The information was released by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

The Bucks County Board of Elections had identified the video as fake on Thursday, saying the envelope and other materials in the video "are clearly not authentic materials belonging to or distributed by" the board.

The quick knockdown of the staged video showed how election officials have learned to move swiftly to counter false narratives over the last four years, ever since a large swath of American voters became distrustful in the voting process in 2020. Yet the video's detailed mimicking of ballots in a key county in this year's presidential race was a wake-up call that demonstrated how committed foreign actors are to undermining faith in the U.S. voting process in the critical stretch before voting concludes.

The video showed a person sorting through what looked like mail ballots labeled as coming from Bucks County. The person, who was Black, appeared to be tearing up ballots marked for Trump, and leaving alone ballots marked for Vice President Kamala Harris.

Researchers who closely study Russian foreign influence campaigns had previously connected the video to a Russian disinformation network known as Storm-1516 or CopyCop. The network has previously shared numerous videos with false claims about Harris and her running mate, Tim Walz.

Darren Linvill, the co-director of the Media Forensics Hub at Clemson University, who closely studies the group, said the user who popularized the Bucks County video on the social platform X had been an early amplifier of several other narratives from this network, including the first one his team ever tracked, in August 2023.

The style and appearance of the latest video matches other videos from the network too, Linvill said.

The video used a Black actor with a foreign accent — a choice that may be intentional as a way to inflame



existing divisions on American soil, according to Josephine Lukito, an assistant professor of journalism at the University of Texas at Austin who has researched Russian disinformation.

It's a common strategy in fake videos originating in Russia, she said.

"It tends to amplify racism, right?" Lukito said. "There's already this kind of groundswell of discussion about immigrants that are illegally voting or immigration broadly. Russian disinformation absolutely exploits that."

After the video had been debunked, the X user who popularized it deleted their original post and shared multiple posts from other accounts decrying it as fake.

America PAC, a super political action committee launched by billionaire X owner Elon Musk to support Trump in his bid for a second term, was among those denouncing the video — a stark contrast to the misinformation that frequently spreads on X, often spurred by Musk himself. The PAC declined a request for further comment.

There were multiple clues that immediately indicated the Bucks County video was fabricated. For example, under Pennsylvania law, election officials must wait until 7 a.m. ET on Election Day before they can begin to process ballots cast by mail and prepare them to be counted.

Other tip-offs included the dark green color on the left side of the outer envelopes — it is actually more of a kelly green — and the glossiness of the inner and outer envelopes, which in reality have a matte finish. Plus, none of the envelopes in the video had voters' return addresses written on them.

Citizen complaints from across Bucks County and a call from the Yardley Borough police chief alerted District Attorney Jennifer Schorn that the video was circulating online. Schorn was in a pretrial conference Thursday and when she emerged she saw the calls about the video pouring in.

"Immediately at that point, we began investigating the video and made our ultimate conclusion that it was, in fact, fabricated," she said in a phone interview Friday.

Schorn was reluctant to describe how authorities reached their conclusion, citing concerns that subsequent fraudsters could improve their tactics. She said her office has assigned two attorneys to screen allegations of fraud and that they'll be on "24/7" on Election Day.

Both Republicans and Democrats in the county called the video out as bogus and expressed concern about how it could affect the election.

"To us, this is disinformation, aimed at scaring voters and dissuading them from using mail-in ballots or on-demand voting that uses the same mail-in ballot process," the Bucks County Republican Committee wrote in a statement. "We have seen dirty underhanded tactics this year, from the defacing of signs, letters threatening Trump supporters, and now this video trying to scare Bucks County voters."

Pennsylvania Sen. Steve Santarsiero, chair of the Bucks County Democratic Committee, called the video an attempt to "cast doubt on our vote by mail system and, ultimately, the outcome of the Presidential Election" in a statement.

Officials said they were heartened by the speed with which this disinformation and some other harmful falsehoods have been caught during this election cycle.

"I don't at all blame Americans for wanting to be reassured that the system can be trusted," Schorn said. "I don't blame that because, sadly, you know, there are criminal entities out there that do undermine processes. I felt reassured yesterday. I felt like it worked the way it was supposed to."

## **AI-generated child sexual abuse images are spreading. Law enforcement is racing to stop them**

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A child psychiatrist who altered a first-day-of-school photo he saw on Facebook to make a group of girls appear nude. A U.S. Army soldier accused of creating images depicting children he knew being sexually abused. A software engineer charged with generating hyper-realistic sexually explicit images of children.

Law enforcement agencies across the U.S. are cracking down on a troubling spread of child sexual abuse

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imagery created through artificial intelligence technology — from manipulated photos of real children to graphic depictions of computer-generated kids. Justice Department officials say they're aggressively going after offenders who exploit AI tools, while states are racing to ensure people generating "deepfakes" and other harmful imagery of kids can be prosecuted under their laws.

"We've got to signal early and often that it is a crime, that it will be investigated and prosecuted when the evidence supports it," Steven Grocki, who leads the Justice Department's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "And if you're sitting there thinking otherwise, you fundamentally are wrong. And it's only a matter of time before somebody holds you accountable."

The Justice Department says existing federal laws clearly apply to such content, and recently brought what's believed to be the first federal case involving purely AI-generated imagery — meaning the children depicted are not real but virtual. In another case, federal authorities in August arrested a U.S. soldier stationed in Alaska accused of running innocent pictures of real children he knew through an AI chatbot to make the images sexually explicit.

Trying to catch up to technology

The prosecutions come as child advocates are urgently working to curb the misuse of technology to prevent a flood of disturbing images officials fear could make it harder to rescue real victims. Law enforcement officials worry investigators will waste time and resources trying to identify and track down exploited children who don't really exist.

Lawmakers, meanwhile, are passing a flurry of legislation to ensure local prosecutors can bring charges under state laws for AI-generated "deepfakes" and other sexually explicit images of kids. Governors in more than a dozen states have signed laws this year cracking down on digitally created or altered child sexual abuse imagery, according to a review by The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

"We're playing catch-up as law enforcement to a technology that, frankly, is moving far faster than we are," said Ventura County, California District Attorney Erik Nasarenko.

Nasarenko pushed legislation signed last month by Gov. Gavin Newsom which makes clear that AI-generated child sexual abuse material is illegal under California law. Nasarenko said his office could not prosecute eight cases involving AI-generated content between last December and mid-September because California's law had required prosecutors to prove the imagery depicted a real child.

AI-generated child sexual abuse images can be used to groom children, law enforcement officials say. And even if they aren't physically abused, kids can be deeply impacted when their image is morphed to appear sexually explicit.

"I felt like a part of me had been taken away. Even though I was not physically violated," said 17-year-old Kaylin Hayman, who starred on the Disney Channel show "Just Roll with It" and helped push the California bill after she became a victim of "deepfake" imagery.

Hayman testified last year at the federal trial of the man who digitally superimposed her face and those of other child actors onto bodies performing sex acts. He was sentenced in May to more than 14 years in prison.

Open-source AI-models that users can download on their computers are known to be favored by offenders, who can further train or modify the tools to churn out explicit depictions of children, experts say. Abusers trade tips in dark web communities about how to manipulate AI tools to create such content, officials say.

A report last year by the Stanford Internet Observatory found that a research dataset that was the source for leading AI image-makers such as Stable Diffusion contained links to sexually explicit images of kids, contributing to the ease with which some tools have been able to produce harmful imagery. The dataset was taken down, and researchers later said they deleted more than 2,000 weblinks to suspected child sexual abuse imagery from it.

Top technology companies, including Google, OpenAI and Stability AI, have agreed to work with anti-child sexual abuse organization Thorn to combat the spread of child sexual abuse images.

But experts say more should have been done at the outset to prevent misuse before the technology

became widely available. And steps companies are taking now to make it harder to abuse future versions of AI tools “will do little to prevent” offenders from running older versions of models on their computer “without detection,” a Justice Department prosecutor noted in recent court papers.

“Time was not spent on making the products safe, as opposed to efficient, and it’s very hard to do after the fact — as we’ve seen,” said David Thiel, the Stanford Internet Observatory’s chief technologist.

AI images get more realistic

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children’s CyberTipline last year received about 4,700 reports of content involving AI technology — a small fraction of the more than 36 million total reports of suspected child sexual exploitation. By October of this year, the group was fielding about 450 reports per month of AI-involved content, said Yiota Souras, the group’s chief legal officer.

Those numbers may be an undercount, however, as the images are so realistic it’s often difficult to tell whether they were AI-generated, experts say.

“Investigators are spending hours just trying to determine if an image actually depicts a real minor or if it’s AI-generated,” said Rikole Kelly, deputy Ventura County district attorney, who helped write the California bill. “It used to be that there were some really clear indicators ... with the advances in AI technology, that’s just not the case anymore.”

Justice Department officials say they already have the tools under federal law to go after offenders for such imagery.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2002 struck down a federal ban on virtual child sexual abuse material. But a federal law signed the following year bans the production of visual depictions, including drawings, of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct that are deemed “obscene.” That law, which the Justice Department says has been used in the past to charge cartoon imagery of child sexual abuse, specifically notes there’s no requirement “that the minor depicted actually exist.”

The Justice Department brought that charge in May against a Wisconsin software engineer accused of using AI tool Stable Diffusion to create photorealistic images of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and was caught after he sent some to a 15-year-old boy through a direct message on Instagram, authorities say. The man’s lawyer, who is pushing to dismiss the charges on First Amendment grounds, declined further comment on the allegations in an email to the AP.

A spokesperson for Stability AI said that man is accused of using an earlier version of the tool that was released by another company, Runway ML. Stability AI says that it has “invested in proactive features to prevent the misuse of AI for the production of harmful content” since taking over the exclusive development of the models. A spokesperson for Runway ML didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment from the AP.

In cases involving “deepfakes,” when a real child’s photo has been digitally altered to make them sexually explicit, the Justice Department is bringing charges under the federal “child pornography” law. In one case, a North Carolina child psychiatrist who used an AI application to digitally “undress” girls posing on the first day of school in a decades-old photo shared on Facebook was convicted of federal charges last year.

“These laws exist. They will be used. We have the will. We have the resources,” Grocki said. “This is not going to be a low priority that we ignore because there’s not an actual child involved.”

## Former Abercrombie & Fitch CEO pleads not guilty to sex trafficking and prostitution charges

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. (AP) — The former longtime CEO of Abercrombie & Fitch pleaded not guilty Friday to federal sex trafficking and interstate prostitution charges.

Michael Jeffries, 80, declined to comment after his lawyer entered the plea on his behalf in federal court in Central Islip, on Long Island. He is free on a \$10 million bond and is due back in court Dec. 12.

“Today’s hearing was procedural in nature, bond has been set to ensure Michael’s appearance in Court, and of course we entered a plea of not guilty,” Brian Bieber, his attorney, said in an email afterward, de-



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clining to comment on the allegations.

Prosecutors allege that for years, Jeffries, his romantic partner and a third man, 71-year-old James Jacobson, lured men into taking part in sex parties by dangling the promise of modeling for the clothing retailer, once famous for its preppy, All-American aesthetic and marketing with shirtless male models.

Jacobson, who was an employee of Jeffries when prosecutors say the crimes occurred, also pleaded not guilty and declined to speak to reporters afterward. He's free on a \$500,000 bond.

In charges announced earlier this week, prosecutors say 15 accusers were induced by "force, fraud and coercion" to engage in drug-fueled sex parties in which the men were sometimes directed to wear costumes, use sex toys and endure painful erection-inducing penile injections.

The events took place between 2008 and 2015 in New York City and the Hamptons, the wealthy summertime resort on Long Island where Jeffries has a home, as well as at hotels in England, France, Italy, Morocco and St. Barts, according to the indictment.

The allegations echo sexual misconduct accusations described in media reports and made in a civil case against Jeffries, who left Abercrombie in 2014 after leading the company for more than two decades.

Jeffries initially appeared Tuesday in federal court in West Palm Beach, Florida where he was arrested with his partner, 61-year-old Matthew Smith.

But while Jeffries was released on bond, Smith was ordered detained after prosecutors raised concerns that the dual American and British citizen might flee the country. No date has been set for Smith's arraignment.

Jacobson, who prosecutors say recruited men for the sex parties, was arrested in Wisconsin and made his initial appearance in federal court in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Jeffries took over as CEO of Abercrombie in 1992, presiding over the evolution of the company from its roots as a hunting and outdoor goods store founded in Manhattan in 1892 to a fixture of teen mall culture during the early 2000s.

Abercrombie, in a statement posted on Instagram after the arrests, said it was "appalled and disgusted" by the allegations.

The Ohio-based company, which also owns the clothing brand Hollister, said it has "transformed" its brands and culture in the decade since Jeffries departed.

Abercrombie stopped using "sexualized" photos in marketing materials and ended the practice of calling store staffers "models." It hired an outside law firm last year to conduct an independent investigation into similar allegations against Jeffries.

"Speaking up and coming forward is not easy, and our thoughts remain with those who have bravely raised their voices as part of the federal investigation," the company wrote in its statement Wednesday. "We have zero tolerance for abuse, harassment or discrimination of any kind, and are committed to fully cooperating with law enforcement as the legal process continues."

## Washington Post becomes second major US newspaper this week to not endorse a presidential candidate

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

Less than two weeks before Election Day, The Washington Post said Friday it would not endorse a candidate for president in this year's tightly contested race and would avoid doing so in the future — a decision immediately condemned by a former executive editor but one that the current publisher insisted was "consistent with the values the Post has always stood for."

In an article posted on the front of its website, the Post — reporting on its own inner workings — also quoted unidentified sources within the publication as saying that an endorsement of Kamala Harris over Donald Trump had been written but not published. Those sources told the Post reporters that the company's owner, billionaire Jeff Bezos, made the decision.

The Post's publisher, Will Lewis, wrote in a column that the decision was actually a return to a tradition the paper had years ago of not endorsing candidates. He said it reflected the paper's faith in "our readers'

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ability to make up their own minds.”

“We recognize that this will be read in a range of ways, including as a tacit endorsement of one candidate, or as a condemnation of another, or as an abdication of responsibility. That is inevitable,” Lewis wrote. “We don’t see it that way. We see it as consistent with the values the Post has always stood for and what we hope for in a leader: character and courage in service to the American ethic, veneration for the rule of law, and respect for human freedom in all its aspects.”

There was no immediate reaction from either campaign.

The Post isn’t the only one going this route

Lewis cited the Post’s history in writing about the decision. According to him, the Post only started regularly endorsing candidates for president when it backed Jimmy Carter in 1976.

The Post said the decision had “roiled” many on the opinion staff, which operates independently from the Post’s newsroom staff — what is known commonly in the industry as a “church-state separation” between those who report the news and those who write opinion.

The Post’s move comes the same week that the Los Angeles Times announced a similar decision, which triggered the resignations of its editorial page editor and two other members of the editorial board. In that instance, the Times’ owner, Patrick Soon-Shiong, insisted he had not censored the editorial board, which had planned to endorse Harris.

“As an owner, I’m on the editorial board and I shared with our editors that maybe this year we have a column, a page, two pages, if we want, of all the pros and all the cons and let the readers decide,” Soon-Shiong said in an interview Thursday with Spectrum News. He said he feared endorsing a candidate would add to the country’s division.

In August, the newly rebranded Minnesota Star Tribune also announced it would no longer endorse candidates. The paper is owned by billionaire Glen Taylor, who also owns the Minnesota Timberwolves. Its publisher is Steve Grove, who was economic development commissioner in the administration of Gov. Tim Walz — Harris’ running mate.

Many American newspapers have been dropping editorial endorsements in recent years. That is in large part because at a time readership has been dwindling, they don’t want to give remaining subscribers and news consumers a reason to get mad and cancel their subscriptions.

Martin Baron, the Post’s executive editor from 2012 to 2021, was in charge of its newsroom in 2013 when Bezos bought the paper. Baron immediately condemned the decision on X Friday, saying it empowers Trump to further intimidate Bezos and others. “This is cowardice, with democracy as its casualty,” he wrote. “Disturbing spinelessness at an institution famed for courage.”

It comes at a time when newspapers are struggling

The decisions come at a fraught time for American media, newspapers in particular. Local news is drying up in many places. And after being upended by the economics of the internet and drastically evolving reader habits, the top “legacy media” — including the Post, The New York Times and others — have been struggling to keep up with a changing landscape.

Nowhere is this more true, perhaps, than in the political arena. The candidates this year have been rejecting some mainstream interviews in favor of podcasts and other niche programming, and many news organizations are vigorously ramping up to combat misinformation in near-real time on Election Day, Nov. 5.

Trump, who for years called the media covering him “the enemy of the people,” has returned to such rhetoric in recent days. His vitriol in particular is aimed at CBS, whose broadcast license he has threatened to revoke.

On Thursday, at a rally in Arizona, he returned to the language explicitly once more.

“They’re the enemy of the people. They are,” Trump said to a jeering crowd. “I’ve been asked not to say that. I don’t want to say it. And some day they’re not going to be the enemy of the people, I hope.”

The Post endorsed Trump’s Democratic rivals in 2016 and 2020, and Trump has often denounced critical coverage by the paper. On Friday, after Trump spoke in Austin, he greeted executives from Blue Origin, Bezos’ space exploration company. Trump spoke briefly with Blue Origin’s CEO and vice president of gov-

ernment relations. Some critics have publicly speculated that Bezos wants to avoid antagonizing Trump. For the Post, the decision is certain to generate debate beyond the news cycle. It seemed to acknowledge this with a note from the paper's letters and community editor at the top of the comments section on the publisher's column: "I know many of you will have strong feelings about this note from Mr. Lewis." Indeed, by midafternoon, the column had elicited more than 7,000 comments, many critical. Said one, riffing off the Post's slogan, "Democracy Dies in Darkness": "Time to change your slogan to 'Democracy dies in broad daylight.'"

## At least 75 people are sickened as the deadly McDonald's E. coli outbreak expands

By JONEL ALECCIA AP Health Writer

A deadly outbreak of E. coli poisoning tied to McDonald's Quarter Pounders has expanded, with at least 75 people sick in 13 states, federal health officials said Friday.

A total of 22 people have now been hospitalized, and two have developed a dangerous kidney disease complication, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. One person has died in Colorado.

No definitive source of the outbreak has been identified, officials with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said. Early information analyzed by the FDA showed that uncooked slivered onions used on the burgers "are a likely source of contamination," the agency said.

McDonald's has confirmed that Taylor Farms, a California-based produce company, was the supplier of the fresh onions used in the restaurants involved in the outbreak, and that they had come from a facility in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"We have made the decision to stop sourcing onions from Taylor Farms' Colorado Springs facility indefinitely," McDonald's said in a statement released late Friday.

Taylor Farms said Friday it had preemptively recalled yellow onions sent to its customers from its Colorado facility and continues to work with the CDC and the FDA as they investigate.

"It saddens us to see the illnesses and affected individuals and families," from the outbreak, the family-owned company said.

McDonald's pulled the Quarter Pounder burger from menus in several states — mostly in the Midwest and Mountain states — when the outbreak was announced Tuesday. McDonald's said Friday that slivered onions from the Colorado Springs facility were distributed to approximately 900 of its restaurants, including some in transportation hubs like airports.

The new cases reported Friday were a sharp increase from the original tally of 49 in 10 states. Most illnesses were reported in Colorado, with 26 cases. At least 13 people were sickened in Montana, 11 in Nebraska, 5 each in New Mexico and Utah, 4 each in Missouri and Wyoming, two in Michigan and one each in Iowa, Kansas, Oregon, Wisconsin and Washington, the CDC reported.

McDonald's said Friday it didn't pull the Quarter Pounder from any additional restaurants due to the increase in the CDC's illness count. The company noted that some cases in states outside the original region were tied to travel.

The CDC said some people who got sick reported traveling to other states before their symptoms started. At least three people said they ate at McDonald's during their travel. Illnesses were reported between Sept. 27 and Oct. 11.

Taylor Farms notified its customers directly about the onion recall but did not tell the public about it, an FDA official said. Companies often issue press releases and the FDA sends public notifications for recalls, but they are not required.

While it remains unclear if the recalled onions were the source of the outbreak, several other fast-food restaurants — including Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, KFC and Burger King — pulled onions from some menus in certain areas this week.

Restaurant Brands International, which owns Burger King, said that 5% of its restaurants use whole onions distributed by Taylor Farms' Colorado facility. They are washed, peeled and sliced by employees.



Even though it wasn't contacted by health officials and it had no indications of illness, Restaurant Brands said it asked the restaurants that received onions from the Colorado facility to get rid of them.

The outbreak involves infections with E. coli 0157:H7, a type of bacteria that produces a dangerous toxin. It causes about 74,000 infections in the U.S. annually, leading to more than 2,000 hospitalizations and 61 deaths each year, according to CDC.

People sickened in the outbreak have already moved to sue McDonald's, according to court records. According to her lawsuit, Clarissa DeBock ate food from a local McDonald's in Nebraska on Sept. 18, fell ill on Sept. 23 and sought emergency care two days later before she was diagnosed with an E. coli infection.

Symptoms of E. coli poisoning can occur quickly, within a day or two of eating contaminated food. They typically include fever, vomiting, diarrhea or bloody diarrhea and signs of dehydration — little or no peeing, increased thirst and dizziness. The infection is especially dangerous for children younger than 5, people who are elderly, pregnant or who have weakened immune systems.

## **AP sources: Chinese hackers targeted phones of Trump, Vance, people associated with Harris campaign**

By ERIC TUCKER, ZEKE MILLER and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chinese hackers engaged in a broader espionage operation targeted cellphones used by Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, his running mate, JD Vance, and people associated with the Democratic campaign of Kamala Harris, people familiar with the matter said Friday.

It was not immediately clear what data, if any, may have been accessed. U.S. officials are continuing to investigate, according to the people, who were not authorized to publicly discuss the ongoing inquiry and spoke on the condition of anonymity to The Associated Press.

An FBI statement did not confirm the identities of any of the potential targets but said it was investigating "unauthorized access to commercial telecommunications infrastructure by actors affiliated with the People's Republic of China."

"Agencies across the U.S. Government are collaborating to aggressively mitigate this threat and are coordinating with our industry partners to strengthen cyber defenses across the commercial communications sector," the FBI said.

U.S. officials believe the campaigns were among numerous targets of a larger cyberespionage operation launched by China, the people said. It was not immediately clear what information China may have hoped to glean, though Beijing has for years engaged in vast hacking campaigns aimed at collecting the private data of Americans and government workers, spying on technology and corporate secrets from major American companies and targeting U.S. infrastructure.

News that high-profile political candidates and their campaigns were targeted comes as U.S. officials remain on high alert for foreign interference in the final stretch of the presidential campaign. Iranian hackers have been blamed for targeting Trump campaign officials and the Justice Department has exposed vast disinformation campaigns orchestrated by Russia, which is said to favor Trump over Harris.

China, by contrast, is believed by U.S. intelligence officials to be taking a neutral stance in the race and is instead focused on down-ballot races, targeting candidates from both parties based on their stance on issues of key importance to Beijing, including support for Taiwan.

The New York Times first reported that Trump and Vance had been targeted and said the campaign was advised of the development this week. Three people confirmed the news to the AP, including one who said that people associated with the Harris campaign were also targeted.

A spokesperson for the Chinese embassy in Washington said Friday that they were not familiar with the specifics and could not comment, but contended that China is routinely victimized by cyberattacks and opposes the activity.

"The presidential elections are the United States' domestic affairs. China has no intention and will not interfere in the U.S. election. We hope that the U.S. side will not make accusations against China in the election," the statement said.

Trump campaign spokesman Steven Cheung did not offer any details about the Chinese operation but issued a statement accusing the Harris campaign of having emboldened foreign adversaries, including China and Iran. Trump did not respond to shouted questions about whether his phone had been hacked by China as he departed an event in Texas.

The FBI has repeatedly warned over the last year about Chinese hacking operations, with Director Chris Wray telling Congress in January that investigators had disrupted a state-sponsored group known as Volt Typhoon. That operation disrupted a botnet of hundreds of U.S.-based small office and home routers owned by private citizens and companies. Their ultimate targets included water treatment plants, the electrical grid and transportation systems across the U.S, with Wray warning that Beijing was positioning itself to disrupt the daily lives of Americans if the United States and China ever go to war.

Last month, Wray said that the FBI had interrupted a separate Chinese government campaign, called Typhoon Flax, that targeted universities, government agencies and other organizations and that installed malicious software on more than 200,000 consumer devices, including cameras, video recorders and home and office routers.

The Wall Street Journal reported this month that Chinese hackers had burrowed inside the networks of U.S. broadband providers and had potentially accessed systems that law enforcement officials use for wiretapping requests.

## **Phil Lesh, founding member of Grateful Dead and influential bassist, dies at 84**

By JOHN ROGERS Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Phil Lesh, a classically trained violinist and jazz trumpeter who found his true calling reinventing the role of rock bass guitar as a founding member of the Grateful Dead, died Friday at age 84.

Lesh's death was announced on his Instagram account. Lesh was the oldest and one of the longest surviving members of the band that came to define the acid rock sound emanating from San Francisco in the 1960s.

"Phil Lesh, bassist and founding member of The Grateful Dead, passed peacefully this morning. He was surrounded by his family and full of love. Phil brought immense joy to everyone around him and leaves behind a legacy of music and love," the Instagram statement reads in part.

The statement did not cite a specific cause of death and attempts to reach representatives for additional details were not immediately successful. Lesh had previously survived bouts of prostate cancer, bladder cancer and a 1998 liver transplant necessitated by the debilitating effects of a hepatitis C infection and years of heavy drinking.

Lesh's death comes two days after MusiCares named the Grateful Dead its Persons of the Year. MusiCares, which helps music professionals needing financial or other kinds of assistance, cited Lesh's Unbroken Chain Foundation among other philanthropic initiatives. The Dead will be honored in January at a benefit gala ahead of the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Although he kept a relatively low public profile, rarely granting interviews or speaking to the audience, fans and fellow band members recognized Lesh as a critical member of the Grateful Dead whose thundering lines on the six-string electric bass provided a brilliant counterpoint to lead guitarist Jerry Garcia's soaring solos and anchored the band's famous marathon jams.

"When Phil's happening the band's happening," Garcia once said.

Drummer Mickey Hart called him the group's intellectual who brought a classical composer's mindset and skills to a five-chord rock 'n' roll band.

Lesh credited Garcia with teaching him to play the bass in the unorthodox lead-guitar style that he would become famous for, mixing thundering arpeggios with snippets of spontaneously composed orchestral passages.

Fellow bass player Rob Wasserman once said Lesh's style set him apart from every other bassist he knew

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of. While most others were content to keep time and take the occasional solo, Wasserman said Lesh was both good enough and confident enough to lead his fellow musicians through a song's melody.

"He happens to play bass but he's more like a horn player, doing all those arpeggios — and he has that counterpoint going all the time," he said.

Lesh began his long musical odyssey as a classically trained violinist, starting with lessons in third grade. He took up the trumpet at 14, eventually earning the second chair in California's Oakland Symphony Orchestra while still in his teens.

But he had largely put both instruments aside and was driving a mail truck and working as a sound engineer for a small radio station in 1965 when Garcia recruited him to play bass in a fledgling rock band called The Warlocks.

When Lesh told Garcia he didn't play the bass, the musician asked, "Didn't you used to play violin?" When he said yes, Garcia told him, "There you go, man."

Armed with a cheap four-string instrument his girlfriend bought him, Lesh sat down for a seven-hour lesson with Garcia, following the latter's advice that he tune his instrument's strings an octave lower than the four bottom strings on Garcia's guitar. Then Garcia turned him loose, allowing Lesh to develop the spontaneous style of playing that he would embrace for the rest of his life.

Lesh and Garcia would frequently exchange leads, often spontaneously, while the band as a whole would frequently break into long experimental, jazz-influenced jams during concerts. The result was that even well-known Grateful Dead songs like "Truckin'" or "Sugar Magnolia" rarely sounded the same two performances in a row, something that would inspire loyal fans to attend show after show.

"It's always fluid, we just pretty much figure it out on the fly," Lesh said, chuckling, during a rare 2009 interview with The Associated Press. "You can't set those things in stone in the rehearsal room."

Phillip Chapman Lesh was born on March 15, 1940, in Berkeley, California, the only child of Frank Lesh, an office equipment repairman, and his wife, Barbara.

He would say in later years that his love of music came from listening to broadcasts of the New York Philharmonic on his grandmother's radio. One of his earliest memories was hearing the great German composer Bruno Walter lead that orchestra through Brahms' First Symphony.

Musical influences he often cited were not rock musicians but composers like Bach and Edgard Varèse, as well as jazz greats like John Coltrane and Miles Davis.

Lesh had gravitated from classical music to cool jazz by the time he arrived at the College of San Mateo, eventually becoming first trumpet player in the school's big band and a composer of several orchestral pieces the group performed.

But he set the trumpet aside after college, concluding he didn't have the lung power to become an elite player.

Soon after he took up the bass, The Warlocks renamed themselves the Grateful Dead and Lesh began captivating audiences with his dexterity. Crowds gathered in what came to be known as "The Phil Zone" directly in front of his position onstage.

Although he was never a prolific songwriter, Lesh also composed music for, and sometimes sang, some of the band's most beloved songs. Among them were the upbeat country rocker "Pride of Cucamonga," the jazz-influenced "Unbroken Chain" and the ethereally beautiful "Box of Rain."

Lesh composed the latter on guitar as a gift for his dying father, and he recalled that Grateful Dead lyricist Robert Hunter, upon hearing the instrumental recording, approached him the next day with a lyric sheet. On that sheet, he said, were "some of the most moving and heartfelt lyrics I've ever had the good fortune to sing."

The band often closed its concerts with the song.

After the group's dissolution following Garcia's 1995 death, Lesh often skipped joining the other surviving members when they got together to perform.

He did take part in a 2009 Grateful Dead tour and again in 2015 for a handful of "Fare Thee Well" concerts marking both the band's 50th anniversary and what Lesh said would be the last time he would play



with the others.

He did continue to play frequently, however, with a rotating cast of musicians he called Phil Lesh and Friends.

In later years he usually held those performances at Terrapin Crossroads, a restaurant and nightclub he opened near his Northern California home in 2012, which was named after the Grateful Dead song and album "Terrapin Station."

Lesh is survived by his wife, Jill, and sons Brian and Grahame.

## **Biden visits Indian Country and apologizes for the 'sin' of a 150-year boarding school policy**

By AAMER MADHANI and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

LAVEEN VILLAGE, Ariz. (AP) — President Joe Biden on Friday formally apologized to Native Americans for the "sin" of a government-run boarding school system that for decades forcibly separated children from their parents, calling it a "blot on American history" in his first presidential visit to Indian Country.

"It's a sin on our soul," said Biden, his voice full of anger and emotion. "Quite frankly, there's no excuse that this apology took 50 years to make."

It was a moment of both contrition and frustration as the president sought to recognize one of the "most horrific chapters" in the national story. Biden spoke of the abuses and deaths of Native children that resulted from the federal government's policies, noting that "while darkness can hide much, it erases nothing" and that great nations "must know the good, the bad, the truth of who we are."

"I formally apologize as president of United States of America for what we did," Biden said. The government's removal of children from their Native American community for boarding schools "will always be a significant mark of shame, a blot on American history. For too long, this all happened with virtually no public attention, not written about in our history books, not taught in our schools."

Democrats hope Biden's visit to the Gila River Indian Community's land on the outskirts of Phoenix's metro area will also provide a boost to Vice President Kamala Harris' turnout effort in a key battleground state. The moment gave Biden a fuller chance to spotlight his and Harris' support for tribal nations, a group that historically has favored Democrats, in a state he won just by 10,000 votes in 2020.

The race between Harris and former President Donald Trump is expected to be similarly close, and both campaigns are doing whatever they can to improve turnout among bedrock supporters.

"The race is now a turnout grab," said Mike O'Neil, a non-partisan pollster based in Arizona. "The trend-lines throughout have been remarkably steady. The question is which candidate is going to be able to turn out their voters in a race that seems to be destined to be decided by narrow margins."

Biden has been used sparingly on the campaign trail by Harris and other Democrats since he ended his reelection campaign in July.

But analysts say Biden could help Harris in her appeal with Native American voters — a group that has trailed others in turnout rates.

In 2020, there was a surge in voter turnout on some tribal land in Arizona as Biden beat Trump and became the first Democratic presidential candidate to win the state since Bill Clinton in 1996.

Biden, whose presidency is winding down, had promised tribal leaders nearly two years ago that he would visit Indian Country.

For decades, federal boarding schools were used to assimilate children into white society, according to the White House. Not everyone saw the apology as sufficient.

"An apology is a nice start, but it is not a true reckoning, nor is it a sufficient remedy for the long history of colonial violence," said Chase Iron Eyes, director of the Lakota People's Law Project and Sacred Defense Fund.

At least 973 Native American children died in the U.S. government's abusive boarding school system over a 150-year period that ended in 1969, according to an Interior Department investigation that called for a U.S. government apology.

At least 18,000 children, some as young as 4, were taken from their parents and forced to attend schools that sought to assimilate them.

"President Biden deserves credit for finally putting attention on the issue and other issues impacting the community," said Ramona Charette Klein, 77, a boarding school survivor and an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. "I do think that will reflect well on Vice President Harris, and I hope this momentum will continue."

Democrats have stepped up outreach to Native American communities.

Both Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, met with tribal leaders in Arizona and Nevada this month. And Clinton, who has been serving as a surrogate for Harris, last week met in North Carolina with the chairman of the Lumbee Tribe.

The Democratic National Committee recently launched a six-figure ad campaign targeting Native American voters in Arizona, North Carolina, Montana and Alaska through digital, print and radio ads.

Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego, who is locked in a competitive race with Republican Kari Lake for Arizona's open Senate seat, has visited all 22 of Arizona's federally recognized tribes.

Harris started a recent campaign rally in Chandler, near where the Gila River reservation is located, with a shoutout to the tribe's leader. Walz is scheduled to go to the Navajo Nation in Arizona on Saturday.

The White House says Biden and Harris have built a substantial track record with Native Americans over the last four years.

The president designated the sacred Avi Kwa Ame, a desert mountain in Nevada and Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon in Arizona as national monuments and restored the boundaries for Bears Ears National Monument in Utah.

In addition, the administration has directed nearly \$46 billion in federal spending to tribal nations. The money has helped bring electricity to a reservation that never had electricity, expand access to high-speed internet, improve water sanitation, build roadways and more.

Biden picked former New Mexico Rep. Deb Haaland to serve as his Interior secretary, the first Native American to be appointed to a Cabinet position. Haaland is a member of Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico.

She, in turn, ordered the comprehensive review in June 2021 of the troubled legacy of the federal government's boarding school policies that led Biden to deliver the formal apology.

Thom Reilly, co-director of the Center for an Independent and Sustainable Democracy at Arizona State University, said both Harris' and Trump's campaigns — and their allies — have put a remarkable amount of effort into micro-targeting in Arizona.

"They are pulling out every stop just to see if they could wrangle a few more votes here and there," Reilly said. "The Indian community is one of those groups that Harris is hoping will overperform and help make the difference."

## **NASA astronaut remains in the hospital after returning from an extended stay in space**

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A NASA astronaut was taken to the hospital for an undisclosed medical issue after returning from a nearly eight-month space station stay extended by Boeing's capsule trouble and Hurricane Milton, the space agency said Friday.

A SpaceX capsule carrying three Americans and one Russian parachuted before dawn into the Gulf of Mexico just off the Florida coast after undocking from the International Space Station mid-week. The capsule was hoisted onto the recovery ship where the four astronauts had routine medical checks.

Soon after splashdown, a NASA astronaut had a "medical issue" and the crew was flown to a hospital in Pensacola, Florida, for additional evaluation "out of an abundance of caution" the space agency said in a statement.

The astronaut, who was not identified, was in stable condition and remained at the hospital as a "precautionary measure," NASA said.

The space agency said it would not share details about the astronaut's condition, citing patient privacy. The other three astronauts were discharged and returned to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. It can take days or even weeks for astronauts to readjust to gravity after living in weightlessness for several months.

The astronauts should have been back two months ago. But their homecoming was stalled by problems with Boeing's new Starliner astronaut capsule, which came back empty in September because of safety concerns. Then Hurricane Milton interfered, followed by another two weeks of high wind and rough seas.

SpaceX launched the four — NASA's Matthew Dominick, Michael Barratt and Jeanette Epps, and Russia's Alexander Grebenkin — in March. Barratt, the only space veteran going into the mission, acknowledged the support teams back home that had "to replan, retool and kind of redo everything right along with us ... and helped us to roll with all those punches."

Their replacements are the two Starliner test pilots Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, whose own mission went from eight days to eight months, and two astronauts launched by SpaceX four weeks ago. Those four will remain up there until February.

The space station is now back to its normal crew size of seven — four Americans and three Russians — after months of overflow.

## International court prosecutor who charged Netanyahu faces sexual misconduct accusation

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and MOLLY QUELL Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — As the International Criminal Court's top prosecutor sought war crimes charges this year against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over actions in Gaza, he was engulfed in a very different personal crisis playing out behind the scenes.

Karim Khan faced accusations that he tried for more than a year to coerce a female aide into a sexual relationship and groped her against her will. He's categorically denied the allegations, saying there was "no truth to suggestions of misconduct." Court officials have said they may have been made as part of an Israeli intelligence smear campaign.

Two co-workers in whom the woman confided at the ICC's headquarters at The Hague reported the alleged misconduct in early May to the court's independent watchdog, which says it interviewed the woman and ended its inquiry after five days when she opted against filing a formal complaint. Khan himself was never questioned.

But the matter may not be over.

While the woman declined to comment to The Associated Press, people close to her say her initial reluctance was driven by distrust of the in-house watchdog and she has asked the body of member-states that oversees the ICC to launch an external probe. An ICC official with knowledge of the matter who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity confirmed that the request remains under consideration.

Those efforts were applauded by those close to the woman, who still works at the court.

"This wasn't a one-time advance or an arm around the shoulder that could be subject to misinterpretation," one of the people told AP, speaking on condition of anonymity to shield the woman's identity. "It was a full-on, repeated pattern of conduct that was carried out over a long period of time."

While the court's watchdog could not determine wrongdoing, it nonetheless urged Khan in a memo to minimize contact with the woman to protect the rights of all involved and safeguard the court's integrity.

Within days of the watchdog's shelving of the case, the court's work went on. Khan on May 20 sought arrest warrants against Netanyahu, his defense minister and three Hamas leaders on war crimes charges. A three-judge panel is now weighing that request.

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration said it was blindsided by the move, with the president calling the prosecution "outrageous" for implying an equivalence between Israel and Hamas.

In announcing the charges, Khan hinted that outside forces were waging a campaign to derail his investigation.



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"I insist that all attempts to impede, intimidate or improperly influence the officials of this court must cease immediately," Khan said, adding he wouldn't hesitate to use his authority to investigate anyone suspected of obstructing justice.

The allegations

AP pieced together details of the accusations through whistleblower documents shared with the court's independent watchdog and interviews with eight ICC officials and individuals close to the woman. All spoke on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the allegations or fear of retaliation.

Among the allegations told to AP is that Khan noticed the woman working at another department at ICC and moved her into his office, a transfer that included a pay bump. Their time together allegedly increased after a private dinner in London where Khan took the woman's hand and complained about his marriage. She became a presence on official trips and meetings with dignitaries.

During one such trip, Khan allegedly asked the woman to rest with him on a hotel bed and then "sexually touched her," according to the documents. Later, he came to her room at 3 a.m. and knocked on the door for 10 minutes.

Other allegedly nonconsensual behavior cited in the documents included locking the door of his office and sticking his hand in her pocket. He also allegedly asked her on several occasions to go on a vacation together.

Upon returning to ICC's headquarters after one trip, she tearfully complained to two co-workers about Khan's behavior and the anguish she felt for not standing up to a boss she once admired.

Those co-workers were shocked because Khan always seemed to show exemplary behavior around women and has been outspoken against gender-based crimes. They also weighed the accusations against the backdrop of well-publicized attempts by intelligence agents from Israel and elsewhere to penetrate the court, which created a work environment plagued by intrigue and mistrust.

But in the wake of the #MeToo movement, no powerful man is above scrutiny, and the co-workers complied with court workplace guidelines that encouraged the reporting of misconduct by senior officials.

After months of inaction and whispered rumors of a brewing scandal, an anonymous account on X called @ICC\_Leaks last week began bringing some of the allegations to light.

Israel's allies in the U.S. Congress have also seized on the would-be scandal. Sen. Lindsey Graham is seeking records about whether the misconduct accusations played any role in Khan's decision in May to cancel an aide's planned visit to Israel and move ahead with the war crimes charges.

"Another cloud — a moral one — hangs over prosecutor Khan's abrupt decision to abandon engagement with Israel and seek arrest warrants," the South Carolina Republican wrote in a letter to the court's oversight authority.

Khan, who is 54 and married with two children, said in a statement there was "no truth" to the accusations, and that in 30 years of scandal-free investigative work he always has stood with victims of sexual harassment and abuse.

Khan added that he would be willing, if asked, to cooperate with any inquiry, saying it is essential that any accusations "are thoroughly listened to, examined and subjected to a proper process."

Without naming any entity directly, he noted that both he and the court have been the target in recent months of "a wide range of attacks and threats," some also aimed at his wife and family. Khan's office declined to provide specifics because the incidents are under investigation.

A growing list of enemies

Under Khan, the ICC has become more assertive in combating crimes against humanity, war crimes and related atrocities. Along the way, it has added to a growing list of enemies.

Last September, following the opening of a probe into Russian atrocities in Ukraine, the court suffered a debilitating cyberattack that left staff unable to work for weeks. It also hired an intern who was later criminally charged in the U.S. with being a Russian spy.

Israel has also been waging its own influence campaign ever since the ICC recognized Palestine as a member and in 2015 opened a preliminary investigation into what the court referred to as "the situation

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in the State of Palestine.”

London’s The Guardian newspaper and several Israeli news outlets reported this summer that Israel’s intelligence agencies for the past decade have allegedly targeted senior ICC staff, including putting Khan’s predecessor under surveillance and showing up at her house with envelopes stuffed with cash to discredit her.

Netanyahu himself, in the days leading up to Khan’s announcement of war crimes charges, called on the world’s democracies “to use all the means at their disposal” to block the court from what he called an “outrage of historic proportions.”

The Israeli foreign ministry referred AP’s inquiries about the case to the Prime Minister’s office, which did not respond. The U.S. State Department declined to discuss the matter but said in a statement that it “takes any allegation of sexual harassment seriously, and we would expect the court to do the same.”

The Dutch foreign ministry and several lawmakers in the Netherlands have called for an investigation into whether the Israeli embassy has been conducting covert activities against the ICC.

Who is Khan?

Khan, a British international lawyer, had a long history defending some of the world’s most ruthless strongmen – including former Liberian President Charles Taylor and the son of the late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi -- before being elected in 2021 in a secret ballot to become chief prosecutor.

The Rome Statute that established the court took effect in 2002, with a mandate to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide — but only when domestic courts fail to initiate their own investigations. Neither the U.S., Israel nor Russia are among the 124 member nations recognizing the court’s authority, although their citizens can be charged with crimes committed in countries that are ICC members.

Still, Washington welcomed Khan’s election, especially after he moved to “deprioritize” an investigation opened by his predecessor into abuses by U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan.

Khan also broadened the court’s focus, bringing criminal charges for the first time against individuals outside Africa. He charged Russian President Vladimir Putin for kidnapping children in Ukraine and opened an investigation into Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro for his crackdown on protesters.

“He is by far the most professional jurist the court has had in its short history,” said Kenneth Roth, former executive director of Human Rights Watch. “He’s articulate, sophisticated with the media and has extensive courtroom experience working with the highest standards of evidence.”

But Khan’s reputation with the U.S. came crashing down when he announced he was seeking the arrest of Netanyahu and Israel’s defense minister for war crimes including starvation of civilians.

To insulate himself from attacks that he held an anti-Israel bias, Khan, a practicing Muslim whose father migrated to the UK from Pakistan, shared the evidence with a panel of experts including British human rights lawyer Amal Clooney, wife of actor George Clooney.

‘Extreme fear’ to report misconduct

Although the 900-employee ICC has long had a “zero-tolerance” policy on sexual harassment, an outside review of the court’s inner-workings in 2020 found an unacceptable level of predatory behavior by male bosses, a lack of women in senior positions, and inadequate mechanisms for dealing with complaints and protecting whistleblowers.

“There is a general reluctance, if not extreme fear, among many staff to report any alleged act of misconduct or misbehavior” by a senior official, the review concluded. “The perception is that they are all immune.”

Although the ICC’s policies have been updated since the report, there’s no explicit ban on romantic relationships like there is in many American workplaces. And while elected officials such as Khan are expected to show “high moral character,” there’s no definition of “serious misconduct” that would warrant removal.

International organizations, like the ICC, are some of the last places where men in positions of power treat the organization like their “playgrounds,” said Sarah Martin, a gender equality expert who has consulted for several United Nations agencies.

“There are so many complaints that don’t even get investigated because there’s a perception that senior officials protect each other,” she said.

People close to Khan's accuser say investigators from the court's watchdog — known as the Independent Oversight Mechanism — showed up for an interview on a Sunday and asked for intimate details about her relationship with Khan as her child listened. Without any emotional support and wary of the process, she decided not to file a complaint at that moment.

In the weeks since, she's decided to go up the chain of command, reaching out to the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, which oversees the court and has the ultimate say about Khan's future.

Paivi Kaukoranta, a Finnish diplomat currently serving as president of that body, did not comment specifically when asked if it had initiated a new investigation.

But in a statement she asked people to respect the integrity and confidentiality of the process, "including any further possible steps as necessary."

## A judge orders Virginia to restore 1,600 voter registrations purged ahead of the election

By MATTHEW BARAKAT Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A federal judge on Friday ordered Virginia to restore more than 1,600 voter registrations that she said were illegally purged in the last two months in an effort to stop noncitizens from voting.

U.S. District Judge Patricia Giles granted an injunction request brought against Virginia election officials by the Justice Department, which claimed the voter registrations were wrongly canceled during a 90-day quiet period ahead of the November election that restricts states from making large-scale changes to their voter rolls.

State officials said they will appeal. The ruling also prompted criticism from former President Donald Trump, who posted on social media that the ruling "is a totally unacceptable travesty,"

"Only U.S. Citizens should be allowed to vote," Trump wrote.

In issuing her ruling Friday, Giles bristled at the suggestion she was restoring the voting rights of noncitizens. She said the state lacked proof that the purged voters were noncitizens but went ahead and canceled their registrations anyway in violation of federal law.

"I'm not dealing with beliefs," she told a lawyer for Virginia when he again referred to those stricken from the rolls as noncitizens. "I'm dealing with evidence."

The Justice Department and private groups, including the League of Women Voters, said many of the 1,600 voters whose registrations were canceled were in fact citizens whose registrations were canceled because of bureaucratic errors or simple mistakes like a mischecked box on a form.

Justice Department lawyer Sejal Jhaveri said during an all-day injunction hearing Thursday in Alexandria, Virginia, that's precisely why federal law prevents states from implementing systematic changes to the voter rolls in the 90 days before an election, "to prevent the harm of having eligible voters removed in a period where it's hard to remedy."

Giles said Friday that the state is not completely prohibited from removing noncitizens from the voting rolls during the 90-day quiet period, but that it must do so on an individualized basis rather than the automated, systematic program employed by the state.

State officials argued unsuccessfully that the canceled registrations followed careful procedures that targeted people who explicitly identified themselves as noncitizens to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Charles Cooper, a lawyer for the state, said during arguments Thursday that the federal law was never intended to provide protections to noncitizens, who by definition can't vote in federal elections.

"Congress couldn't possibly have intended to prevent the removal ... of persons who were never eligible to vote in the first place," Cooper argued.

The plaintiffs who brought the lawsuit, though, said that many people are wrongly identified as noncitizens by the DMV simply by checking the wrong box on a form. They were unable to identify exactly how many of the 1,600 purged voters are in fact citizens — Virginia only identified this week the names and addresses of the affected individuals in response to a court order — but provided anecdotal evidence of



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individuals whose registrations were wrongly canceled.

Cooper acknowledged that some of the 1,600 voters identified by the state as noncitizens may well be citizens, but he said restoring all of them to the rolls means that in all likelihood "there's going to be hundreds of noncitizens back on those rolls. If a noncitizen votes, it cancels out a legal vote. And that is a harm," he said.

Virginia's Republican governor, Glenn Youngkin, issued an executive order in August requiring daily checks of DMV data against voter rolls to identify noncitizens.

State officials said any voter identified as a noncitizen was notified and given two weeks to dispute their disqualification before being removed. If they returned a form attesting to their citizenship, their registration would not be canceled.

Prior to Youngkin's executive order, the state did monthly checks of the voter rolls against DMV data, in accordance with a state law passed in 2006.

Youngkin said the Justice Department was wrongly targeting him for upholding a law that was followed by his predecessors, including Democrats, even if they didn't take the extra step of ordering daily checks as he did in his executive order.

"Let's be clear about what just happened: only eleven days before a Presidential election, a federal judge ordered Virginia to reinstate over 1,500 individuals—who self-identified themselves as noncitizens—back onto the voter rolls," Youngkin said in a statement after Friday's hearing.

Giles questioned the timing of Youngkin's executive order, which was issued on Aug. 7, the very beginning of the 90-day quiet period required under federal law.

"It's not happenstance that this was announced exactly on the 90th day" of the quiet period, she said Friday from the bench.

Her injunction requires voter registrations be restored for all of those canceled as a result of Youngkin's executive order, and that letters be sent out within five days informing those voters of their restored status. The letters will also include a note of caution informing those individuals that if they are indeed noncitizens, that they are barred from casting ballots under federal law.

The plaintiffs had asked the judge to grant those voters an extension of the deadline to request absentee ballots, but Giles denied that request, saying it would result in confusion.

Virginia's Republican attorney general, Jason Miyares, issued a statement after Friday's hearing criticizing the ruling.

"It should never be illegal to remove an illegal voter," he said. "Yet, today a Court – urged by the Biden-Harris Department of Justice – ordered Virginia to put the names of non-citizens back on the voter rolls, mere days before a presidential election."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., who had alerted Justice Department officials to the removals, praised the ruling.

"Governor Youngkin's purges have served only one purpose – to disenfranchise thousands of lawfully voting citizens of the Commonwealth. That stops today," he said.

Nearly 6 million Virginians are registered to vote.

A similar lawsuit was filed in Alabama, and a federal judge there last week ordered the state to restore eligibility for more than 3,200 voters who had been deemed ineligible noncitizens. Testimony from state officials in that case showed that roughly 2,000 of the 3,251 voters who were made inactive were actually legally registered citizens.

## Yankees vs Dodgers: The World Series' most frequent rivalry through the years

By HAL BOCK Associated Press

In the beginning, the World Series matchup of the Dodgers against the Yankees was a kind of charming intra-city showdown of two New York City boroughs, blue collar Brooklyn, equipped with a neighborhood called Gravesend, against the pretentious Bronx, with the fancy Grand Concourse.

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It was an intriguing matchup that carried bragging rights in the city as well as baseball's world championship, and it caught the attention of brilliant sports cartoonist Williard Mullin, who gave it the catchy nickname of "The Subway Series." That was because, after all, New York City's rapid transit system could get you from one ballpark to the other for just 5 cents.

The trip will cost considerably more when it resumes on Friday for the 12th time in a Broadway-meets-Sunset Boulevard version of baseball's most frequent World Series rivalry. This one brings together this season's winningest teams in a coast-to-coast collision featuring some of the game's biggest stars in the Yankees' Aaron Judge and Juan Soto, and the Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani and Mookie Betts.

Their October showdowns have produced some of the game's most memorable moments, from Don Larsen's perfect game and Reggie Jackson's three straight home runs to the one-handed circus catches of Al Gionfriddo and Sandy Amoros.

Yankees vs Dodgers had a modest World Series beginning

The Dodgers won their first National League pennant in 21 years in 1941 and found the Yankees, already constructing a dynasty, waiting for them in the World Series. It was the first of their 12 Fall Classic meetings.

Mullin also gave them cartoon images — a down-and-out but very proud Brooklyn Bum shuffling along with a ragtag wardrobe and a high-and-mighty New York Yankee, strutting around with his chest out, celebrating his dominance of baseball.

This would be a match of the haves and the have-nots. The haves prevailed, but not without one of the strangest plays in World Series history — the last out strikeout that instead became a game-turning rally for the Yankees.

The teams split the first two games at Yankee Stadium. The Yankees won Game 3 at Ebbets Field, but the Dodgers were clinging to a 4-3 lead in Game 4 — set, it seemed, to even the Series. Reliever Hugh Casey retired the first two hitters and went to a 3-2 count on Tommy Henrich and then broke off a wicked curveball — some thought it might have been a spitball. Henrich swung and missed, but the ball skipped past catcher Mickey Owen. Henrich raced to first base. The Yankees had life.

Casey still needed one out to seal the win. He never got it. Joe DiMaggio singled and Charlie Keller doubled, driving in two runs. The Yankees added two more for a 7-4 victory that left the Dodgers stunned and Owen the goat. The Yankees won the next day to clinch their ninth World Series triumph.

The 1947 World Series had Yogi and Jackie — but Bill Bevens was the story

When the sides next hooked up in the World Series in 1947, they included a few notable new faces. Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier with Brooklyn that season and won Rookie of the Year. And in Game 3, New York got the first pinch-hit home run in Series history by a rookie catcher named Yogi Berra.

But Game 4 was the most memorable of this Series because Bill Bevens, a marginal Yankees pitcher who won just seven games during the season, flirted with the first no-hitter in World Series history.

Bevens carried a 2-1 lead into the bottom of the ninth inning despite issuing eight walks. He then walked Carl Furillo by mistake and Pete Reiser intentionally. Cookie Lavagetto batted for Eddie Stanky and smashed a double off the right-field wall, ending the no-hit bid and winning the game for Brooklyn. It was the last pitch Bevens threw in the major leagues.

The Yankees won Game 5 by 2-1, sending the Series back to the Bronx. The Dodgers led 8-5 in Game 6 but New York rallied in the sixth inning and had two men on base with two outs and DiMaggio at bat. The Yankees star sent a drive that seemed headed for the left-field seats. AL Gionfriddo, inserted for defense at the start of the inning, took off on a dead run with his back to the ball, twisted his body at the last moment and speared the shot for the out. DiMaggio, never one to show emotion on the field, kicked the dirt in frustration.

The Dodgers hung on to win that game, but New York took Game 7 and the Series. Like Bevens, Lavagetto and Gionfriddo never played another major league game.

The golden age of Dodgers vs Yankees

Two years later, the two rivals were back at it again, this time with Casey Stengel managing the Yankees. The opening game of the 1949 Series was a classic. The two teams were scoreless through eight

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innings with Brooklyn's Don Newcombe dueling the Allie Reynolds. Tommy Henrich led off the bottom of the ninth inning with a home run, giving the Yankees a 1-0 victory over the Dodgers ace, who never won a World Series start.

Brooklyn responded with its own 1-0 victory in Game 2, with Preacher Roe outdueling Vic Raschi. Game 3 was tied 1-1 into the ninth inning when the Yankees scored three times and then hung on for a 4-3 victory. Brooklyn was on the ropes and New York moved in for the kill, besting Newcombe again in Game 4 and then charging to a 10-1 lead in Game 5 and hanging on for a 10-6 victory in the clincher.

The rivalry resumed in 1952, starting a stretch of four Subway Series in five years. Stengel's Yankees won three of them, missing only in 1955 when the "Wait till next year!" Dodgers finally captured their first World Series championship.

Brooklyn led the '52 Series 3-2 before home runs in Game 6 by Berra and Mickey Mantle helped New York stay alive. Mantle's homer and RBI single had New York clinging to a 4-2 lead in Game 7 when the Dodgers loaded the bases with two outs in the bottom of the seventh. Robinson hit an infield popup that seemed destined to drop before second baseman Billy Martin made a mad dash to corral it for the third out. Brooklyn never threatened again, and the Yankees had a fourth straight World Series title.

The Stengel dynasty claimed its fifth consecutive title in 1953, again dispatching the Dodgers. Martin's RBI in the bottom of the ninth sealed it in Game 6, and the future Yankees manager batted .500 in the Series.

After a year off, the Subway Series resumed in 1955 and finally after five tries, Brooklyn defeated the Yankees. The Dodgers also became the first team in Series history to drop the first two games and recover to capture the title. The star was left-hander Johnny Podres, who won Game 3 to start the Dodgers recovery and Game 7 to clinch the title. Gil Hodges drove in two runs and Brooklyn was sitting on a 2-0 lead when freshman manager Walt Alston made a defensive change in the sixth inning, sending Cuban Sandy Amoros to play left field.

With two runners on, Amoros was positioned toward center when Berra sent a slicing drive toward the left-field line. Amoros chased it down, thrusting his glove out for the catch and then relaying the ball to Pee Wee Reese, who threw to Hodges, completing a rally-killing double play. Podres took it from there and finally, next year had arrived for Brooklyn.

A year later, Yankees right-hander Don Larsen pitched a perfect game, the first no-hitter in World Series history. Larsen had been knocked out in the second inning of Game 2 but returned in Game 5 to throw his gem. He needed just 97 pitches, and when plate umpire Babe Pinelli called strike three on pinch-hitter Dale Mitchell, it sent Berra hurtling into his arms.

The Dodgers responded with Clem Labine, primarily a reliever, throwing 10 innings in a 1-0 victory. The Yankees came back to claim another title, riding a grand slam by Bill Skowron and the airtight pitching of Johnny Kucks to a 9-0 win in Game 7. It was the final game of Robinson's career and the last time Brooklyn hosted a World Series.

The Dodgers leave Brooklyn, and Koufax, Jackson and Steinbrenner enter the rivalry

After the Dodgers left for Los Angeles in 1957, the rivalry cooled until 1963 when it held a coast-to-coast showdown. This time, the Dodgers got even for all the old disappointment with a four-game sweep. In the opener, Sandy Koufax struck out 15, breaking Erskine's Series record. Podres won Game 2 by 4-1 and then LA completed the sweep at home when Don Drysdale shut New York out 1-0 and Koufax returned to win 2-1.

By 1977, free agency had changed the face of baseball and the biggest prize at the start of that era was slugger Reggie Jackson, who signed with the Yankees.

Jackson's relationship with manager Martin was contentious, but in the World Series against the Dodgers, the outfielder carved a space for himself in Series history. In the decisive sixth game, Jackson hit three home runs, each on the first pitch, matching a Series record set by Babe Ruth. His five home runs in the Series helped the Yankees to another world championship and earned Jackson the nickname Mr. October.

The two teams returned for the 1978 Series and the Dodgers jumped in front, sealing the second one when Jackson struck out for the final out of the game. But the Yankees were not done. They returned to New York and won the next four games, the first Series team to drop the first two and then win the



Series in six games.

The next time they met, in 1981, the Dodgers reversed the outcome, dropping the first two games and then winning four straight to capture the crown. Were the Yankees frustrated? Well, owner George Steinbrenner got into a hotel elevator dispute with some fans and emerged with a hand in a cast.

Now, 43 years later, with two vastly different casts, the rivalry resumes. It is no longer a Subway Series, but still compelling for the history it already had written.

## Takeaways from AP's report on the past and present of two historic Philadelphia churches

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The two historic churches are less than a mile apart in Philadelphia. Christ Church is where some of the Founding Fathers worshipped, and where colonial America made its break with the Church of England. Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is located on the oldest parcel of land continuously owned by Black Americans.

Generations after their birth in this nation first envisioned in Philadelphia, both churches continue to serve as the spiritual home for hundreds in the city.

Church members see the role of their congregation as crucial, a beacon ahead of a contentious presidential election in Pennsylvania — the most pivotal of swing states. But they also express concerns about political division that the Founding Fathers once feared could tear the nation apart.

Christ Church congregation included foes and supporters of independence

Christ Church was founded in 1695 by a group of Philadelphia colonists as the first parish of the Church of England in Pennsylvania. Congregants later included slaves and their owners, loyalists and patriots. They listened to sermons favoring and opposing independence.

Anglican clergy loyal to the British king led weekly prayers for the monarch. But on July 4, 1776, Christ Church's vestry crossed out the king's name from the Book of Common Prayer — a defiant act of potential treason. The book is preserved today in an underground museum, a testament of the church's revolutionary spirit on Independence Day.

During the 1780s, debate raged about how to apply revolutionary-era principles such as liberty or freedom to all Americans. From the pulpit, the Rev. Jacob Duché, the church's rector, was seen as a moderate and led prayers as the first chaplain of the Continental Congress. But then he sided with the loyalists.

When the British occupied Philadelphia in 1777, the rector wrote a letter to Washington urging him to surrender and reach a deal with the British. After the letter became public, Duché traveled to England. Pennsylvania officials later labeled him a traitor and banned his reentry. His successor, the Rev. William White, became the first presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church. He's praised for keeping the unity of his congregation during times of turmoil.

Christ Church's current senior pastor is the Rev. Samantha Vincent-Alexander, the first woman to serve as rector in its more than 300-year history.

The church's complex history in regard to slavery

Congregants remain proud of Christ Church's crucial role in America's freedom. But they also grapple with contradictions. Some church members traded slaves and are buried in the church yard near signers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin's tomb is in the nearby Christ Church burial ground.

One church member, Absalom Jones, attended services at a sister congregation while enslaved to a man serving in the church leadership. Jones bought his freedom and eventually became ordained by the Christ Church rector as the first Black priest of the Episcopal Church. He also went on to co-create the Free African Society of Philadelphia, which Fea says "sought to apply the rights secured from the American Revolution to the 2,000 or so free Black men and women living in the city at the time."

Methodism was the fastest growing denomination in America in the 1790s. But some Methodist Episcopal Churches still segregated Black worshippers during services to the upstairs galleries. This prompted free Black Americans to start their own congregation.

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Mother Bethel AME fought for freedom from the start  
The African Methodist Episcopal Church has been involved in the struggle for freedom and equality from its roots.

Its founder, the Rev. Richard Allen, was born into slavery in Philadelphia in 1760 before buying his freedom in Delaware before he was 20. He returned to the city in the 1780s and became a minister.

After white leaders at a Methodist church segregated Allen, Jones and other Black worshippers to the upstairs galleries for a prayer service, the group left the church and formed what would eventually become Mother Bethel AME. The church became a place of refuge for Black people fleeing slavery along the Underground Railroad and later a major gathering point for the Civil Rights Movement.

What lies ahead for Mother Bethel and the AME?

Today, the AME Church has more than 2.5 million members and thousands of congregations in dozens of nations worldwide.

"Certainly, we've made progress," says its pastor, the Rev. Mark Tyler, citing Kamala Harris' campaign to become the country's first Black female president. But he also believes that much more needs to be done to bridge America's racial inequality and he worries about the potential of another Trump presidency. The AME Church, he says, has not "outlived its usefulness."

"The fact that we have a person who openly embraces white supremacists, who has been president once and potentially could be president again in the 21st century, is all the evidence that you need to know that we still need places for Black people to come together and organize like the Black Church," he says.

During a recent Sunday service, Tyler encouraged his congregation to vote. Some members later reflected on America's beginnings and its progress and shortcomings.

At the end of the service, parishioner Tayza Hill, 25, led groups on a tour of the church's museum. It preserves an original wooden pulpit used by the Rev. Allen and Black leaders including abolitionist Frederick Douglass and civil rights pioneer W.E.B. Du Bois when they addressed the congregation.

"Seeing that there's still a building that has the history and is continuously being told is important because it's refusing to be erased from history," Hill says. "As a nation and as a church, it's really up to us to defend the rights and the respectability of those who are withheld the full opportunity of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness."

## **In a tight election where every vote counts, Harris is trying to squeeze a few out of Trump's base**

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — This year's presidential election could come down to microscopic margins, so Kamala Harris is hunting for votes in even the most unlikely of places. One of her latest targets is Donald Trump's demographic base — white people who didn't attend college.

"It's tough turf," said Dan Kanninen, the Harris campaign's battleground states director. "But showing up is how you peel away the votes that you need to win."

Kanninen and other members of the Democratic vice president's team point to what they believe are positive signals in public polls that Harris may be making small inroads. Such shifts are difficult to measure, particularly in polls where subgroups of voters can have wide margins of error.

But any erosion that does occur could be significant because white voters without a college degree make up a sizable share of the electorate. Around 4 in 10 voters fell into this category in 2020, according to AP VoteCast.

So the Harris campaign has been running advertisements on DraftKings, a sports betting website, that call Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, the "strongest line up." Another version on Yahoo Sports features "stats," such as cutting taxes for the middle class and \$25,000 in down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers.

An advertisement on the video game website IGN presents Harris like a character in a role playing saga.

Her rankings for "charisma" and "intelligence" are high, but "deception" and "collateral damager" are low. "Select this president," it says.

More advertisements have run during football games, highlighting Harris' promise to be a president for all Americans, and sports talk radio. Walz is a former high school football coach, so he's been making the rounds at sporting events as well.

Off the airwaves, Harris is relying heavily on labor unions to make the case to their members and communities. And she talks frequently about economic concerns like price gouging that she hopes will appeal to working class voters.

"People want somebody who is going to be on their side," Kanninen said.

Whit Ayres, a Republican pollster, was doubtful that Harris was making any inroads with white working class voters. If anything, he said, her strategy was more a reflection of her flush finances.

"When you're awash in money as apparently the Harris campaign is, you go after anything that's remotely possible," he said.

Of course, Ayres said, "in a dead heat race, any voters you can squeeze from anywhere could be significant."

Anna Kelly, a spokesperson for the Republican National Committee, dismissed Harris' efforts.

"Kamala Harris is on defense because she is losing ground with long-time Democrat constituencies, like Black men," Kelly said.

Kanninen said the Harris campaign was undeterred.

"There have been tough conversations sometimes," he said. "But tough conversations can yield results, and in a very close race those results can be decisive."

## Two historic Philadelphia churches offer lessons for an America divided today and in its infancy

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — George Washington. Benjamin Franklin. Betsy Ross. The two Founding Fathers and the seamstress of the American flag all once worshipped on the now centuries-old wooden pews of Christ Church.

It's the site of colonial America's break with the Church of England — and where the U.S. Episcopal Church was born.

Less than a mile south, past Independence Hall, Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church stands on the oldest parcel of land continuously owned by Black Americans. It's the mother church of the nation's first Black denomination.

Two churches, across the centuries. Generations after their birth in this nation first envisioned in Philadelphia, both churches continue to serve as the spiritual home for hundreds in the city.

Church members see the role of their congregation as crucial, a beacon ahead of a contentious presidential election in Pennsylvania — the most pivotal of swing states. They also express concerns about political division that the Founding Fathers once feared could tear the nation apart.

"We've grown as a nation, but I think at this point, we're at a standstill. We're terribly divided," said Christ Church parishioner Jeanette Morris. A registered Republican, she previously voted for former President Donald Trump, but plans to back Vice President Kamala Harris on Nov. 5 because of her support for reproductive rights. Morris is concerned about health issues following the repeal of Roe v. Wade.

"Nothing is getting done in Washington because nobody can agree on anything," she said after a recent service. "I pray every Sunday that we can get past this all."

Today's list of divisive issues is long: from abortion and immigration to taxes, climate change and the wars abroad. It's also the first presidential election since an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, an act of political violence steeped in the lie that the 2020 election was stolen.

"I think things have changed: Slavery is abolished. The Civil Rights Act was put in place. But still, deep



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down, the denizens of the United States haven't really come together," says Keith Matthews, 61, a Mother Bethel AME parishioner. "There's still a lot of hatred and misunderstanding amongst the races."

The nation's church was at the center of it all

At its infancy, the United States of America also was deeply divided. And some members of Christ Church — from Washington to the parish rector — seemed to be at the center of it all.

"What we're going through right now is certainly unprecedented politically. And there's a huge amount of potential instability and concern that a lot of people have in this church and the United States," says Zack Biro, executive director of the Christ Church Preservation Trust. "And Christ Church is a perfect example of kind of weathering that storm."

The church was founded in 1695 by a group of Philadelphia colonists as the first parish of the Church of England in Pennsylvania. Congregants later included slaves and their owners, loyalists and patriots. They listened to sermons favoring and opposing independence.

Anglican clergy loyal to the British king led weekly prayers for the monarch. But on July 4, 1776, Christ Church's vestry crossed out the king's name from the Book of Common Prayer — a defiant act of potential treason. The book is preserved today in an underground museum, a testament to the church's revolutionary spirit on Independence Day.

"We tend to think that the early American republic was a time of great unity, but, like today, the political culture was deeply polarized," says John Fea, a professor of American history at Messiah University in Pennsylvania.

During the 1780s, Fea said via email, debate raged about how to apply revolutionary-era principles such as liberty or freedom to all Americans. From the pulpit, the Rev. Jacob Duché, the church's rector, was seen as a moderate and led prayers as the first chaplain of the Continental Congress. But then he sided with the loyalists.

When the British occupied Philadelphia in 1777, the rector wrote a letter to Washington urging him to surrender and reach a deal with the British. After the letter became public, Duché traveled to England. Pennsylvania officials later labeled him a traitor and banned his reentry. His successor, the Rev. William White, became the first presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church. He's praised for keeping the unity of his congregation during times of turmoil.

Christ Church's current senior pastor is the Rev. Samantha Vincent-Alexander, the first woman to serve as rector in its more than 300-year history.

"The idea of what do we do in this political environment right now and how do we deal with that is an incredible challenge," she says. "Most of our congregations are not a unified voting bloc. They represent different people much like at the time of the American revolution."

"We had people who were loyalists and people who supported independence, and the clergy at the time had to find a way to keep the congregation together."

Congregants remain proud of Christ Church's crucial role in America's freedom. But they also grapple with contradictions. Some church members traded slaves and are buried in the church yard near signers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin's tomb is in the nearby Christ Church burial ground.

"While we're very proud of our history, these people were not perfect. Sometimes we tend to think of them that way, but they weren't," says Harvey Bartle, a congregant for more than 30 years. "What they were doing is trying to promote democracy. ... At least they advanced the ball beyond the divine right of kings, so that the society, rich and poor, educated and uneducated, could advance the system."

One church member, Absalom Jones, attended services at a sister congregation while enslaved to a man serving in the church leadership. Jones bought his freedom and eventually became ordained by the Christ Church rector as the first Black priest of the Episcopal Church. He also went on to co-create the Free African Society of Philadelphia, which Fea says "sought to apply the rights secured from the American Revolution to the 2,000 or so free Black men and women living in the city at the time."

Methodism was the fastest growing denomination in America in the 1790s. But some Methodist Episcopal Churches still segregated Black worshippers during services to the upstairs galleries. This prompted free Black Americans to start their own congregation.

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Mother Bethel AME fought for freedom from the start

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has been involved in the struggle for freedom and equality from its roots.

Its founder, the Rev. Richard Allen, was born into slavery in Philadelphia in 1760 before buying his freedom in Delaware before he was 20. He returned to the city in the 1780s and became a minister.

After white leaders at a Methodist church segregated Allen, Jones and other Black worshippers to the upstairs galleries for a prayer service, the group left the church and formed what would eventually become Mother Bethel AME. The church became a place of refuge for Black people fleeing slavery along the Underground Railroad and later a major gathering point for the Civil Rights Movement.

By creating Mother Bethel, Allen "carved out a space where Black people could resist ... at a time where during slavery in the Deep South, Black people could not even congregate without the presence of a white man in between them," says Bethel AME's pastor, the Rev. Mark Tyler.

Today, the AME Church has more than 2.5 million members and thousands of congregations in dozens of nations worldwide.

"Certainly, we've made progress," says Tyler, citing Kamala Harris' campaign to become the country's first Black female president. But he also believes that much more needs to be done to bridge America's racial inequality and he worries about the potential of another Trump presidency. The AME Church, he says, has not "outlived its usefulness."

"The fact that we have a person who openly embraces white supremacists, who has been president once and potentially could be president again in the 21st century, is all the evidence that you need to know that we still need places for Black people to come together and organize like the Black Church," he says.

During a recent Sunday service, Tyler encouraged his congregation to vote. Some members later reflected on America's beginnings and its progress and shortcomings.

"Two things can be said at the same time: They were brilliant in the development of this nation. But they still carried slavery ideas, women were not allowed to vote, and that needed to be changed," parishioner Donna Matthews said about the Founding Fathers.

"Who are 'We the people'? I think people need to ask themselves that," said Matthews, 63, who attended the service with her husband, Keith, and their young grandson, Ezekiel. "It's everyone. And it's the essence of why this church was started."

At the end of the service, parishioner Tayza Hill, 25, led groups on a tour of the church's museum. It preserves an original wooden pulpit used by the Rev. Allen and Black leaders including abolitionist Frederick Douglass and civil rights pioneer W.E.B. Du Bois when they addressed the congregation.

Hill says she has been hearing the same question in radio shows as the election approaches: "Is the sun rising, or is the sun setting on democracy?" She remains hopeful and believes the continuity of her church is vital.

"Seeing that there's still a building that has the history and is continuously being told is important because it's refusing to be erased from history," Hill says. "As a nation and as a church, it's really up to us to defend the rights and the respectability of those who are withheld the full opportunity of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness."

## **Criminals may be leveraging climate change as record acreage burns in Brazil's Amazon**

By FABIANO MAISONNAVE Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Wildfires in Brazil have swept through an area the size of Switzerland, a level of destruction that will take decades to recover, if it ever does, according to a new satellite assessment.

The breadth of forest that has been lost or degraded was revealed as smoke that has blanketed the country cleared, thanks to rains that may be ending the worst drought Brazil has ever recorded.

"The data is exceptionally alarming, it's a very abrupt surge," Ane Alencar, science director at the Amazon

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Environmental Research Institute, a Brazilian nonprofit, told The Associated Press.

The area that burned between January and mid-October 2024 represents an 846% increase over the same period in 2023. That's five times larger than the forest fires of 2019 when, under far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, rampant destruction of the Amazon made headlines worldwide.

The estimate comes from the National Institute for Space Research, which tracks Brazil's official deforestation rate.

This surge in fire comes one year before the Amazon city of Belem will host the annual U.N. climate conference, COP30. The level of destruction is raising suspicions among Brazilian officials and experts that criminals are using climate change to their advantage.

Deforestation in the Amazon usually begins with chainsaws. Wet, fallen trees are left lying on the ground until they're dry enough to set afire. They're not even used for lumber.

Now with the forest drying out from drought, lawbreakers seeking to create more pasture may be skipping the expensive, labor-intensive step of felling trees. A lighter and a few gallons of gasoline suffice to start a blaze.

"The drought played a major role in fueling the spread, but fire has also been weaponized," Alencar said.

"The forest's resilience to a severe drought is proving to be very low," André Lima, secretary of deforestation control at the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, told the AP in an interview in Brasilia. "You don't need 1 million people setting fires to cause the disaster. One thousand can do it. We recorded 500 large blazes, that all began with a match."

Fueled by human-induced climate change and the El Nino phenomenon, the world's largest basin is reeling from two years of severe drought. Many rivers fell to record lows in 2023, then broke those records again in 2024. Fish and endangered river dolphins have died in water that is too hot for them. Hundreds of river communities have been stranded without transportation.

Then came fire. In September, wildfires surged through the region, doubling the acreage that had burned so far this year. With more than two months still remaining in 2024, it's already the largest area burned since the government began using its current methodology a decade ago.

The estimate of forest loss comes as delegates from around the world are meeting in the Colombian city of Cali for COP16, focused on preserving biodiversity.

The hypothesis that criminals are piggybacking on climate change needs more study, Lima said. But there is some evidence for it. One clue is that the conservation area that has suffered the most damage is Jamanxim National Forest. Dozens of landgrabbers have been illegally ranching cattle there, hoping their operations will be legalized.

It is near the city of Novo Progresso, a deforestation hotspot where Bolsonaro, who favors economic development over forest preservation, received 83% of the votes in his failed 2022 re-election bid.

The blazes have swept through 1,900 square kilometers (733 square miles) of Jamanxim this year, mostly in September, a 700% increase over 2023, according to MapBiomas, a network of non-governmental organizations that monitors land use.

The unprecedented rise in fire has prompted Brazil's government to consider mandating that all burned areas be reforested — a deterrent for landgrabbers who hope to convert public forest into their own private pasture.

Lima thinks local and state governments should act as well, since most fires start on rural private property, which is their jurisdiction. "We need structural changes in policies to address climate change," he said.

The rise of wildfire in the Amazon is part of a global trend and makes climate change worse. A recent study published in the journal Science estimated that carbon emissions from forest fires increased 60% between 2001 and 2023. The researchers warned that forests, and all the carbon they store, are increasingly vulnerable to fire.

Unlike wildfire in North America, where blazes sometimes reach treetops and expand from there, in the Amazon rainforest, fire spreads mostly through leaves on the ground, causing less harm. The deforestation control agency, known as INPE, tallies these areas as burn scars, not as deforestation.

That is why, despite the surge in fire, this year's deforestation rate is still slowing under President Luiz



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Inácio Lula da Silva and could end 2024 with a 60% reduction compared to Bolsonaro's years. This shows how deforestation is only one metric — and one that does not provide a full picture for damage to the forest in a given year.

"In areas where the fire was very intense, the forest may completely collapse," Claudio Almeida, a senior officer at INPE, told the AP. "Even regions where the fire was not as intense are now severely degraded and fragile. Another season of intense drought and fires could lead to the breakdown of the forest."

## Today in History: October 26, Shootout at the O.K. Corral

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Saturday, Oct. 26, the 300th day of 2024. There are 66 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On October 26th, 1881, four lawmen, including Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, exchanged gunfire with five outlaws, killing three of them, at the "Shootout at the O.K. Corral" in Tombstone, Arizona.

Also on this date:

In 1774, the First Continental Congress adjourned in Philadelphia.

In 1825, the Erie Canal opened in upstate New York, connecting Lake Erie and the Hudson River.

In 1861, the legendary Pony Express officially ceased operations, giving way to the transcontinental telegraph. (The last run of the Pony Express was completed the following month.)

In 1979, South Korean President Park Chung-hee was shot to death by the head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, Kim Jae-kyu.

In 1984, "Baby Fae," a newborn with a severe heart defect, was given the heart of a baboon in an experimental transplant in Loma Linda, California. (She lived 21 days with the animal heart.)

In 2000, the New York Yankees became the first team in more than a quarter-century to win three straight World Series championships, beating the New York Mets in Game 5 of their "Subway Series."

In 2001, President George W. Bush signed the USA Patriot Act, giving authorities unprecedented ability to search, seize, detain or eavesdrop in their pursuit of possible terrorists.

In 2002, a hostage siege by Chechen rebels at a Moscow theater ended with 129 of the 800-plus captives dead, most from a knockout gas used by Russian special forces who stormed the theater; 41 rebels also died.

In 2020, Amy Coney Barrett was confirmed to the Supreme Court by a deeply divided Senate, installing President Donald Trump's nominee days before the U.S. general election.

Today's Birthdays: Musician Milton Nascimento is 82. Actor Jaclyn Smith is 79. TV host Pat Sajak is 78. Politician, diplomat and former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is 77. Musician Bootsy Collins is 73. Artist and filmmaker Julian Schnabel is 73. Actor James Pickens Jr. is 70. Actor-singer Rita Wilson is 68. Actor Dylan McDermott is 63. Actor Cary Elwes is 62. Singer Natalie Merchant is 61. Country singer Keith Urban is 57. Actor Tom Cavanagh is 61. Writer-producer Seth MacFarlane (TV: "Family Guy") is 51. Actor Florence Kasumba is 48. Actor Jon Heder is 47. Actor Folake Olowofoyeku (foh-LAH'-kay oh-low-wow-foh-YAY'-koo) is 41. Rapper Schoolboy Q is 38.