

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, Oct. 28

Senior Menu: Tatertot hot dish, green beans, pineapple, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.
School Lunch: Turkey gravy, mashed potatoes.
Volleyball at Faulkton (JV at 6:30 p.m., varsity to follow)
Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center
Senior Citizens meet at noon for potluck, Groton Community Center
United Methodist: PEO Meeting (outside group), 7 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 29

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, garlic bread, fruit.
School Breakfast: Pancakes.
School Lunch: Pasta with meat sauce, breadstick.
FCCLA Blood Drive, 8 a.m. to Noon
Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.
Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center
United Methodist Bible Study, 10 a.m. (New Christmas Study Begins)

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

I WENT TO THE
PAINT STORE TO
GET THINNER...



IT DIDN'T WORK

Wednesday, Oct. 30

Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, pears, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Muffins.
School Lunch: Popcorn chicken, wedge fries.
Community Coffee Hour at United Methodist Church, 9:30 a.m.
Groton C&MA: Kids' Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study at 7 pm.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 31

Senior Menu: Chili, cornbread, coleslaw, fruit.
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
School Lunch: Slugs and cheese (Mac and cheese), frog eyes (peas).
Football Playoffs
Downtown Trick or Treat, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
United Methodist Trunk or Treat, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.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.

Israel Strikes Iran

Israel's airstrikes on Iran Saturday morning targeted military sites, including two secretive bases, satellite imagery shows. The attacks, which killed at least four soldiers, came in response to Iran firing around 200 missiles into Israel this month, most of which were intercepted.

The attacks are the first Israel has acknowledged on Iranian soil. They came in waves, with jet fighters destroying portions of Iran's missile defense system, including those protecting Iranian oil facilities. Israel also struck three missile manufacturing bases and two military bases, including a former nuclear testing site.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel achieved all its objectives. The attacks steered clear of direct strikes on oil and nuclear facilities, which Iran warned could provoke a full-scale war.

Separately, Israeli airstrikes in northern Gaza killed at least 33 people, per the Hamas-run Health Ministry. A truck-ramming attack in Tel Aviv killed one person and injured at least 30 more.

Japanese Elections

Japan's Liberal Democratic Party is projected to have lost control of the nation's lower house of parliament yesterday. It marks the first time in more than a decade the conservative ruling party has lost its absolute majority in the chamber.

The LDP has dominated the Japanese government for all but four years since 1955. Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, in office for less than a month, called a snap election in a bid to shore up support. Instead, analysts say the final tally due today will likely show the LDP falling short of a majority even when partnering with Komeito, its smaller longtime ally.

Among issues cited by voters was a string of scandals involving LDP officials taking kickbacks from political donors.

The Constitutional Democratic Party, the leading opposition group, had secured 148 seats to the LDP's 191 as of this writing. At least 233 seats are needed for a majority.

US Navy Apology

The US Navy apologized Saturday to an Alaskan native community for an October 1882 attack on Angoon, a village in the southeastern Alaska panhandle.

At the time, conflict erupted when a harpoon gun exploded on a whaling ship, killing a member of the local Tlingit people. Amid tensions with Natives, the company that owned the ship called in support from the Navy, which ultimately destroyed 12 clan houses as well as canoes and local food stores. Six children died in the attack, with others later dying from starvation and lack of resources. In 1973, the village received a \$90K settlement from the US Department of the Interior over the affair.

The attack took place 15 years after the US purchase of Alaska from Russia and is one of multiple conflicts between the US Navy and Alaskan Natives in this period. Last month, the Navy apologized for attacking the nearby village of Kake; the Army also plans to apologize for an attack on a village called Wrangell.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Los Angeles Dodgers take 2-0 lead over New York Yankees in 2024 World Series with Game 3 tonight (8 pm ET, Fox); Dodgers may be without star Shohei Ohtani, who injured his shoulder in Game 2.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) announces plan to increase state's film and TV tax incentives from \$330M to \$750M.

David Harris, actor best known for role in "The Warriors," dies at age 75.

The 2024 MLS Cup Playoffs Round One kicks off; see complete postseason bracket and schedule.

Science & Technology

Google to unveil "Jarvis" AI agent in December; tool is reportedly capable of controlling web browsers to complete tasks like shopping, scheduling, and more.

Ancient cicadas evolved to escape ancient predatory birds between the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods roughly 145 million years ago; findings shed light on competitive evolution between species.

Engineers develop portable device to extract water from humid air; prototype uses 50% less energy than existing technologies.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed Friday (S&P 500 -0.0%, Dow -0.6%, Nasdaq +0.6%).

Nvidia temporarily overtakes Apple as world's most valuable company, briefly passes \$3.53T in market value Friday.

Russia's central bank raises benchmark interest rate to 21%, highest since 2003, amid inflation fueled by military spending.

Delta Air Lines sued cybersecurity company CrowdStrike last week for July outage it says caused thousands of flight cancellations, costing the company \$500M.

UnitedHealth Group last week confirmed February ransomware attack compromised personal data of 100 million people.

Politics & World Affairs

The 2024 US election polls indicate tight race in lead-up to Election Day, with turnout in swing states expected to prove decisive.

Republic of Georgia's pro-Russian ruling party declares victory; pro-West opposition party disputes results amid reports of voter intimidation, calls for protests.

Bulgaria holds seventh snap election in three years, results expected today.

Tropical Storm Trami makes landfall in Vietnam after landslides and flooding kill dozens of people in the Philippines.



3 bedroom apartment for rent.
Above laundromat in Downtown Groton.
Call/Text Tina 605-397-7285
Or Paul at 605-397-7460
\$650/Month Includes utilities



1 bedroom apartment for rent.
Above laundromat in Downtown Groton.
Call/Text Tina 605-397-7285
Or Paul at 605-397-7460
\$500/Month Includes utilities

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings were defeated in a head-to-head matchup against the Los Angeles Rams last Thursday 20-30. It marks the second straight loss by the Vikings, after starting the season strong 5-0. Not only did the Vikings lose the game, their confidence, and the fans' trust, but they also lost their second-best player for the rest of the season.

The game started well for both teams. The Vikings got the ball first and drove 70 yards down the field for a touchdown. Not wanting to be outdone, the Rams responded with a 70-yard touchdown drive of their own. On the Vikings' next possession, they fired right back with a 70-yard TD drive. Then the Rams evened the score with a... you guessed it, 70-yard TD drive. Four possessions, four touchdown drives of 70 yards.

The Vikings were the first ones to falter, as their first drive in the second quarter went three-and-out. However, as the first half was all about parity, the Rams were also forced to punt on their next possession. The two teams traded two punts in the second quarter, with the Vikings having the ball last with about 35 seconds left before halftime. Since the Vikings had all three timeouts in their pocket, they tried a running play to Aaron Jones. The thought was if they could pop a big run, they could call a timeout and try to get into field goal range. If they didn't pop a big run, they could just kneel the ball and go into halftime. What's the worst that could happen? Turns out, the worst that could happen was losing their second-best player, left tackle Christian Darrisaw, to a knee injury that will sideline him for the rest of the season...

The Rams got the ball to begin the second half, but cornerback Byron Murphy intercepted Matthew Stafford to get the ball back for the good guys. Three plays later, the Vikings were at the Rams' four-yard line, but they were unable to get the ball across the goal line and had to settle for a field goal. The Rams responded with a touchdown, giving them their first lead of the day 21-17. Down four, the Vikings could only manage a field goal on their next drive, then the defense gave up a fourth 70-yard TD drive, and suddenly the Vikings were down 20-28. After trading punts, the Vikings got the ball back at their five-yard line with less than two minutes to go. Sam Darnold was sacked for a safety on 2nd down (on a play where the refs missed the most egregious facemask penalty in the history of facemask penalties), and the Vikings were forced to kick the ball to Los Angeles with about a minute and a half left on the clock. Game over, Vikings 20 Rams 30.

Up next, the Vikings host the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday Night Football. The Colts have had an up-and-down season, and despite being 4-3, every game of theirs has been a one-score finish.

The biggest thing for the Vikings going forward will be how they overcome the loss of left tackle Christian Darrisaw, who is the second-best player on the team and one of the best LTs in the NFL. Offensive lineman Dalton Risner should be making his first appearance after beginning the season on injured reserve, so it will be interesting to see how the Vikings shake up the line. They may move left guard Blake Brandel to left tackle and put Risner in the vacated guard spot. It's also possible they decide to play David Quesenberry at LT and replace right guard Ed Ingram (who is one of the lowest-graded guards in the league) with Risner. There are a few possibilities, but there is no doubt losing Darrisaw is a huge blow to a Vikings team that is suddenly showing signs of decline.

"HPV causes cancer, and can be prevented"

What do warts, pap smears, cervical cancer, head and neck cancer, and a vaccine all have in common? Three letters: HPV

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus that can cause growths on skin and mucous membranes. There are over one hundred different types of HPV, and while some cause common warts, others can cause cancer.

HPV may be spread by skin to skin contact. The virus can enter your body through even the smallest tear in your skin. Warts caused by HPV can be contagious, either through direct contact with a wart or when someone touches something already touched by a wart. Genital or oral HPV infections can spread through sexual contact or through skin to skin contact in the genital region, anus, mouth, or back of the throat.

Unfortunately it can be difficult to prevent HPV infections that cause common warts. It is helpful to avoid picking at a wart to avoid spreading it. Plantar warts located on the bottom of your feet can be prevented by wearing shoes or sandals in public pools and locker rooms.

The treatment of common warts can be difficult as well. Some warts go away on their own, while others may grow despite attempts at treatment. No treatment is perfect. Persistence, however, is a key for success. Whether you treat a wart with an over-the-counter method such as salicylic acid, or go to the doctor to have it frozen, be prepared to treat the wart several times in consecutive months for full resolution.

Genital warts can be prevented by abstinence, and limited by being in a mutually monogamous relationship, limiting your sexual partners, and using a condom, which can form a barrier for HPV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Thankfully, there is a vaccine which is very effective at decreasing the risk of cancers caused by HPV such as cervical cancer and some cancers in the mouth and back of the throat. It can also decrease the risk of genital warts and genital cancers. The HPV vaccine is recommended for girls and boys often at ages 11 or 12 and can be given as early as age 9 and up to age 45. It is most effective before exposure to HPV. The immune response is better at a younger age, so when given before age 15, only two shots are recommended in the series, while three shots are recommended if started after age 15.

For decades, women have undergone pap smears to help catch cervical cancer in the early stages for better detection and treatment. The HPV vaccine can prevent the underlying cause of cervical cancer, can decrease the need for pap smears, and has been effective in decreasing rates of cervical cancer.

Once one of the most common causes of death for American women, cervical cancer death rates were cut in half starting in the mid 1970's with better detection and screening from pap smears. Now, a recent study in Scotland detected ZERO cases of cervical cancer in women born between 1988-1996 who were fully vaccinated against HPV before age 14. This highlights the effectiveness and benefit of the HPV vaccine.



Andrew Ellsworth, MD

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

NOTICE OF SALE

November 9th, 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 3rd, 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 1st Ave SE, Aberdeen, SD 57401 on November 9th, 2024, at 10:00 AM.

DAVE LUNZMAN, SHERIFF OF BROWN COUNTY.

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

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

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

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

Questions call (605) 397-8422

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Working to Protect & Promote Traditional American Values

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



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 1

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General Election - Nov. 5
Absentee Voting has begun

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is transitioning to more electric vehicles (EVs) good or bad for the economy overall?

-- Richard T., Boise, ID

According to the S&P Global Motility Forecast, EV sales have surged so substantially over the past two decades that about 50 percent of the vehicles on the road by 2040 are projected to be electric. Individuals who can afford the initial cost of an EV substantially reduce their carbon footprint while enjoying an average of \$2,200 annually in fuel and maintenance savings. On a national level, however, experts have debated whether or not the increased electric utility revenue, job creation, and decreased oil dependence associated with EVs outweigh the costs of charging station



Installing public chargers & upgrading the electrical grid will pose a large cost to the U.S., but the economic benefits will be worth it. Credit:

Pexels.com.

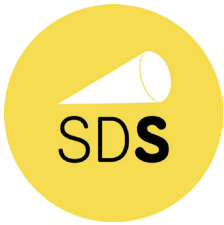
installation and electrical grid upgrades.

Only 50 percent of the electrical capacity of the U.S. grid is used, so as to accommodate large swings during peak demand. Ninety percent of current EV charging occurs at homes and places of business during off peak hours, thus, the amount used does not yet meet capacity. Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and Southern California Edison (SCE) have found that EVs in their service areas contributed \$806 million more in revenue than in associated costs, which drove rates down for all customers. If utility revenue remains higher than utility cost, EVs will lower the rate paid by all ratepayers. Conversely, if utilization approaches capacity, costly grid upgrades amounting to \$3 billion across the U.S. will be required.

The McKinsey Center for Future Mobility estimates that as the number of EVs increases, hardware, planning and installation costs of an expected 1.2 million public and 28 million private chargers will reach more than \$35 billion. Though costly, charger installations create jobs, possibly lowering unemployment. Furthermore, a study by MIT found that charging stations boosted annual spending at nearby businesses.

The largest economic benefit of transitioning to EVs is a decrease in oil reliance. The U.S. relies upon oil for 85 percent of transportation needs, and depends upon foreign providers to meet this demand. Oil price fluctuation is implicated in the majority of recent recessions, including in 2022, and is directly linked to consumer sentiment. Increased reliance on a domestic and diversified electrical grid will separate the U.S. from more economically volatile nations, positively impacting the U.S. economy.

Installing public chargers and upgrading the electrical grid will undoubtedly pose a large cost to the U.S. Still, job creation, utility company revenue and less oil dependence are projected to make it all worth it. In the long run, transitioning to EVs is projected to positively impact the economy. However, these estimates are based on a model whereby the utility cost of EVs is less than the increased revenue to electric providers. Time will tell whether this model holds true.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

More than ever, next legislative session will require courage Property taxpayers are crying for relief while teachers need better pay by DANA HESS

I've never been much good at political predictions. I knew George Mickelson as a tall guy I played volleyball against in the adult league in Brookings. While he was a force at the net, I didn't think that qualified him to be governor. John Thune was unknown to me when he first ran for Congress. Certainly he didn't stand a chance of winning a primary against Bill Jankow's lieutenant governor. No one asked me to wager, but I would never have bet on Mike Rounds to win a three-man primary for governor.

While political races have proven impossible for me to predict, my crystal ball isn't as foggy when it comes to forecasting what's going to happen during a legislative session. Even this far out from the start of the 2025 session in January, I can tell that it's going to be all about courage.

For years, the Legislature has been tip-toeing around the need to do something about the property tax system in South Dakota. A legislative summer study has just wrapped up its work trying to determine ways to make sure tax assessments are being handled in the same way across the state. Like former President Donald Trump, who admitted in a debate to having "concepts of a plan" to improve health care, the summer study offered "concepts" that might make assessments more uniform.

Those concepts are rooted in more cooperation, more education and nothing at all that citizens want to hear about when the topic is property taxes. According to a South Dakota Searchlight story, in the last decade property tax payments have increased nearly 60% for homes, 47% for commercial property and 28% for agricultural property.

Those property taxes aren't just a burden for property owners, they're a lifeline for local governments with 56% going to schools, 27% to counties, 13% to cities and the rest to various local taxing authorities. Consequently, any changes to the system have the potential to mess with local government budgets.

Some legislative candidates are running on a pledge to bring property tax relief. However, the issue needs more than one legislator with a plan. The problem is big enough and complex enough to require a study akin to Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Blue Ribbon Task Force that studied teacher pay. That study resulted in a



State senators and representatives meet in a conference committee with a full audience on March 6, 2024, at the Capitol in Pierre to discuss pipeline bills. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

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2016 half-cent increase in the state sales tax with a portion of the money dedicated to increasing teacher pay.

That brings us to the other issue that will require legislative courage — how to raise teachers' salaries. While the sales tax increase proposed by the Blue Ribbon panel dug South Dakota's teacher pay out of the basement, inattention by the Legislature has allowed the state to fall back to 49th in national rankings.

This month, a South Dakota Searchlight story noted that not only were the state's teacher salaries ranked near the bottom nationally, but teacher pay in this state has fallen by 7.6% over the past six years when adjusted for inflation. Lawmakers can't continue to dodge the issue by falling back on the excuse that South Dakota has a low cost of living.

With many new lawmakers likely to be headed to Pierre after the election, the 2025 session may not be the best time to tackle large, complex issues. However, taxpayers are crying for relief. Teachers need more pay.

The mechanisms used to resolve those problems can't be one-and-done. If Daugaard's Blue Ribbon Task Force taught us anything, it's that solutions need to be nurtured. Lawmakers didn't pay enough attention to teacher pay and now the state ranks close to the bottom again.

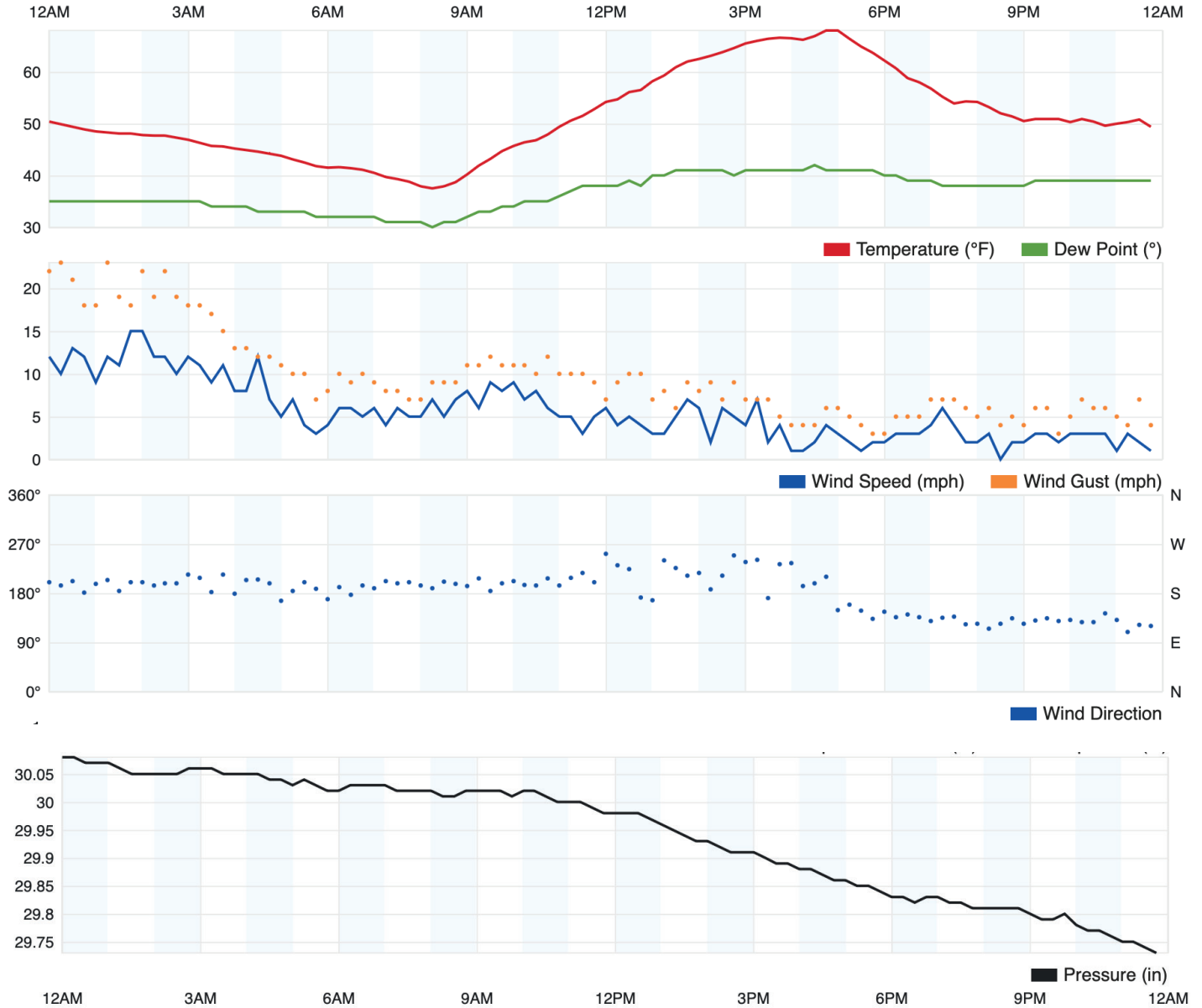
The best solutions for property tax relief and higher teacher pay will be ones that keep tabs on those markets so that the Legislature can make the needed adjustments over time. Solutions like that will take study, innovation and plenty of courage.

Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 70 °F

Increasing
Clouds

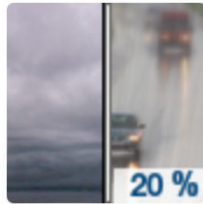
Tonight



Low: 44 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 60 °F

Cloudy then
Slight Chance
Rain

Tuesday Night



Low: 36 °F

Rain

Wednesday



High: 44 °F

Rain and
Breezy



Increasing Clouds - Turning Cooler

October 28, 2024
4:23 AM

Rain moving in Tuesday - departs late Wednesday

Today
Highs: 66 - 72



Tuesday
Highs: 54 - 62



Rain West - Dry East

Wednesday
Highs: 44 - 48



Probability of Precipitation Forecast (%)

	10/29 Tue									10/30 Wed									10/31 Thu		
	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	
Aberdeen	0	5	5	10	10	45	45	65	65	85	85	80	80	30	30	25	25	5	5	5	
Britton	0	5	5	10	10	45	45	75	75	85	85	80	80	30	30	30	30	10	10	10	
Brookings	0	0	0	15	15	25	25	55	55	75	75	55	55	45	45	35	35	15	15	15	
Chamberlain	5	5	5	5	5	20	20	60	60	75	75	60	60	30	30	35	35	0	0	0	
Clark	0	5	5	5	5	30	30	55	55	80	80	75	75	35	35	35	35	10	10	5	
Eagle Butte	25	35	35	20	20	70	70	90	90	85	85	80	80	25	25	20	20	0	0	0	
Ellendale	0	10	10	15	15	50	50	65	65	85	85	80	80	25	25	20	20	5	5	5	
Eureka	5	25	25	30	30	65	65	80	80	85	85	80	80	20	20	20	20	5	5	5	
Gettysburg	5	20	20	15	15	60	60	80	80	85	85	80	80	30	30	25	25	5	5	0	
Huron	5	5	5	10	10	35	35	70	70	80	80	75	75	40	40	45	45	5	5	5	
Kennebec	0	5	5	5	5	30	30	65	65	75	75	70	70	30	30	25	25	0	0	0	
McIntosh	20	45	45	45	45	75	75	75	75	75	70	70	15	15	10	10	0	0	0		
Milbank	0	5	5	5	5	30	30	60	60	85	85	75	75	40	40	40	40	15	15	15	
Miller	5	10	10	10	10	40	40	70	70	75	75	75	75	30	30	30	30	5	5	5	
Mobridge	10	35	35	30	30	65	65	80	80	85	85	80	80	20	20	15	15	5	5	0	
Murdo	5	10	10	5	5	40	40	75	75	85	85	80	80	30	30	25	25	0	0	0	
Pierre	10	15	15	5	5	45	45	75	75	85	85	80	80	30	30	25	25	0	0	0	
Redfield	0	5	5	5	5	30	30	65	65	80	80	75	75	30	30	30	30	5	5	5	
Sisseton	0	5	5	5	5	40	40	65	65	85	85	80	80	35	35	35	35	15	15	10	
Watertown	0	5	5	5	5	30	30	55	55	80	80	75	75	35	35	35	35	10	10	10	
Webster	0	5	5	5	5	35	35	60	60	85	85	75	75	30	30	30	30	10	10	10	
Wheaton	0	5	5	0	0	40	40	65	65	85	85	80	80	40	40	35	35	15	15	15	

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

One last mild day with cooling temperatures through mid-week as moisture moves into the region. Rainfall is going to be focused across western and north central South Dakota. To the east of this line, rainfall amounts remain much less certain with some of the lower ranges only at a few hundreds across south central South Dakota

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Rainfall Forecast Uncertainty

October 28, 2024
4:23 AM

Lower Forecast Range

24 hr Precipitation			
Tuesday Evening, Oct 29 - Thursday Evening, Oct 31			
	Tue 10/29	Wed 10/30	Thu 10/31
Aberdeen	0	0.14	0
Eagle Butte	0.01	0.31	0
Miller	0	0.11	0
Mobridge	0	0.17	0
Ortonville	0	0.09	0
Pierre	0	0.2	0
Sisseton	0	0.13	0
Watertown	0	0.07	0

Higher Forecast Range

24 hr Precipitation			
Tuesday Evening, Oct 29 - Thursday Evening, Oct 31			
	Tue 10/29	Wed 10/30	Thu 10/31
Aberdeen	0.03	0.51	0
Eagle Butte	0.35	1.04	0
Miller	0.04	0.49	0
Mobridge	0.16	0.71	0
Ortonville	0.02	0.39	0.03
Pierre	0.06	0.85	0
Sisseton	0.02	0.46	0.01
Watertown	0.01	0.48	0



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

These tables give model averages for the lower (25th percentile) and higher (75th percentile) ranges. Think of it as most of us will end up falling between these two, though that's not to say some of us could still under or overachieve but generally we use this range to eliminate some of the more extreme outcomes

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 68 °F at 4:49 PM

Low Temp: 38 °F at 8:12 AM

Wind: 25 mph at 12:05 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 10 hours, 20 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 82 in 1937

Record Low: -6 in 1919

Average High: 52

Average Low: 28

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.99

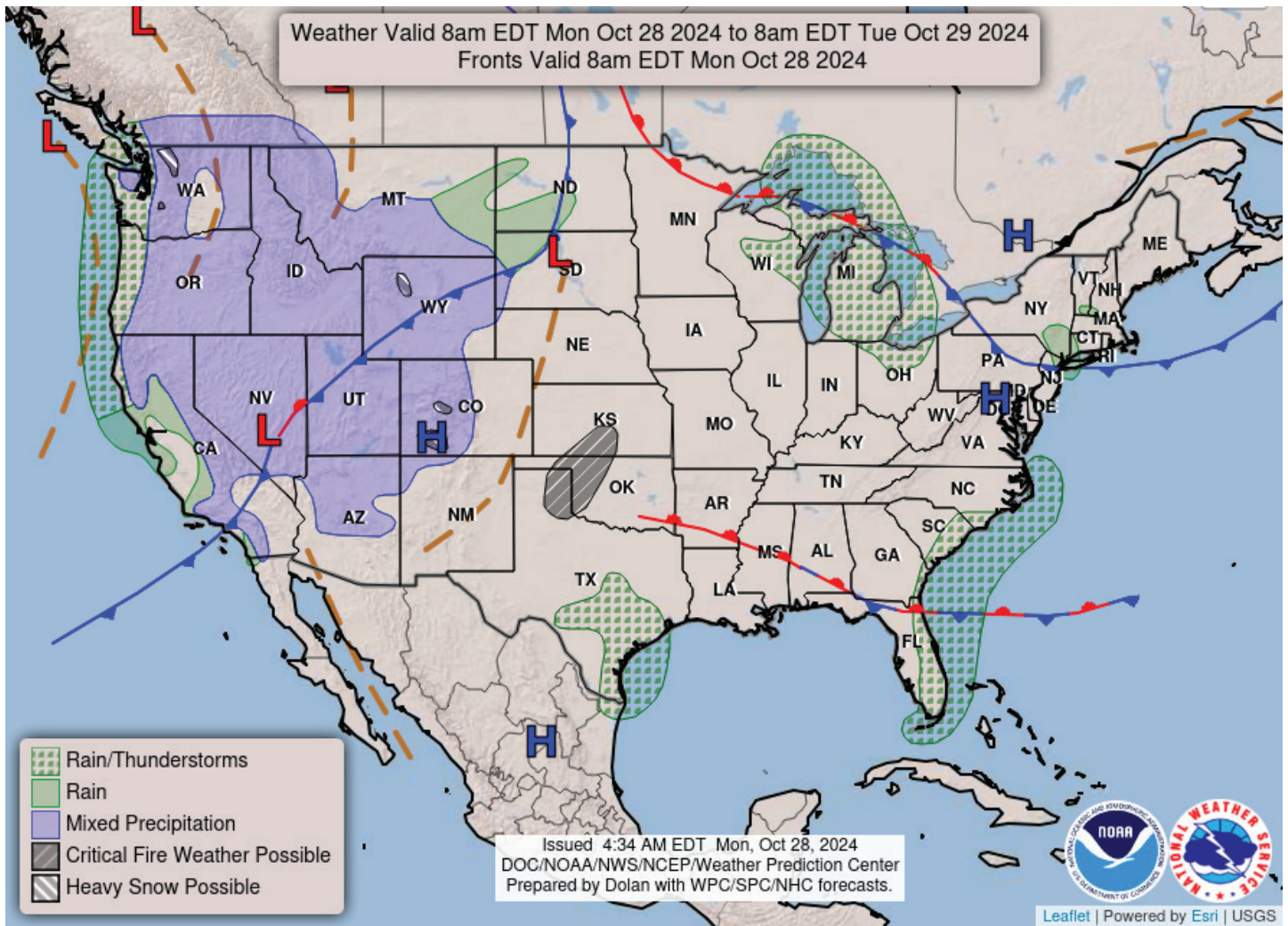
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.07

Average Precip to date: 20.32

Precip Year to Date: 19.82

Sunset Tonight: 6:26:27 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:07:10 am



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Today in Weather History

October 28, 1989: The season's first snowfall brought much-needed moisture to the Black Hills and portions of western South Dakota as up to nearly a foot of snow fell in the higher elevations. The storms caused motorists some problems. A build-up of ice and slush in combination with blowing snow prompted the State Highway Patrol to close the portion of Interstate-90 from Rapid City to Wall. Numerous multiple vehicle accidents were reported.

October 28, 1993: Very strong northwest winds gusting to 50 to 60 mph raked South Dakota. A new home under construction southwest of DeSmet collapsed in the winds. Reported peak winds included 56 mph at Huron, 55 mph at Rapid City, and 52 mph at Sioux Falls.

1846: In the spring of 1846, a group of nearly 90 emigrants left Springfield, Illinois, and headed west to California. The Donner party arrived at the Great Salt Lake and still needed to cross the Sierra Nevada Mountains late in the season. On this day, a heavy snowfall blocked the pass, thus trapping the emigrants. Only 45 of the original 89 emigrants reached California the following year.

1936 - The temperature at Layton, NJ, dipped to 9 above zero to establish a state record for the month of October. (The Weather Channel)

1971 - A severe early season blizzard raged across the Plateau Region and Rocky Mountain Region. Heavy snow blocked railroads and interstate highways, and record cold accompanied the storm. Lander WY received 27 inches of snow, and the temperature at Big Piney WY plunged to 15 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms over the San Joaquin Valley of California produced three-quarters of an inch of rain in thirty minutes at Placerville, and caused numerous power outages due to lightning. Rain began to diminish in the northeastern U.S., but some flooding continued in Vermont, eastern New York and northern New Jersey. One inch rains in Vermont clogged culverts and sewers with fallen leaves, resulting in erosion of dirt roads. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Arctic cold invaded the north central U.S. Valentine, NE, dipped to 8 degrees, and Cutbank, MT, reported a morning low of one degree above zero. The temperature at Estes Park CO dipped to 15 degrees, but then soared thirty degrees in less than thirty minutes. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A storm crossing the western U.S. produced 10 to 20 inches of snow across northern and central Wyoming, with 22 inches reported at Burgess Junction. Seven cities in the Lower Ohio Valley and the Upper Great Lakes Region reported record high temperatures for the date as readings again warmed into the 70s. Alpena MI reported a record high of 75 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1999: A Super Typhoon, known as Cyclone 05B reached the equivalent of the Category 5 hurricane on this day. This storm is the strongest tropical cyclone ever record in the North Indian Ocean. Cyclone 05B hit the Indian State of Odisha near the city of Bhubaneswar on October 29. An estimated 10,000 individuals would die from this cyclone, and 1.67 million people were left homeless.



STRAIGHT FROM AZALEA AVENUE

Jane was very specific in each prayer she offered to God. Her "This Is What I'm Asking You For, Jesus" list contained detailed information about each person or item that she had written on her list.

One night following her "In Jesus' Name, Amen" at the end of her prayer, she paused for a moment and then added the message: "Lord, these requests come directly to You from 417 Azalea Avenue, Savannah, Georgia!"

It would be interesting to know exactly what was on Jane's prayer list. But it really does not matter. What we do know is that whatever was on her list was asked for "In Jesus' Name."

When Jesus said that we could "ask for anything in my name," we must never forget that our "asking" must be consistent with the character of God and will of God. We cannot expect God to grant our requests if they are contrary to whom we know He is.

We know without any doubt that our God is a holy God and a righteous God and a loving God and a God who loved us so much that He sent His Son into the world to die for us and become our Savior and Lord. Certainly when we consider these four basic characteristics of God, we realize that they lead to a significant fact about our God: He is unselfish. A simple way to evaluate each of our requests is to ask: Is this prayer to glorify me or God?

Prayer: Father, we know that You want us to have the desires of our hearts. Help us understand Your will so that our requests will be consistent with Your Name. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:13-14

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.25.24

23 26 35 41 43 7

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$250,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 54
DRAW: Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.26.24

2 3 25 42 47 5

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$12,890,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 9 Mins
DRAW: 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.27.24

1 4 8 27 42 1

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 16 Hrs 24 Mins
DRAW: 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.26.24

7 11 13 34 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$77,000

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 24
DRAW: Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.26.24

1 7 25 27 57 18

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 53 Mins
DRAW: 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.26.24

8 12 40 45 51 15

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$28,000,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 53 Mins
DRAW: 32 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

News from the **AP** Associated Press

In their own words: What it's like in a 'chaos' Congress and why these lawmakers keep coming back

By LISA MASCARO and MIKE PESOLI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Polarizing. Challenging. A lot of wasted time.

That's how six lawmakers described what it is like being in the U.S. House — a particularly tumultuous period in American history that has brought governing to a standstill, placed their lives in danger and raised fundamental questions about what it means to be a representative in a divided democracy.

And yet, they keep at it, running for reelection.

The Associated Press sat down separately with lawmakers, three Republicans and three Democrats, to hear what it's like on Capitol Hill and what they — and Americans — can do to make it better. All hail from safe districts and are expected to easily win another term.

Here's who they are, why they first ran for office and why they keep coming back.

Republicans

Dusty Johnson is the rare lawmaker whose sprawling district makes up an entire state, South Dakota. He ran for office in 2018 because he thought there were "too many jerks" in Congress and he would be better.

Nicole Malliotakis said that as the daughter of a Cuban mother and Greek father, her background made her born for politics. She ran in 2020 to provide a "counter view" as a Republican from New York City, representing Brooklyn and Staten Island.

Mark Amodei from northern Nevada, or "original Nevada," as he calls it, has been in office since 2011. He said it's his responsibility to do public service and give back to the state where his family has lived for generations.

Democrats

Chrissy Houlahan, an Air Force veteran, comes from the western Philadelphia region known as "the mushroom capital of the world." The daughter of a Holocaust survivor and mother of a queer daughter, she decided to run for office in 2018 after seeing them in tears after Donald Trump's 2016 election.

Veronica Escobar, from the border city of El Paso, Texas, ran for office to work for her community but also to tell the "El Paso story" and counter some of the "negative narratives" about immigrants. She won election in 2018.

Maxwell Frost, the youngest member of Congress, said his initial response to running for office was "Hell, no!" But he came to realize his work as the national organizer at March for Our Lives after the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, could carry over into Congress. He first won office in 2022.

So how's it going?

"Chaos is honestly the word I would use to describe the totality of the Congress," Frost said. "A lot of wasted time."

"You have your ups and downs," said Malliotakis.

Almost all of them have been in office during two presidential impeachments, two historic House speaker fights, the COVID closures and the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol.

"All of the things that you could not expect have happened have, have happened," Houlahan said. This year in particular has been frustrating "and in some cases super demoralizing because, you know, you're not here to not do things."

Amodei said, "I think it's an asset if you know how to play well with others. And if you don't play well with others, then this is a nasty place to be."

Escobar, who was among the lawmakers trapped in the House gallery on Jan. 6, 2021, said: "I will tell you, I love my job. I'm grateful for my job. It's a tough job."

What can Congress do differently?

"I struggle with that a lot," said Houlahan.

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Houlahan said the House's 435 members operate like "independent contractors," with small staffs and each office's own personality. After a career in the military, as a small business entrepreneur and as a high school chemistry teacher, she said, "I've never seen anything like the organizational structure that is here."

"Some of those offices, their mission is chaos, you know, and some of those offices, their mission is constructive," Houlahan said.

Johnson said it's the wrong question to be asking.

"It's garbage in, garbage out," he said.

"And if the people of America are going to continue to elect people who use fear and anger to motivate, we're going to continue to find it more difficult than it should be to get things done in Congress," he said.

Frost thinks unless there are institutional reforms — campaign finance changes and ending the Senate's filibuster — "we're going to be caught in this generational cycle of taking a few steps forward and a few steps backwards."

Malliotakis expects it's going to be this way for a while.

"The far right does its thing, the far left does its thing, and then everyone else in the middle really comes together to actually govern," she said.

And what can Americans do to fix Congress?

"Congress is a reflection of what's happening in America," Escobar said.

"We have families that can no longer talk to one another about politics or about government," she said. "We are drifting so far away from what is so good about our country and our communities, and Congress has a role in fixing that. ... But we in our country have to do more of that, as well."

Malliotakis said it would help if Americans paid more attention to what their representatives were "actually doing when they're in Washington."

"So many people complain about issues and then they vote for the same members over and over," she said.

Johnson suggests Americans list characteristics they would seek in a spouse, a boss, a pastor or child and use them when electing a representative.

"Congress can't fix Congress," he said. "The American people can fix Congress."

Do you worry for your safety?

"We've all gotten death threats," Malliotakis said. "Obviously, it is a polarizing time right now."

Escobar said she has stopped holding large town hall gatherings over concerns of gun violence.

"I worry that any time I'm gathered with my constituents that one of my constituents could get hurt," she said. "And I worry that my presence at a large gathering could put somebody else's safety at risk."

Houlahan said the risks of violence come with the job.

"This is a job where we are in danger," she said. "It's awful that we're in that place, and we as leaders should be decrying that and not encouraging that."

She said, "But it is absolutely my expectation that this is not a safe job."

Frost said the threats he receives as a member of Congress are not new to him. "And I think it just shows, of course, the tone and this kind of violent culture that exists within American politics."

What are the best parts of your job?

All said getting stuff done — even small wins. Especially the small wins, in fact, because that's about all Congress can accomplish these days.

"There's no other feeling like it," said Frost.

He described standing at the White House for the launch of the first-ever Office of Gun Violence Prevention. And the "joy" he felt when receiving word that the administration would approve a second passport office in Florida, something constituents had been demanding since before he came to Congress.

Amodei mentioned work he's done toward a monument for Vietnam War helicopter pilots at Arlington National Cemetery. "That's neat."

"The best days are days when you actually feel like you took a vote of consequence," Johnson said, whether it's certifying the results of the 2020 presidential election or "making sure that we don't have any of these silly, stupid dumpster fires."

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"My role as a legislator is to find a solution," Escobar said. "It may not be the perfect solution.... I have constituents who get mad at me for saying that, but progress is incremental."

And the worst?

"I commute about 5,000 miles a week," Amodei said.

But what's "worse is when you feel like you're here and your time is being taken for granted," he said.

Why do you keep coming back?

"I keep coming back because it's work that matters," Johnson said.

"I do love what I do," Malliotakis said, adding she wants to do "great work for our constituents."

Houlahan said she envisions a future where Congress turns a corner.

"I stay because I'm hoping that we will find ourselves again," she said. "And I hope that I can be part of it."

Frost said, "If we step away from our civic power, our opposition is more than happy to step into it for us."

"The way this institution works should reflect the wants and needs of the people. And so ... that's why we've got to keep coming back."

Does Congress matter?

"Anybody who would act like Congress doesn't matter, I think, is naive to the point of being a bad citizen," Johnson said. "The reality is that every single one, we cast votes that bend the trajectory of this country."

Amodei said, "Well, fair question, but it's like, well, do you think Social Security is important if you're over 65? Do you think Medicare is important?... Do you think that our borders are important?"

He said he gets the "uber-cynics" who say, "You people are such dysfunctional jerks that we should just get rid of all of you. It's like, okay, so tell me what your plan is."

"Everything we do here in Washington, D.C., in Congress, impacts every single citizen in this great country," Escobar said.

Middle East latest: Social platform X suspends new account on behalf of Iran's supreme leader

By The Associated Press undefined

The social platform X has suspended a new account on behalf of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that posted messages in Hebrew.

The account was suspended early Monday with a brief note appended to it saying: "X suspends accounts which violate the X Rules." It wasn't immediately clear what the violation was. The Elon Musk-owned social media company did not respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

The move came after Israel openly attacked Iran for the first time this weekend. Khamenei said in a speech on Sunday that Israel's strikes — in response to Iran's ballistic missile attack this month — "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed," while stopping short of calling for retaliation.

The X account opened Sunday with a message in Hebrew reading: "In the name of God, the most merciful," a standard Islamic greeting.

Khamenei's office has maintained multiple accounts for the 85-year-old supreme leader on X for years and has sent messages in a variety of languages in the past.

A second message corresponded to a speech Khamenei gave on Sunday and was sent on his English account as: "Zionists are making a miscalculation with respect to Iran. They don't know Iran. They still haven't been able to correctly understand the power, initiative, and determination of the Iranian people." The message referred to Israel's attack Saturday on Iran.

This isn't the first time Khamenei has seen a suspension or removal from social media. In February, Meta removed Facebook and Instagram accounts for the supreme leader over his support of the militant group Hamas after its Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

Social media platforms like X and Facebook have been blocked in Iran for years, requiring Iranians to use virtual private networks to access them.

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Here's the latest:

Head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard calls Israeli attack 'illegitimate and illegal'

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The head of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard made his first public comments Monday after Israel's weekend attack on the country.

Gen. Hossein Salami, in a condolence message to Iran's regular military, called Israel's strike "illegitimate and illegal." Four soldiers in Iran's air defense network were killed in the attack on Saturday, as was one civilian, Iranian state media say.

The attack was "a sign of miscalculation and the inability" of Israel on the battlefield with Iranian-backed militants "particularly in Gaza and Lebanon."

The "bitter consequences will be beyond the imagination of the occupiers," Salami added, referring to Israel.

Iraq submits protest to UN saying Israel violated its airspace in Iran attack

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq has submitted a memorandum of protest to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the U.N. Security Council saying Israel violated its airspace in carrying out its attack on Iran over the weekend, the Iraqi prime minister's office said in a statement.

The statement said that Israeli "aggressor aircraft violated Iraq's airspace and sovereignty and used Iraqi airspace to carry out the attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran on Oct. 26."

It added that Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani had directed Iraq's foreign minister to discuss the matter with the United States. The two countries recently reached an agreement to begin winding down the mission of a U.S.-led coalition formed to fight the Islamic State militant group and to withdraw many of the U.S. troops who remain in the country.

On Sunday, the Iran-backed Iraqi militia Kataib Hezbollah issued a statement accusing the U.S. of coordinating with Israel to use Iraqi airspace to launch the attack on Iran and threatening retaliation against U.S. forces.

UN Security Council schedules emergency meeting at Iran's request

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting Monday afternoon at Iran's request on Israel's air strikes against the country.

Switzerland, which holds the council's rotating presidency, announced the meeting on Sunday and said the Iranian request was supported by Russia, China and Algeria, the Arab representative on the council.

Iranian president vows to respond 'appropriately' to Israeli strikes

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian says his country will respond to Israel "appropriately," after Israel openly attacked Iranian military sites for the first time this weekend.

"We are not seeking war, but we will defend the rights of our nation and country and will respond appropriately to the Zionist regime's aggression," Pezeshkian was quoted by state TV on Sunday as saying.

Pezeshkian also said the U.S. had promised Iran to stop the war in Gaza and Lebanon if Iran restrained. "They had promised to end the war in response to our restraint, but they did not keep their word," he said.

The Iranian president also warned tensions will escalate if Israel's aggression continues, adding, "We know that the United States is encouraging Israel to commit these atrocities."

Iran says a civilian was killed in Israel's attack

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran announced Sunday that a civilian had been killed in Israel's attack on the country, without offering any details on the circumstances of his death.

The state-run IRNA news agency identified the dead man as Allahverdi Rahimpour and said he lived in a suburban area of southwestern Tehran.

While offering no details on what he was doing or where he was killed, IRNA made a point to say he was not a member of Iran's armed forces.

Iran has offered few details on the attack and the damage caused by them so far.

A Philippine town in the shadow of a volcano is hit by landslides it never expected

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

TALISAY, Philippines (AP) — As a storm pounded his rural home, Raynaldo Dejucos asked his wife and children to stay indoors and keep safe from possible lightning strikes, slippery roads or catching a fever.

One thing the 36-year-old didn't mention was landslides. In the lakeside town of Talisay in the northeastern Philippines, the 40,000 inhabitants have never experienced them in their lifetime.

But after leaving home last Thursday to check his fish cages in nearby Lake Taal, an avalanche of mud, boulders and toppled trees cascaded down a steep ridge and buried about a dozen houses, including his.

Talisay, about 70 kilometers (43 miles) south of Manila, was one of several towns ravaged by Tropical Storm Trami, the deadliest of 11 storms to hit the Philippines this year. The storm veered toward Vietnam across the South China Sea after leaving at least 152 people dead and missing. More than 5.9 million people were in the storm's path in northern and central provinces.

"My wife was breastfeeding our 2-month-old baby," Dejucos told The Associated Press on Saturday in a municipal basketball gym, where the five white coffins of his entire family were laid side by side with those of a dozen other victims. "My children were holding each other on the bed when we found them."

"I was calling out the names of my wife and our children repeatedly. Where are you? Where are you?"

Disasters and migration to danger zones are a deadly mix

It's the latest reality check in the Philippines, long regarded as one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, in the era of climate change extremes.

Located between the Pacific Ocean and South China Sea, the Philippine archipelago is regarded as the doorway for about 20 typhoons and storms that barrel through its 7,600 islands each year, some with devastating force. The nation of more than 110 million people also lies in the Pacific "Ring of Fire," where many volcanic eruptions and most of the world's earthquakes occur.

A deadly mix of increasingly destructive weather blamed on climate change, and economic desperation that has forced people to live and work in previously off-limits disaster zones, has made many communities across Southeast Asia disasters waiting to happen. Villages have sprouted in landslide-prone mountainsides, on active volcano slopes, on earthquake fault lines and on coastlines often inundated by tidal surges.

U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Kamal Kishore, who heads the U.N. disaster-mitigation agency, warned during a recent conference in the Philippines that disasters, including those caused by increasingly ferocious storms, were threatening more people and could derail the region's economic progress if governments don't invest more in disaster prevention.

A volcano town bears the brunt of calamity

The picturesque resort town of Talisay lies north of Taal, one of the country's 24 most active volcanoes nestled on an island in the middle of a lake. Fruit and vegetable farms have flourished on the fertile land, which is also a key tourist destination.

Thousands of poor settlers like Dejucos have descended on Talisay over the decades, and its villages have expanded inland away from the lake toward a 32-kilometer (20-mile) long ridge with an average height of 600 meters (2,000 feet).

Fernan Cosme, a 59-year-old village councilor, told the AP that the towering ridge at Talisay's northern fringes had never posed any major risks, at least in his lifetime. The key worry has always been the volcano, which has been restive on and off since the 1500s.

"Many take the risks," Cosme said of Talisay villagers, who have grown accustomed to Taal's volatility and survived in its shadow.

In 2020, Taal's eruption displaced hundreds of thousands and sent clouds of ash all the way to Manila, shutting the main international airport.

Kervin de Torres, a carpenter, wanted a safer community for his daughter Kisha, a high school student, but he and his wife separated and she bought a house close to the Talisay ridge, where she lived with Kisha. His daughter was in the house when she was buried by the landslide. The mother survived.

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A distraught de Torres showed his daughter's picture to police officers who on Saturday searched for the last two missing people — Kisha and a baby from another family.

Three hours later, a backhoe dug up school uniforms dangling from plastic hangers, in a spot where Kisha was believed to have been entombed by the debris.

Dozens of police and volunteers dug furiously with shovels until a foot was seen in the mud. De Torres wept when the remains of a young girl were placed in a black body bag. He nodded when asked if it was his daughter. Teary-eyed residents expressed their sympathies.

Doris Echin, a 35-year-old mother, said she nearly died when the mudslide swamped her up to the waist as she darted out of her hut, carrying her two daughters. She said she prayed hard and managed to plod through.

Standing beside her hut, which was half-buried in mud as police and emergency personnel searched the area with backhoes and sniffer dogs, Echin worried about her family's fate.

"If we relocate, where will we get the money to build a new house? Which employer will give us jobs?" she asked. "If we get to rebuild and stay, we'll be living between a volcano and a crumbling mountain."

The trajectory of Ukraine's fight against Russia hangs on the outcome of the US election

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — There is no doubt that the U.S. election will determine the trajectory of the war in Ukraine.

The status of military aid from Kyiv's chief international backer is dependent on who becomes president, as is any prospect for a cease-fire that could benefit Ukraine.

Some in Kyiv say the country's very existence hinges on who wins the White House.

As Americans vote, exhausted and outmanned Ukrainian soldiers are holding defensive lines under constant Russian fire, knowing the results will dictate their future.

The war in Ukraine is one of the most divisive issues of the Nov. 5 election: Former President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, and Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, advocate very different views on how much support the U.S. should continue to give Ukraine.

After a whirlwind Western tour, Kyiv's leaders have tried to promote their version of what President Volodymyr Zelenskyy calls his "victory plan." They hope key decisions will be made — including Ukraine's bid for NATO membership — by the new administration.

For now, they have no choice but to wait.

"We believe that regardless of the last name of the future president of the U.S., the country of the United States will not give up global dominance, global leadership as such. And this is possible only through the support of Ukraine and through the defeat of the Russian Federation," said Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Zelenskyy.

Harris would likely continue Biden's policies

Harris, who has decried President Vladimir Putin's "brutality," would likely carry on President Joe Biden's policy of support, albeit within the strict limits on Ukraine's ability to strike deep inside Russian territory that have frustrated Kyiv's leaders.

"President Biden has made it clear from the beginning of this conflict that his top priority has been to avoid an all-out war with Russia. I think that remains the top American priority," said Malcom Chalmers, deputy director general at the Royal United Services Institute in London.

The U.S. has provided Ukraine more than \$59.5 billion in military weapons and assistance since Russia invaded in February 2022. But throughout, Kyiv has been captive to fraught American politics that often undermined its battlefield potential.

Ukraine lost territory and manpower as weapons stocks dwindled during the six months it took the U.S. Congress to pass an aid package. Even promised military assistance has failed to arrive on time or in sufficient quantities.

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Ukraine is still hoping for Western approval of strikes inside Russian territory with longer-range weapons supplied by its allies. It also holds hundreds of square kilometers (square miles) in Russia's Kursk region after an incursion in August.

Still, Biden's commitment to support Ukraine has never wavered. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced a \$400 million package during his recent visit. Zelenskyy said he expects another worth \$800 million, the first tranche for Ukraine's production of long-range capabilities. Still another \$8 billion is expected by the end of the year.

But for some, all that is too late.

"If the amount of aid that was promised but not delivered had been fulfilled, we could have entered negotiations in a stronger position with Russia," said Gen. Lt. Ihor Romanenko, former deputy chief of the General Staff.

Trump's vague vows and praise for Putin

Trump has repeatedly taken issue with U.S. aid to Ukraine, made vague vows to end the war and has praised Putin.

He also is considered highly unpredictable.

Some Ukrainian officials even privately welcome this quality, saying it could bring about results quicker. But so much is unknown about what decisions Trump would make.

"He has emphasized that he has a very different approach to Ukraine than Kamala Harris. And if what he's saying now is translated into action, then it's going to be a very rocky period for Ukraine," Chalmers said.

"Donald Trump is raising the very distinct probability that the United States will cut off most if not all military aid to Ukraine, which given that the situation on the ground, although deadlocked, is one which Russia currently has the advantage, could tip the balance in Russia's favor," he added.

Podolyak said Trump "understands the logic" of Zelenskyy's plans after meeting with him. "Mr. Trump realized that there is no way to agree on something in this war, because it is necessary to ensure Russia's compulsion to understand what a war is, what consequences Russia will have in this war. That is, Russia can be forced to do something, but not asked."

Faced with Trump's harsh rhetoric, some Ukrainian officials say that despite his stated views, his actions as president at times benefited Ukraine. Some of the toughest sanctions fell on Russia's elite during his administration. Trump also approved the sale of lethal weapons to Ukraine, something President Barack Obama fell short of doing.

Most Ukrainians fear Trump will halt all military aid to Kyiv, and no other country can match the U.S. support. Ukrainian soldiers remain defiant, saying they'll continue to hold the line, no matter what.

But the practical implications would be dire, and Kyiv may be forced to accept devastating cease-fire terms, with a fifth of its territory under Russian control.

"If the aid is stopped, the situation will become more complicated," Romanenko said. "In this case, the seizure of Ukrainian land will continue, but we do not know how fast, because their offensive potential is not unlimited."

Zelenskyy's plans hang in the balance

Zelenskyy has presented his vision for ending the war to both Trump and Harris, arguing for its necessity. He said Ukraine hopes for a post-election response from Washington, particularly on the question of NATO membership, insisting that such an invitation be irreversible.

Both Ukraine and Russia are feeling considerable economic and societal strain to maintain the war effort. For the first time, Zelenskyy has openly discussed the potential for a partial cease-fire. But important questions remain about the fate of Russian-occupied territories.

Russia has allocated a large part of its government budget to defense spending and continues to lose thousands of men. The potential introduction of what Zelenskyy has put at 10,000 North Korean troops signals that Moscow is having issues with mobilizing new conscripts.

Ukraine's battered energy infrastructure and struggling mobilization drive is under far more pressure than Russia, however. Kyiv must find a way to de-escalate the intensity of the war and attacks on ship-

ping and energy assets.

"In the end, it's only going to happen if both sides calculate that they will get a net benefit from doing so," Chalmers said.

"My concern would be in the uncertainty of the coming months when the Russians may believe that one last push and they can really get much larger concessions from the Ukrainians," he added.

Zelenskyy's plans were developed with this reality in mind. It's why his team insists Russia must be forced to talk rather than convinced to do so. Without nuclear weapons to serve as a deterrent, NATO is the only logical alternative.

"I said, 'We don't have nuclear weapons, and we are not in NATO, and we will not be in NATO during the war. That's why I need this package. And you cannot be against it,'" Zelenskyy said, describing his argument to reporters.

Key mediator Egypt proposes a 2-day Gaza cease-fire and the release of 4 hostages

By AMI BENTOV, TIA GOLDENBERG, SAMY MAGDY and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

RAMAT HASHARON, Israel (AP) — Egypt's president announced Sunday his country has proposed a two-day cease-fire between Israel and Hamas during which four hostages held in Gaza would be freed. There was no immediate response from Israel or Hamas as the latest talks were expected in Qatar, another key mediator.

President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi said the proposal includes the release of some Palestinian prisoners and the delivery of humanitarian aid to besieged Gaza. It aims to "move the situation forward," he said, adding that negotiations would continue to make the cease-fire permanent.

Talks in pursuit of a longer, phased cease-fire have repeatedly stalled. Hamas wants Israeli forces out of Gaza as a precondition, but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said they will remain until destroying Hamas. There hasn't been a cease-fire since November's weeklong pause in fighting in the earliest weeks of the war.

Israel's Mossad chief was traveling to Doha on Sunday for talks with Qatar's prime minister and the CIA chief in the latest attempt to end the fighting and ease regional tensions that have built since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel.

Those tensions now see Israel at war with both Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, and openly attacking Iran, their backer, for the first time this weekend. Iran's supreme leader on Sunday said Israel's strikes — in response to Iran's ballistic missile attack this month — "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed," while stopping short of calling for retaliation.

During a government memorial for the Hebrew anniversary of the Oct. 7 attack, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said that "not every goal can be achieved through only military operations," adding that "painful compromises will be required" to return the hostages.

At the same event, protesters disrupted Netanyahu's speech, shouting "Shame on you." Many Israelis blame him for the security failures that led to the attack and hold him responsible for not yet bringing hostages home.

Inside Gaza, the latest Israeli strikes in the north killed at least 33 people, mostly women and children, Palestinian officials said, as an offensive in the hard-hit and isolated area entered a third week. The U.N. secretary-general called the plight of Palestinians there "unbearable." Israel said it targeted militants.

Netanyahu says strikes on Iran achieved Israel's goals

Netanyahu in his first public comments on the strikes said "we severely harmed Iran's defense capabilities and its ability to produce missiles that are aimed toward us."

Satellite images showed damage to two secretive Iranian military bases, one linked to work on nuclear weapons that Western intelligence agencies and nuclear inspectors say was discontinued in 2003. The other is linked to Iran's ballistic missile program. Iran said a civilian had been killed, with no details. It earlier said four people with the military air defense were killed.

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Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's 85-year-old supreme leader, said "it is up to the authorities to determine how to convey the power and will of the Iranian people to the Israeli regime." Khamenei would make any final decision on how Iran responds.

The U.N. Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting Monday at Iran's request. Switzerland, which holds the council's rotating presidency, said Russia, China and Algeria, the council's Arab representative, supported the request.

Iran's most powerful proxy is Hezbollah, which has stepped up firing on Israel in response to Israel's ground invasion in southern Lebanon in recent weeks.

Two Israeli strikes killed eight people in Sidon in southern Lebanon, with 25 wounded, according to Lebanon's health ministry.

The Israeli military said four soldiers, including a military rabbi, were killed in fighting in southern Lebanon, without providing details. An explosive drone and a projectile fired from Lebanon wounded five people in Israel, authorities said.

Truck ramming in Israel wounds dozens

A truck rammed into a bus stop in Ramat Hasharon near Tel Aviv, killing one person and wounding more than 30. Israeli police said the attacker was an Arab citizen of Israel and had been "neutralized." The ramming occurred outside a military base and near the headquarters of Israel's Mossad spy agency.

Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad militant group praised the attack but did not claim it.

Tensions have soared since the war in Gaza began, and Israel has carried out regular military raids into the occupied West Bank that have left hundreds dead.

'Harrowing levels of death' in northern Gaza

The Gaza Health Ministry's emergency service said 11 women and two children were among 22 killed in strikes late Saturday in Beit Lahiya in the north. Israel's military said it carried out a strike on militants.

Ministry official Hussein Mohesin said 11 people were killed in an Israeli strike on a school-turned-shelter in the Shati refugee camp in the north, with many injured. "Most of the injuries are children and women, and most of them are in very serious condition," he said. Israel's military did not immediately comment.

Israel has waged a massive air and ground offensive in northern Gaza since early October, saying Hamas militants had regrouped there. Hundreds of people have been killed and tens of thousands of Palestinians have fled in the latest wave of displacement.

Aid groups have warned of a catastrophic situation. Israel has severely limited the entry of humanitarian aid in recent weeks, and the three remaining hospitals in the north say they have been overwhelmed. The U.N. secretary-general noted "harrowing levels of death."

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. They killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250. Some 100 hostages remain in Gaza, around a third of whom thought to be dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 42,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It does not distinguish between civilians and combatants but says more than half of those killed were women and children. Israel says it has killed over 17,000 militants, without providing evidence.

The offensive has devastated much of Gaza and displaced around 90% of its population of 2.3 million, often multiple times.

Resistance forces push military regime close to brink in Myanmar

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Three well-armed militias launched a surprise joint offensive in northeastern Myanmar a year ago, breaking a strategic stalemate with the regime's military with rapid gains of huge swaths of territory and inspiring others to attack around the country.

The military's control had seemed firmly ensconced with vast superiority in troops and firepower, plus material support from Russia and China. But today the government is increasingly on the back foot, with

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the loss of dozens of outposts, bases and strategic cities that even its leaders concede would be challenging to take back.

"The military is on the defensive all over the country, and every time it puts its energy into one part of the country, it basically has to shift troops and then is vulnerable in other parts," said Connor Macdonald of the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar advocacy group.

"To us it doesn't look like there's any viable route back for the military to recapture any of the territory that it's lost."

The military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021, triggering intensified fighting with long-established armed militias organized by Myanmar's ethnic minority groups in its border regions, which have struggled for decades for more autonomy.

The army's takeover also sparked the formation of pro-democracy militias known as People's Defense Forces. They support the opposition National Unity Government, which was established by elected lawmakers barred from taking their seats after the army takeover.

But until the launch of Operation 1027, eponymously named for its Oct. 27 start, the military, known as the Tatmadaw, had largely been able to prevent major losses around the country.

Operation 1027 brought coordinated attacks from three of the most powerful ethnic armed groups, known as the Three Brotherhood Alliance: the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, the Arakan Army and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army. The alliance quickly captured towns and overran military bases and outposts along the Chinese border in northeastern Shan state.

Two weeks later, the Arakan Army launched attacks in its western home state of Rakhine, and since then other militia groups and PDFs have joined in around the country.

Myanmar's military has been pushed back to the country's center

A year after the offensive began, resistance forces now fully or partially control a vast horseshoe of territory. It starts in Rakhine state in the west, runs across the north and then heads south into Kayah and Kayin states along the Thai border. The Tatmadaw has pulled back toward central Myanmar, around the capital Naypyidaw and largest city of Yangon.

"I never thought our goals would be achieved so quickly," Lway Yay Oo, spokesperson for the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, told The Associated Press. "We only thought that we would attack the military council together to the extent we could, but it has been easier than expected so we've been able to conquer more quickly."

Along the way, the Tatmadaw has suffered some humiliating defeats, including the loss of the city of Laukkai in an assault in which the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army captured more than 2,000 troops, including six generals; and of the city of Lashio, which had been home to the military's Northeast Command.

"The 1027 offensive was a highly impressive operation, quite complex, and the use of drones played a big role because basically they were able to dismantle the military's network of fire-support bases across northern Shan," said Morgan Michaels, a Singapore-based analyst with the International Institute of Strategic Studies who runs its Myanmar Conflict Map project.

"And then, once the military's artillery support eroded, they were able to overrun harder targets like towns and battalion headquarters."

A year later, the military is "substantially weakened," he said, but it's too early to write it off.

The military has been weakened, but not defeated

The Tatmadaw has managed to claw back the town of Kawlin in the Sagaing region, which had fallen in the first days of the 1027 offensive, stave off an attack by three ethnic Karenni militias on Loikaw, the capital of Kayah state, and has retained administrative control of Myawaddy, a key border crossing with Thailand, after holding off an assault by one ethnic group with the assistance of a rival militia.

Many expect the military to launch a counteroffensive when the rainy season soon comes to an end, bolstered by some 30,000 new troops since activating conscription in February and its complete air superiority.

But at the same time, resistance groups are closing in on Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city, in the center of the country.

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And where they might be out-gunned, they have gained strength, hard-won experience and confidence over the last year, said the Ta'ang National Liberation Army's Lway Yay Oo.

"We have military experience on our side, and based on this experience we can reinforce the fighting operation," she said.

Thet Swe, a spokesperson for the military regime, conceded it will be a challenge for the Tatmadaw to dislodge the Three Brotherhood Alliance from the territory it has gained.

"We cannot take it back during one year," he told the AP in an e-mailed answer to questions. "However, I hope that I will give you a joyful message ... in (the) coming two or three years."

Civilian casualties rise as the military turns more to indiscriminate strikes

As the military has faced setbacks in the fighting on the ground, it has been increasingly relying on indiscriminate air and artillery strikes, resulting in a 95% increase in civilian deaths from airstrikes and a 170% increase in civilians killed by artillery since the 1027 offensive began, according to a report last month by the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Tatmadaw has been accused of deliberately targeting civilians whom it believes support the resistance militias, a tactic that is only turning more against them, said Isabel Todd, coordinator for the SAC-M group.

"It doesn't seem to be having the effect that they want it to have," she said. "It's making them even more hated by the population and really strengthening the resolve to ensure that this is the end of the Myanmar military as it's known."

Military spokesperson Thet Swe denied targeting civilians, saying it was militia groups that were responsible for killing civilians and burning villages.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians have been displaced by the fighting, and there are now more than 3 million internally displaced people in Myanmar overall, and some 18.6 million people in need, according to the U.N.

At the same time, the 2024 humanitarian response plan is only 1/3 funded, hindering the delivery of aid, said Sajjad Mohammad Sajid, head of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs operation in Myanmar.

"The humanitarian outlook for the next year is grim, and we anticipate that the deteriorating situation will have a massive impact on the protection of civilians," he said in an interview.

In some areas, however, the offensive has eased pressure, like northwestern Chin state, which borders Bangladesh and India and had previously been the focus of many of the Tatmadaw's operations, said Salai Htet Ni, a spokesperson for the Chin National Front whose armed wing has been involved in fighting the military.

"In October of last year the military convoys that were going up into the Chin mountains were withdrawn," he said. "As a result of the 1027 operation there have been almost no major military activities."

Success brings new tensions between resistance groups

As the front has expanded it has seen militias advancing out of their own ethnic areas, like when Rakhine-based Arakan Army in January seized the Chin town of Paletwa, which has given rise to some friction between groups, foreshadowing possible future strife should the Tatmadaw eventually fall.

In the case of Paletwa, Salai Htet Ni said his group was happy that the AA took it from the Tatmadaw, but added that there should have been negotiations before they began operating in Chin territory and that the AA should now bring Chin forces in to help administer the area.

"Negotiations are mandatory for these regional administration issues," he said. "But we will negotiate this case through dialogue, not military means."

At the moment there is a degree of solidarity between the different ethnic groups as they focus on a common enemy, but Aung Thu Nyein, director of communications for the Institute for Strategy and Policy-Myanmar think tank said that does not translate to common aspirations.

Should the Tatmadaw fall, it could lead to the fragmentation of Myanmar unless the groups work hard to resolve political and territorial differences.

"As far as I see, there is no established mechanism to resolve the issues," he said. "The resistance being

able to bring down the junta is unlikely, but I cannot discount this scenario, (and) if we cannot build trust and common goals, it could lead to the scenario of Syria.”

Chinese interests and ties with both sides complicate the picture

Complicating the political picture is the influence of neighboring China, which is believed to have tacitly supported the 1027 offensive in what turned out to be a successful bid to largely shut down organized crime activities that had been flourishing along its border.

In January, Beijing used its close ties with both the Tatmadaw and the Three Brotherhood groups to negotiate a ceasefire in northern Shan, which lasted for five months until the ethnic alliance opened phase two of the 1027 offensive in June, accusing the military of violating the ceasefire.

China has been displeased with the development, shutting down border crossings, cutting electricity to Myanmar towns and taking other measures in a thus-far unsuccessful attempt to end the fighting.

Its support for the regime also seems to be growing, with China’s envoy to Myanmar urging the powerful United Wa State Army, which wasn’t involved in the 1027 offensive or related fighting, to actively pressure the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army and Ta’ang National Liberation Army to halt the renewed offensive, according to leaked details of an August meeting widely reported by local media.

There is no evidence that the UWSA has done that, however.

“The idea that the northern groups and the Three Brotherhood Alliance etc. are somehow just agents of China is a complete misconception,” Todd said.

“They have their own objectives which they are pursuing that are independent of what China may or may not want them to do, and that’s apparent in the incredible amount of pressure that China has put on them recently.”

Because of the grassroot support for the resistance, it is less vulnerable to outside influence, said Kyaw Zaw, a spokesperson for the opposition National Unity Government.

“No matter who is putting pressure on us, we are winning because of the power of the people,” he said.

Trump’s Madison Square Garden event features crude and racist insults

By JILL COLVIN and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump hosted a rally featuring crude and racist insults at New York’s Madison Square Garden Sunday, turning what his campaign had dubbed as the event where he would deliver his closing message into an illustration of what turns off his critics.

With just over a week before Election Day, speakers labeled Puerto Rico a “floating island of garbage,” called Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris “the devil,” and said the woman vying to become the first woman and Black woman president had begun her career as a prostitute.

“I don’t know if you guys know this, but there’s literally a floating island of garbage in the middle of the ocean right now. I think it’s called Puerto Rico,” said Tony Hinchcliffe, a stand-up comic whose set also included lewd and racist comments about Latinos, Jews and Black people, all key constituencies in the election just nine days away.

His joke was immediately criticized by Harris’ campaign as it competes with Trump to win over Puerto Rican communities in Pennsylvania and other swing states. Puerto Rican music superstar Bad Bunny backed Harris shortly after Hinchcliffe’s appearance.

The normally pugnacious Trump campaign took the rare step of distancing itself from Hinchcliffe. “This joke does not reflect the views of President Trump or the campaign,” senior adviser Danielle Alvarez said in a statement.

But other speakers also made incendiary comments. Trump’s childhood friend David Rem referred to Harris as “the Antichrist” and “the devil.” Businessman Grant Cardone told the crowd that Harris “and her pimp handlers will destroy our country.”

The marquee event reflected the former president’s tone throughout his third White House campaign. Though he refrained from doing so Sunday, Trump often tears into Harris in offensive and personal terms

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himself, questioning in recent weeks her mental stability and her intelligence as well as calling her "lazy," long a racist trope used against Black people.

The event was a surreal spectacle that included former professional wrestler Hulk Hogan, TV psychologist Dr. Phil McGraw, former Fox News host Tucker Carlson, politicians including House Speaker Mike Johnson and Reps. Byron Donalds and Elise Stefanik, and an artist who painted a picture of Trump hugging the Empire State Building.

And that was all before Trump was to take the stage, running more than two hours late.

After being introduced by his wife, Melania Trump, in a rare public appearance, the former president began by asking the same questions he's asked at the start of every recent rally: "Are you better off now than you were four years ago?" The crowd responded with a resounding "No!"

"This election is a choice between whether we'll have four more years of gross incompetence and failure, or whether we'll begin the greatest years in the history of our country," he said.

Trump announced a new tax credit for caregivers

Trump on Sunday added a new proposal to his list of tax cuts aimed at winning over older adults and blue-collar workers, which already includes vows to end taxes on Social Security benefits, tips and overtime pay: A tax credit for family caregivers.

This comes after Harris has talked about the "sandwich generation" of adults caring for aging parents while raising their children at the same time. Harris has proposed federal funding to cover home care costs for older Americans.

Trump otherwise repeated familiar lines about foreign policy and immigration, calling for the death penalty for any migrant who kills a U.S. citizen and saying that the day he takes office, "The migrant invasion of our country ends."

As Trump's remarks came up on an hour, some of the crowd began trickling out.

Tech mogul Elon Musk, who spoke earlier and introduced Melania Trump, was a prominent part of Trump's closing campaign message. The former president called Musk "a genius" and "special."

Musk nodded to Trump's recent plan to allow him to lead a government efficiency commission to audit the entire federal government. Several of Musk's businesses, including Tesla and SpaceX, have major government contracts or have relied on U.S. subsidies, and Musk has faced criticism after reports that he has spoken privately with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Your money is being wasted and the department of government efficiency is going to fix that," Musk said before taking a place offstage beside Melania Trump.

Many of the speakers Sunday appeared on stage at the Republican National Convention. This time, the same speakers shouted and railed more against Democrats.

Hogan, returning to the venue where he performed years ago as a professional wrestler, seemed to reprise his character, emerging wearing a giant red, orange and yellow boa and violently waving a large American flag as he posed and danced. He spat on the stage during his speech, flexed his muscles repeatedly and told the audience: "Trump is the only man that can fix this country today."

Trump allies went after Democrats for bringing up a pro-Nazi rally

Some Democrats, calling Trump a fascist, have compared his Sunday event to a pro-Nazi rally at the Garden in February 1939. Several speakers on Sunday ripped Hillary Clinton, the Democrat defeated by Trump eight years ago, for saying recently that Trump would be "reenacting" the 1939 event. One of them, radio host Sid Rosenberg, directed a profanity at Clinton.

"Hey guys, they're now scrambling and trying to call us Nazis and fascists," said Alina Habba, one of Trump's attorneys, who draped a sparkly "MAGA" jacket over the lectern as she spoke. "And you know what they're claiming, guys? It's very scary. They're claiming we're going to go after them and try and put them in jail. Well, ain't that rich?"

Declared Hogan in his raspy growl: "I don't see no stinkin' Nazis in here."

Trump has denounced the four criminal indictments brought against him as politically motivated. He has ramped up his denunciations in recent weeks of "enemies from within," naming domestic political rivals, and

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suggested he would use the military to go after them. Harris, in turn, has referred to Trump as a fascist.

The arena was full hours before Trump was scheduled to speak. Outside the arena, the sidewalks were overflowing with Trump supporters in red "Make America Great Again" hats. There was a heavy security presence. Streets were blocked off and access to Penn Station was restricted.

"It just goes to show ya that he has a bigger following of any man that has ever lived," said Philip D'Agostino, a longtime Trump backer from Queens, the borough where Trump grew up.

A New Yorker returns home

Trump has a complicated history with the place where he built his business empire and that made him a tabloid and reality TV star. Its residents indicted him last year on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. He was found guilty in that case, and also found liable in civil court for business fraud and sexual abuse.

But Trump has been talking about wanting to hold a rally at the venue dubbed "The World's Most Famous Arena" since he launched his campaign.

The rally was one of a number of detours Trump has made from battleground states, including a recent rally in Coachella, California, and rallies on the Jersey Shore and in the South Bronx.

While some have dismissed the stops as nothing more than vanity events aimed at boosting Trump's ego, the rallies guaranteed Trump national coverage that could help him reach the country's few remaining undecided voters, many of whom don't get their news from traditional outlets.

New York has not voted for a Republican for president in 40 years. But that hasn't stopped Trump from continuing to insist he believes he can win. New York is also home to a handful of competitive congressional races that could determine which party controls the House next year.

Trump routinely uses his hometown as a foil before audiences in other states, painting a dark vision of the city that bears little resemblance to reality. He's cast it as crime-ridden and overrun by violent, immigrant gangs who have taken over Fifth and Madison avenues and occupied Times Square.

On Sunday, however, Trump was much more complimentary of the city. He said "no city embodies the spirit" and energy of the American people more and talked about attending basketball and hockey games at the Garden.

After Trump concluded his speech after over an hour, opera singer Christopher Macchio came on stage to perform the song "New York, New York."

The former president smiled and swayed slightly, his wife standing next to him on stage.

In their own words: What it's like in a 'chaos' Congress and why these lawmakers keep coming back

By LISA MASCARO and MIKE PESOLI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Polarizing. Challenging. A lot of wasted time.

That's how six lawmakers described what it is like being in the U.S. House — a particularly tumultuous period in American history that has brought governing to a standstill, placed their lives in danger and raised fundamental questions about what it means to be a representative in a divided democracy.

And yet, they keep at it, running for reelection.

The Associated Press sat down separately with lawmakers, three Republicans and three Democrats, to hear what it's like on Capitol Hill and what they — and Americans — can do to make it better. All hail from safe districts and are expected to easily win another term.

Here's who they are, why they first ran for office and why they keep coming back.

Republicans

Dusty Johnson is the rare lawmaker whose sprawling district makes up an entire state, South Dakota. He ran for office in 2018 because he thought there were "too many jerks" in Congress and he would be better.

Nicole Malliotakis said that as the daughter of a Cuban mother and Greek father, her background made her born for politics. She ran in 2020 to provide a "counter view" as a Republican from New York City,

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representing Brooklyn and Staten Island.

Mark Amodei from northern Nevada, or "original Nevada," as he calls it, has been in office since 2011. He said it's his responsibility to do public service and give back to the state where his family has lived for generations.

Democrats

Chrissy Houlahan, an Air Force veteran, comes from the western Philadelphia region known as "the mushroom capital of the world." The daughter of a Holocaust survivor and mother of a queer daughter, she decided to run for office in 2018 after seeing them in tears after Donald Trump's 2016 election.

Veronica Escobar, from the border city of El Paso, Texas, ran for office to work for her community but also to tell the "El Paso story" and counter some of the "negative narratives" about immigrants. She won election in 2018.

Maxwell Frost, the youngest member of Congress, said his initial response to running for office was "Hell, no!" But he came to realize his work as the national organizer at March for Our Lives after the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, could carry over into Congress. He first won office in 2022.

So how's it going?

"Chaos is honestly the word I would use to describe the totality of the Congress," Frost said. "A lot of wasted time."

"You have your ups and downs," said Malliotakis.

Almost all of them have been in office during two presidential impeachments, two historic House speaker fights, the COVID closures and the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol.

"All of the things that you could not expect have happened have, have happened," Houlahan said. This year in particular has been frustrating "and in some cases super demoralizing because, you know, you're not here to not do things."

Amodei said, "I think it's an asset if you know how to play well with others. And if you don't play well with others, then this is a nasty place to be."

Escobar, who was among the lawmakers trapped in the House gallery on Jan. 6, 2021, said: "I will tell you, I love my job. I'm grateful for my job. It's a tough job."

What can Congress do differently?

"I struggle with that a lot," said Houlahan.

Houlahan said the House's 435 members operate like "independent contractors," with small staffs and each office's own personality. After a career in the military, as a small business entrepreneur and as a high school chemistry teacher, she said, "I've never seen anything like the organizational structure that is here."

"Some of those offices, their mission is chaos, you know, and some of those offices, their mission is constructive," Houlahan said.

Johnson said it's the wrong question to be asking.

"It's garbage in, garbage out," he said.

"And if the people of America are going to continue to elect people who use fear and anger to motivate, we're going to continue to find it more difficult than it should be to get things done in Congress," he said.

Frost thinks unless there are institutional reforms — campaign finance changes and ending the Senate's filibuster — "we're going to be caught in this generational cycle of taking a few steps forward and a few steps backwards."

Malliotakis expects it's going to be this way for a while.

"The far right does its thing, the far left does its thing, and then everyone else in the middle really comes together to actually govern," she said.

And what can Americans do to fix Congress?

"Congress is a reflection of what's happening in America," Escobar said.

"We have families that can no longer talk to one another about politics or about government," she said. "We are drifting so far away from what is so good about our country and our communities, and Congress has a role in fixing that. ... But we in our country have to do more of that, as well."

Malliotakis said it would help if Americans paid more attention to what their representatives were "actu-

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ally doing when they're in Washington."

"So many people complain about issues and then they vote for the same members over and over," she said.

Johnson suggests Americans list characteristics they would seek in a spouse, a boss, a pastor or child and use them when electing a representative.

"Congress can't fix Congress," he said. "The American people can fix Congress."

Do you worry for your safety?

"We've all gotten death threats," Malliotakis said. "Obviously, it is a polarizing time right now."

Escobar said she has stopped holding large town hall gatherings over concerns of gun violence.

"I worry that any time I'm gathered with my constituents that one of my constituents could get hurt," she said. "And I worry that my presence at a large gathering could put somebody else's safety at risk."

Houlahan said the risks of violence come with the job.

"This is a job where we are in danger," she said. "It's awful that we're in that place, and we as leaders should be decrying that and not encouraging that."

She said, "But it is absolutely my expectation that this is not a safe job."

Frost said the threats he receives as a member of Congress are not new to him. "And I think it just shows, of course, the tone and this kind of violent culture that exists within American politics."

What are the best parts of your job?

All said getting stuff done — even small wins. Especially the small wins, in fact, because that's about all Congress can accomplish these days.

"There's no other feeling like it," said Frost.

He described standing at the White House for the launch of the first-ever Office of Gun Violence Prevention. And the "joy" he felt when receiving word that the administration would approve a second passport office in Florida, something constituents had been demanding since before he came to Congress.

Amodei mentioned work he's done toward a monument for Vietnam War helicopter pilots at Arlington National Cemetery. "That's neat."

"The best days are days when you actually feel like you took a vote of consequence," Johnson said, whether it's certifying the results of the 2020 presidential election or "making sure that we don't have any of these silly, stupid dumpster fires."

"My role as a legislator is to find a solution," Escobar said. "It may not be the perfect solution.... I have constituents who get mad at me for saying that, but progress is incremental."

And the worst?

"I commute about 5,000 miles a week," Amodei said.

But what's "worse is when you feel like you're here and your time is being taken for granted," he said.

Why do you keep coming back?

"I keep coming back because it's work that matters," Johnson said.

"I do love what I do," Malliotakis said, adding she wants to do "great work for our constituents."

Houlahan said she envisions a future where Congress turns a corner.

"I stay because I'm hoping that we will find ourselves again," she said. "And I hope that I can be part of it."

Frost said, "If we step away from our civic power, our opposition is more than happy to step into it for us."

"The way this institution works should reflect the wants and needs of the people. And so ... that's why we've got to keep coming back."

Does Congress matter?

"Anybody who would act like Congress doesn't matter, I think, is naive to the point of being a bad citizen," Johnson said. "The reality is that every single one, we cast votes that bend the trajectory of this country."

Amodei said, "Well, fair question, but it's like, well, do you think Social Security is important if you're over 65? Do you think Medicare is important?... Do you think that our borders are important?"

He said he gets the "uber-cynics" who say, "You people are such dysfunctional jerks that we should just get rid of all of you. It's like, okay, so tell me what your plan is."

"Everything we do here in Washington, D.C., in Congress, impacts every single citizen in this great country," Escobar said.

US voters concerned about post-election violence and efforts to overturn the results: AP-NORC poll

By GARY FIELDS, ALI SWENSON and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — American voters are approaching the presidential election with deep unease about what could follow, including the potential for political violence, attempts to overturn the election results and its broader implications for democracy, according to a new poll.

The findings of the survey, conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, speak to persistent concerns about the fragility of the world's oldest democracy, nearly four years after former President Donald Trump's refusal to accept the 2020 election results inspired a mob of his supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol in a violent attempt to stop the peaceful transfer of power.

About 4 in 10 registered voters say they are "extremely" or "very" concerned about violent attempts to overturn the results after the November election. A similar share is worried about legal efforts to do so. And about 1 in 3 voters say they are "extremely" or "very" concerned about attempts by local or state election officials to stop the results from being finalized.

Relatively few voters — about one-third or less — are "not very" or "not at all" concerned about any of that happening.

Trump has continued to lie about fraud costing him reelection four years ago and is again forecasting that he can lose this time only if the election is rigged against him, a strategy he has deployed since his first run for office. His allies and the Republican National Committee, which he reshaped, have filed lawsuits around the country that are a potential prelude to post-election legal challenges should he lose.

"I thought after Jan. 6 of 2021, the GOP would have the sense to reject him as a candidate," Aostara Kaye, of Downey, California, said of Trump. "And since they didn't, I think it just emboldened him to think he can do anything, and they will still stick with him."

Many voters think Trump won't concede if he loses

Trump's wide-ranging attempts to reject the will of the voters and remain in power after his 2020 loss have led to concerns that he will again fail to concede should he lose to Vice President Kamala Harris.

Nearly 9 in 10 voters said the loser of the presidential election is obligated to concede once every state has finished counting its votes and legal challenges are resolved, including about 8 in 10 Republicans. But only about one-third of voters expect Trump to accept the results and concede if he loses.

Democrats and Republicans have widely divergent views on the matter: About two-thirds of Republican voters think Trump would concede, compared to only about 1 in 10 Democrats.

The same concern does not apply to Harris. Nearly 8 in 10 voters said Harris will accept the results and concede if she loses the election, including a solid majority of Republican voters.

Democrats and Republicans divided on who would weaken democracy

Members of both parties have broad concerns about how American democracy might fare depending on the outcome of the November election.

Overall, about half of voters believe Trump would weaken democracy in the U.S. "a lot" or "somewhat" if he wins, while about 4 in 10 said the same of Harris.

Not surprisingly, Americans were deeply divided along ideological lines. About 8 in 10 Republicans said another term for Trump would strengthen democracy "a lot" or "somewhat," while a similar share of Democrats said the same of a Harris presidency.

About 9 in 10 voters in each party said the opposing party's candidate would be likely to weaken democracy at least "somewhat" if elected.

Kaye, a retired health care system worker, called Trump an "existential threat to the Constitution." One prospect she said frightens her is that if Trump wins, he likely will not have the guardrails in his new administration that were in place in the last one.

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Republican voter Debra Apodaca, 60, from Tucson, Arizona, said it's Harris who is a greater threat to democracy. She said President Joe Biden's administration has placed too great a priority on foreign aid and shown a lack of concern for its own people.

"Our tax dollars, we're just sending it everywhere. It's not staying here. Why aren't we taking care of America?" she said. "Why should we pay taxes if we're just sending it away?"

That lack of concern also includes the border, she said, adding that a Harris win would be "the end to the Border Patrol."

The January 6th attack on the Capitol is a dividing line

Part of what divides voters on their views of American democracy is the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol and who is to blame. Democrats and independents are much more likely than Republican voters to place "a great deal" or "quite a bit" of responsibility on Trump.

Susan Ohde, an independent voter from Chicago and a retiree from the financial sector, said she's concerned that "crazy people will buy the misinformation that they're given," leading to another such attack.

Giovanna Elizabeth Minardi of Yucaipa, California, said other issues are more important in this year's election. She said her chief concern is the economy and feels that high prices, especially in her home state, are chasing off businesses and creating a dependency on government. It's a dependency Harris wants to continue, said Minardi, a children and family services advocate.

Views about the Jan. 6 attack are not the only ones where voters split along ideological lines. Following Trump's lead, a majority of Republicans maintain that Biden was not legitimately elected. Nearly all Democrats and about 7 in 10 independents believe Biden was legitimately elected.

Other aspects of the political system are divisive too

This year's presidential campaign has highlighted one aspect of the American political system that some believe is undemocratic — the use of the Electoral College to elect the president rather than the popular vote. Trump and Harris have concentrated their campaign events and advertising in seven battleground states that represent just 18% of the country's population.

About half of voters think the possibility that a candidate could become president by winning the Electoral College but losing the popular vote is a "major problem" in U.S. elections. As with many other issues, the question also reveals a partisan divide: About two-thirds of Democrats say the potential for an Electoral College-popular vote split is a major problem, compared to about one-third of Republicans.

Debra Christensen, 54, a home health nurse and Democrat from Watertown, Wisconsin, is opposed to the Electoral College that could give Trump the White House even if he loses the popular vote for the third time.

"In this day and age with technology what it is, why can't we have one person one vote?" she said.

The dispute around a women's volleyball team touches on a broader question: How to define 'fair'

By DEEPTI HAJELA Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — They play on the same team, but they couldn't be further apart.

One member of the women's volleyball team at San Jose State University has signed on to being part of a federal lawsuit against the NCAA challenging the presence of transgender athletes in women's college sports. The specific person she cites? One of her own teammates.

The situation swirling around the SJSU team — which has gotten increasingly chaotic in recent weeks, with several teams canceling matches against the school and politicians and advocates weighing in — somehow seems unsurprising in the polarized United States these days as a highly contested election looms.

As with other points of dispute in the struggle over gender identity and transgender rights, one thing opposing sides have in common is framing their stance as a matter of what's fair and right.

Where they stand a chasm apart is in one fundamental sticking point, a tough question in any arena: What does 'fairness' actually mean?

The discussion around 'fairness' is complex

That the idea of what is fair or not can vary from person to person probably shouldn't be surprising. After

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all, a sense of right and wrong is part of the human world view, formed from highly individual factors like each person's environment, the cultures they grow up and live in, and their experiences.

And while science and research into areas like hormone treatment and transgender athletic performance, which is only in the early stages at present, could at some point provide more medical information and data, it still won't answer the question of "what is fair," says Dr. Bradley Anawalt, a hormone specialist and professor of medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

"The science is going to be able to allow us to some degree calculate the advantages and disadvantages. And eventually, with good studies, we're going to have an idea of when, how long you have, to suppress somebody's testosterone level ... how long does it take for differences in muscle strength and muscle mass to come down," says Anawalt, who is also a member of the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports.

"So those kinds of questions we can answer, but we're never going to be able to answer this fundamental question about fairness," he says. "Because that is not a medical or a scientific concept. It's a social justice and a human concept."

Fairness came up frequently Saturday at a rally supporting the women's volleyball team from the University of Nevada, Reno, the latest of five teams to forfeit against SJSU. Players had refused to "participate in any match that advances injustice against female athletes," and some reiterated that stance at the rally.

The rally drew several hundred people. McKenna Dressel, a junior from Gilbert, Arizona, told the crowd that her dream since she was a young girl of being a college athlete has been turned upside down.

"Our season has been filled with turmoil and headache. We have all been directly affected by the distraction of having to stand up for our rights that were established over 50 years ago," she said, making a reference to federal anti-discrimination law known as Title IX. She added: "Trailblazing female athletes paid the price so that we can enjoy fair competition."

The public aspect of the situation has escalated

Issues around transgender rights have been a lightning rod in American politics in recent years, and they are one key difference between supporters of Donald Trump and Kamala Harris during this election season. Several states have introduced or enacted legislation around medical care, access to public accommodations like bathrooms, and participation in youth sports. This political and cultural backdrop makes the attention surrounding the SJSU situation more understandable.

SJSU has not confirmed the presence of a transgender athlete on the team. The player being referenced has never said anything publicly about gender identity before or since the lawsuit filings or in the wake of online accounts making the claim. Because of that, The Associated Press is withholding her name.

That doesn't mean the harsh glare of the public eye hasn't had an impact on the team, which is trying to make it to the NCAA tournament after more than 20 years. San Jose State coach Todd Kress says the team is receiving "messages of hate."

Advocates for transgender rights invoke fairness as well in pushing for those who are transgender to be able to live as authentically as possible, and not be discriminated against or denied access to opportunities because of gender identity. Fair, they say, is directly linked to access and participation.

"It is disappointing that politicization of sports has meant some teams have denied SJSU and themselves opportunities to play, simply because a team might have a transgender player," the local San Jose/Peninsula chapter of PFLAG said in a statement about the situation. "All student-athletes, including trans athletes, deserve the same chance to be part of a team, learn from one another, and respect the game. Transgender athletes belong."

The nature of sports makes the 'fairness' debate central

It's not surprising that issues around transgender rights and presence have such an outsized spotlight in the world of sports despite the fractionally small number of instances of transgender athletes. That's because sports is an arena where "fairness" — in the form of a level playing field of rules and regulations that are supposed to apply equally to everyone — is central to the mythology.

"Maybe it's because of the nice, sanitized way in which we consume sport as an audience," says Sarah Fields, who studies how sports intersects with American culture. She says sports thrive on "our innate,

maybe human desire — but certainly American desire — for fairness.”

“It’s a standardized field with standardized rules and standardized uniforms,” says Fields, a professor of communication at the University of Colorado Denver. “So it has this appearance of fairness. And then it often falls apart once a game goes on and one side destroys the other or one swimmer is two laps behind another. But at least at the beginning, there’s an illusion of fairness in the way it looks.”

That masks the reality of playing sports, especially at the elite level of college athletics and beyond, she says. People are born with a range of genetic traits like height, reflexes, speed, and body shapes that can furnish them with advantages. Then there are economic and social resources that can propel one person’s athletic journey in a way that it doesn’t for others.

Fields points to the example of a South African runner in the 1980s who was barred from international competition because of boycotts against her nation over its apartheid policies. The runner, Zola Budd, became a British citizen and ran in the 1984 Olympics.

Anawalt echoes such an idea — that a resolution to the “fairness” question is muddy, elusive and perhaps ultimately unanswerable.

“When we talk about fairness in competition, what we’re really trying to do is say, well, we’ve created a level playing field,” he says. “And the truth is we never quite succeed in doing that. And so where do you draw the bright white line in terms of what’s fair and what’s not fair?”

Myanmar’s civil war reshaped in past year with coordinated offensive by powerful resistance groups

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Three well-armed militias launched a surprise joint offensive in northeastern Myanmar a year ago, breaking a strategic stalemate with the regime’s military with rapid gains of huge swaths of territory and inspiring others to attack around the country.

Before the offensive, the military’s control had seemed firmly ensconced with its vast superiority in troops and firepower, and aided with material support from Russia and China. But today it is increasingly on the back foot, with the loss of dozens of outposts, bases and strategic cities that even its leaders concede will be challenging to regain.

How did the offensive unfold?

The military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021, giving rise to intensified fighting with long-established armed groups associated with Myanmar’s ethnic minority groups, and sparking the formation of new pro-democracy militias.

But until the launch of Operation 1027, eponymously named for its Oct. 27 start, the military, known as the Tatmadaw, had largely been able to prevent major losses around the country.

Operation 1027 brought coordinated attacks from three of the most powerful ethnic armed groups — the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, the Arakan Army and the Ta’ang National Liberation Army, together known as the Three Brotherhood Alliance — and they were able to quickly capture towns and overrun military bases and outposts along the Chinese border in northeastern Shan state.

Two weeks later the Arakan Army launched attacks in its home western state of Rakhine, and since then other militia groups and PDFs have joined in around the country.

A year later into the offensive, resistance forces now fully or partially control a vast horseshoe of territory that reaches from Rakhine state in the west, across the north, and then south into Kayah and Kayin states along the Thai border. The Tatmadaw has pulled back toward the center around the capital Naypyidaw and largest city of Yangon.

What comes next?

Many expect the military to launch a counteroffensive when the rainy season soon comes to an end, bolstered with the influx of some 30,000 new troops since activating conscription in February and its continued complete air superiority.

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But at the same time, resistance groups are closing in on Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city in the center of the country.

Facing threats from all around the country, "it doesn't look like there's any viable route back for the military to recapture any of the territory that it's lost," said Connor Macdonald of the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar advocacy group.

"The military is on the defensive all over the country, and every time it puts its energy into one part of the country, it basically has to shift troops and then is vulnerable in other parts," he said.

What has happened to Myanmar's civilian population?

As the military has faced setbacks in the fighting on the ground, it has been increasingly relying on indiscriminate air and artillery strikes, resulting in a 95% increase in civilian deaths from airstrikes and a 170% increase in civilians killed by artillery since the 1027 offensive began, according to a report last month by the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Tatmadaw has been accused of deliberately targeting civilians in retribution for perceived support for the resistance militias, something it denies.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians have been displaced by the fighting, and there are now more than 3 million internally displaced people in Myanmar overall, and some 18.6 million people in need, according to the U.N.

What happens if the military regime falls?

As the front has expanded it has seen militias advancing out of their own ethnic areas, like when Rakhine-based Arakan Army in January seized the Chin town of Paletwa, which has given rise to some friction between groups — foreshadowing possible future problems should the Tatmadaw eventually fall.

At the moment there is a degree of solidarity between the disparate ethnic groups with the focus on a common enemy, but Aung Thu Nyein, director of communications for the Institute for Strategy and Policy-Myanmar think tank said that does not translate to common aspirations.

Should the Tatmadaw fall, that could lead to the fragmentation of Myanmar unless the groups work hard to resolve political and territorial differences.

"The resistance being able to bring down the junta is unlikely, but I cannot discount this scenario," he said. "If we cannot build trust and common goals, it could lead to the scenario of Syria."

Complicating the political picture is the influence of neighboring China, which is believed to have tacitly supported the 1027 offensive in what turned out to be a successful bid to shut down organized crime activities that had been flourishing along its border.

In January, Beijing used its close ties with both the Tatmadaw and the Three Brotherhood groups to negotiate a ceasefire in northern Shan, which lasted for five months until the ethnic alliance opened phase two of the 1027 offensive in June, accusing the military of violating the ceasefire.

China has been displeased with the development, shutting down border crossings, cutting electricity to Myanmar towns and taking other measures in a thus-far unsuccessful attempt to end the fighting.

Latin superstar Bad Bunny backs Harris for president after comedian's racist jokes at Trump event

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

Bad Bunny threw his support behind Vice President Kamala Harris on Sunday by sharing a video of the Democratic presidential nominee shortly after a comedian at Donald Trump's Madison Square Garden rally made crude jokes about Latinos and called Puerto Rico a "floating island of garbage," angering artists and some Hispanic Republicans.

Bad Bunny, whose official name is Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, is one of the most famous artists of the moment. His backing could be a boost for the Harris campaign as it tries to bolster its support with Latino voters, among whom Trump has been working to gain ground.

The video Bad Bunny shared with his 45 million Instagram followers shows Harris saying "there's so much at stake in this election for Puerto Rican voters and for Puerto Rico." A representative of the artist

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confirmed that Bad Bunny is supporting Harris.

Bad Bunny signaled his support moments after comedian Tony Hinchcliffe made the remarks on Puerto Rico. Later, Hinchcliffe said "these Latinos, they love making babies" and said they don't use the pull-out birth control method.

The comments on Puerto Rico were immediately criticized by Harris' campaign, but were also called out by Angel Cintron, the head of the GOP on the island, and Republican U.S. Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar, who represents parts of Miami and has participated in recent Trump events.

Salazar wrote: "Disgusted by "@TonyHinchcliffe's racist comment calling Puerto Rico a 'floating island of garbage.' This rhetoric does not reflect GOP values. Puerto Rico sent 48,000+ soldiers to Vietnam, with over 345 Purple Hearts awarded. This bravery deserves respect. Educate yourself!"

Trump campaign spokeswoman Danielle Alvarez in a statement said "this joke does not reflect the views of President Trump or the campaign."

Luis Fonsi, a Puerto Rican artist who sings the hit "Despacito," went on Instagram and wrote "going down this racist path ain't it."

"We are not OK with this constant hate," he wrote in a message shared on Instagram. "It's been abundantly clear that these people have no respect for us."

Ricky Martin, who had previously endorsed Harris, was also offended by the comment and said "that's what they think of us," on Instagram.

In showing support, Bad Bunny shared several times another part of the clip Harris made on Puerto Rico, saying "I will never forget what Donald Trump did and what he did not do when Puerto Rico needed a caring and a competent leader."

The 30-year-old Puerto Rican reggaeton artist, who has popular songs such as "Dakiti" and "Titi Me Preguntó," has won three Grammy Awards. He was the most streamed artist on Spotify in 2020, 2021 and 2022, and was only surpassed by Taylor Swift in 2023. He was named Artist of the Year by Apple Music in 2022.

The Puerto Rican vote is sizable in Pennsylvania, which is arguably the hardest fought of the swing states in the 2024 election. Other Puerto Rican singers such as Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony had already expressed support for Harris. Trump has also attracted support from other popular stars from the island such as Anuel AA and Nicky Jam.

Bad Bunny has been vocal about criticizing Puerto Rico's electric system, which was razed by Hurricane Maria. In a 2022 music video for his song "El Apagon," the artist called out the company Luma Energy, which handles transmission and distribution, for the constant power outages that plague the island.

One of his most recent songs, "Una Velita," is also a protest against the government response following Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico in 2017.

A year after the storm, public health experts estimated that nearly 3,000 perished because of the effects of Hurricane Maria. But Trump, whose efforts to help the island territory recover have been persistently criticized, repeatedly questioned that number saying it rose "like magic."

His visit to the island after the hurricane elicited controversy such as when he tossed paper towels. His administration released \$13 billion in assistance years later, just weeks before the 2020 presidential election. And a federal government watchdog found that officials hampered an investigation into delays in aid delivery.

Bad Bunny also shared a part of the clip showing Harris saying that Trump "abandoned the island, tried to block aid after back-to-back devastating hurricanes and offered nothing more than paper towels and insults."

Harris visited a Puerto Rican restaurant in North Philadelphia earlier on Sunday and released her policy related to the island saying she wants to create a task force to attract investment to fix the electrical grid. And Trump is headed on Tuesday to Allentown, Pennsylvania, where more than half of its population is Hispanic and a majority of them from Puerto Rico.

In 2020, Bad Bunny allowed the Biden campaign to use one of his hits "Pero Ya No" in a TV ad.

Analysis: Iran faces tough choices in deciding how to respond to Israeli strikes

By ADAM SCHRECK Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — It's Iran's move now.

How the Islamic Republic chooses to respond to the unusually public Israeli aerial assault on its homeland could determine whether the region spirals further toward all-out war or holds steady at an already devastating and destabilizing level of violence.

In the coldly calculating realm of Middle East geopolitics, a strike of the magnitude that Israel delivered Saturday would typically be met with a forceful response. A likely option would be another round of the ballistic missile barrages that Iran has already launched twice this year.

Retaliating militarily would allow Iran's clerical leadership to show strength not only to its own citizens but also to Hamas in Gaza and Lebanon's Hezbollah, the militant groups battling Israel that are the vanguard of Tehran's so-called Axis of Resistance.

It is too soon to say whether Iran's leadership will follow that path.

Tehran may decide against forcefully retaliating directly for now, not least because doing so might reveal its weaknesses and invite a more potent Israeli response, analysts say.

"Iran will play down the impact of the strikes, which are in fact quite serious," said Sanam Vakil, the director of the Middle East and North Africa program at the London-based think tank Chatham House.

She said Iran is "boxed in" by military and economic constraints, and the uncertainty caused by the U.S. election and its impact on American policy in the region.

Even while the Mideast wars rage, Iran's reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian has been signaling his nation wants a new nuclear deal with the U.S. to ease crushing international sanctions.

A carefully worded statement from Iran's military Saturday night appeared to offer some wiggle room for the Islamic Republic to back away from further escalation. It suggested that a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon was more important than any retaliation against Israel.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's ultimate decision-maker, was also measured in his first comments on the strike Sunday. He said the attack "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed," and he stopped short of calling for an immediate military response.

Saturday's strikes targeted Iranian air defense missile batteries and missile production facilities, according to the Israeli military.

With that, Israel has exposed vulnerabilities in Iran's air defenses and can now more easily step up its attacks, analysts say.

Satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press indicate Israel's raid damaged facilities at the Parchin military base southeast of Tehran that experts previously linked to Iran's onetime nuclear weapons program and another base tied to its ballistic missile program.

Current nuclear sites were not struck, however. Rafael Mariano Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, confirmed that on X, saying "Iran's nuclear facilities have not been impacted."

Israel has been aggressively bringing the fight to the Iranian-backed militant group Hezbollah, killing its leader and targeting operatives in an audacious exploding pager attack.

"Any Iranian attempt to retaliate will have to contend with the fact that Hezbollah, its most important ally against Israel, has been significantly degraded and its conventional weapons systems have twice been largely repelled," said Ali Vaez, the Iran project director at the International Crisis Group, who expects Iran to hold its fire for now.

That's true even if Israel held back, as appears to be the case. Some prominent figures in Israel, such as opposition leader Yair Lapid, are already saying the attacks didn't go far enough.

Regional experts suggested that Israel's relatively limited target list was intentionally calibrated to make it easier for Iran to back away from escalation.

As Yoel Guzansky, who formerly worked for Israel's National Security Council and is now a researcher

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at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies, put it: Israel's decision to focus on purely military targets allows Iran "to save face."

Israel's target choices may also be a reflection at least in part of its capabilities. It is unlikely able to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities on its own and would require help from the United States, Guzansky said.

Besides, Israel still has leverage to go after higher-value targets should Iran retaliate — particularly now that nodes in its air defenses have been destroyed.

"You preserve for yourself all kinds of contingency plans," Guzansky said.

Thomas Juneau, a University of Ottawa professor focused on Iran and the wider Middle East, wrote on X that the fact Iranian media initially downplayed the strikes suggests Tehran may want to avoid further escalation. Yet it's caught in a tough spot.

"If it retaliates, it risks an escalation in which its weakness means it loses more," he wrote. "If it does not retaliate, it projects a signal of weakness."

Vakil agreed that Iran's response was likely to be muted and that the strikes were designed to minimize the potential for escalation.

"Israel has yet again shown its military precision and capabilities are far superior to that of Iran," she said.

One thing is certain: The Mideast is in uncharted territory.

For decades, leaders and strategists in the region have speculated about whether and how Israel might one day openly strike Iran, just as they wondered what direct attacks by Iran, rather than by its proxy militant groups, would look like.

Today, it's a reality. Yet the playbook on either side isn't clear, and may still be being written.

"There appears to be a major mismatch both in terms of the sword each side wields and the shield it can deploy," Vaez said.

"While both sides have calibrated and calculated how quickly they climb the escalation ladder, they are in an entirely new territory now, where the new red lines are nebulous and the old ones have turned pink," he said.

McDonald's Quarter Pounder back on the menu after testing rules out beef patties as E. coli source

By SARAH PARVINI AP Technology Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — McDonald's announced Sunday that Quarter Pounders will again be on its menu at hundreds of its restaurants after testing ruled out beef patties as the source of the outbreak of E. coli poisoning tied to the popular burgers that killed one person and sickened at least 75 others across 13 states.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration continues to believe that slivered onions from a single supplier are the likely source of contamination, McDonald's said in a statement. It said it will resume selling the Quarter Pounder at affected restaurants — without slivered onions — in the coming week.

As of Friday, the outbreak had expanded to at least 75 people sick in 13 states, federal health officials said. A total of 22 people had been hospitalized, and two developed a dangerous kidney disease complication, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. One person has died in Colorado.

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.

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 company said it removed slivered onions sourced from that facility from its supply chain on Tuesday. McDonald's said it has decided to stop sourcing onions from Taylor Farms' Colorado Springs facility "indefinitely."

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The 900 McDonald's restaurants that normally received slivered onions from Taylor Farms' Colorado Springs facility will resume sales of Quarter Pounders without slivered onions, McDonald's said.

Testing by the Colorado Department of Agriculture ruled out beef patties as the source of the outbreak, McDonald's said.

The department of agriculture received multiple lots of fresh and frozen beef patties collected from various Colorado McDonald's locations associated with the E. coli investigation. All samples were found to be negative for E. coli, the department said.

Taylor Farms said Friday that 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.

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.

Colorado had the most illnesses reported as of Friday, 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 and 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.

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.

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.

Harris rallies Philadelphia voters at church, barbershop, bookstore, restaurant and basketball court

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, MARYCLAIRE DALE and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Kamala Harris said Sunday that “no one can sit on the sidelines” in this year's presidential election, capping a day of campaigning across the largest city in the crucial battleground state of Pennsylvania.

“We are focused on the future and we are focused on the needs of the American people,” Harris said, “as opposed to Donald Trump, who spends full time looking in the mirror focused on himself.”

Speaking at a city recreation center, the Democratic vice president singled out young voters, praising them for being “rightly impatient for change,” and told the audience that “there is too much at stake” in the campaign.

“We must not wake up the day after the election and have any regret about what we could have done in these next nine days,” Harris said.

Mark Ruffalo and Don Cheadle, two actors who starred in Marvel's “Avengers” movies, were at the rally. Harris reminded the crowd that Pennsylvania's deadline for early voting is Tuesday, telling them to “get it done tomorrow if you can.”

Energizing voters in Philadelphia, a traditional Democratic stronghold, is crucial for Harris' chances of beating Republican nominee Donald Trump. If turnout falls short here, she'll struggle to overcome Trump's advantages in Pennsylvania's rural areas.

“Philadelphia is a very important part of our path to victory,” Harris told reporters. “It's the reason I have been spending time here. But I'm feeling very optimistic about the enthusiasm.”

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Kenny Payne, 62, said Harris is going to win and "it won't be close." The Democratic voter said he plays golf with a group of Republicans who say they won't vote for Trump again.

"I think we'll all be in bed by midnight," he said outside the recreation center where Harris spoke.

Patrick Boe, 46, said he was confident about the city's enthusiasm for Harris, but he acknowledged that his view may be skewed.

"I'm in a bubble here," Boe said.

Randyll Butler, a youth basketball coach who introduced Harris, said the election was in the "fourth quarter."

"We cannot get tired," she said. "We cannot get complacent."

The Democratic coalition relies on voters of color, and Harris' itinerary on Sunday reflected that focus. She began the day with the Black congregation at the Church of Christian Compassion, where she said the United States is "determined to turn the page on hatred and division."

Harris drew on the story of the Apostle Paul, who overcame difficulties to spread the word of Jesus.

"In hard times when we may grow weary in doing good, we must remember the power that works within us, the divine power that transformed Paul's life, guided him through shipwreck and sustained him through trials," Harris said.

W. Lonnie Herndon, the church's senior pastor, introduced Harris as "the voice of the future" and followed her remarks with a sermon about compassion and how "strong people never put others down, they lift them up."

"We are going to get out and vote," he said as Harris listened from her seat in the front row. "And let me be crystal clear. We are not electing a pastor. We are electing a president that will deal with these divided United States, bring us back together."

Her next stop was Philly Cuts, a barbershop in West Philadelphia. Pennsylvania state Rep. Jordan Harris moderated a conversation with Harris and Black men about improving racial representation in education. A poster of Barack Obama, the first Black president, was on the wall.

"We don't pay teachers enough," said Harris, who would be the second Black president and the first female president, if elected. "Student loan debt is an issue."

Outside the shop, people stood on stoops and lined the sidewalks in hopes of catching a glimpse of Harris. "The MVP of the White House!" someone shouted.

Harris visited nearby Hakim's Bookstore, which specializes in African American history.

"It's beautiful. It's just so beautiful," she said and asked to see good books for 6- and 8-year-old children, the same ages as her nieces.

Harris joked about her weight with Ann Hughes, the mother of Pennsylvania state Sen. Vincent Hughes.

"They're working me to the bone," she said.

After leaving the bookstore, Harris headed to a Puerto Rican restaurant named Freddy and Tony's, where she thanked volunteers and told them "we are going to win."

She also met with youth basketball players at the Alan Horowitz "Sixth Man" Center. The coach said the players are "student first, athlete second." Harris told them to "think of your brain as a muscle and when you exercise it, it gets stronger."

Harris has tried to keep the focus on abortion rights in the closing stretch of the campaign, including during appearances with Beyoncé and Michelle Obama. In an interview with CBS News that aired Sunday, Harris declined to say whether she would support any restrictions on abortion, emphasizing the need to restore Roe v. Wade.

"It is that basic," Harris said.

The nationwide right to abortion was overturned two years ago by the conservative majority on the Supreme Court that included three justices nominated by Trump while president.

"My first priority is to put back in place those protections and to stop this pain and to stop this injustice that is happening around our country," Harris said.

She also brushed off Trump's claim that he would not sign a national abortion ban if elected. "He says everything, come on," Harris said. "Are we really taking his word for it?"

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Harris and Tim Walz, the Minnesota governor who is her running mate, are expected to visit all seven battleground states in the coming days, part of a final blitz before the election.

While Harris was in Philadelphia on Sunday, Walz was campaigning in Las Vegas. On Monday, Walz will visit Manitowoc and Waukesha, Wisconsin, before joining Harris for a rally in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where the singer Maggie Rogers is scheduled to perform.

Harris will be in the nation's capital on Tuesday to deliver what her campaign calls her "closing argument" in a speech from the Ellipse, a grassy space near the White House. It's the same place where Trump spoke on Jan. 6, 2021, when the Republican called on his supporters to march on the Capitol.

More campaign stops are scheduled in Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Nevada and Arizona.

Japan's ruling coalition loses a majority in the lower house, creating political uncertainty

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's ruling coalition lost a majority in the 465-seat lower house in a key parliamentary election Sunday, a punishment by voters' outrage over the governing party's extensive financial scandals.

Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party remains the top party in Japan's parliament, and a change of government is not expected. But the results create political uncertainty. Falling short of a majority makes it difficult for Ishiba to get his party's policies through parliament, and he may need to find a third coalition partner. The LDP's coalition retains a majority in the less powerful upper house.

All told, the ruling coalition with junior partner Komeito secured 215 seats, down sharply from the majority of 279 it previously held, according to Japanese media. It is the coalition's worst result since briefly falling from power in 2009.

Ishiba took office on Oct. 1 and immediately ordered the election in hopes of shoring up support after his predecessor, Fumio Kishida, failed to address public outrage over the LDP's scandals.

"The results so far have been extremely severe, and we take them very seriously," Ishiba told Japan's national NHK television late Sunday. "I believe the voters are telling us to reflect more and become a party that lives up to their expectations."

Ishiba said the LDP would still lead a ruling coalition and tackle key policies, compile a planned supplementary budget and pursue political reform.

He indicated that his party is open to cooperating with opposition groups if that suits the public's expectations.

The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, led by centrist leader Yoshihiko Noda, made huge gains to 148 seats, from its previous 98. "We accomplished our goal of preventing the ruling coalition from a majority, which was a major achievement," Noda said.

Noda called the election a rare chance for a change of government, and said he seeks to lead a coalition with other opposition groups to do so. But his party has had trouble finding partners, and many voters were skeptical about the opposition's ability and inexperience.

For Ishiba, potential additional partners include the Democratic Party of the People, which calls for lower taxes, and the conservative Japan Innovation Party.

DPP head Yuichiro Tamaki said he was open to "a partial alliance." Innovation Party chief Nobuyuki Baba has denied any intention to cooperate. The centrist DPP quadrupled to 28 seats, while the conservative Innovation Party slipped to 38.

Ishiba may also face backlash from a number of scandal-tainted lawmakers with former leader Shinzo Abe's faction, whom Ishiba had un-endorsed for Sunday's election in an attempt to regain public support.

The LDP is less cohesive now and could enter the era of short-lived prime ministers. Ishiba is expected to last at least until the ruling bloc approves key budget plans at the end of December.

"The public's criticisms against the slush funds scandal has intensified, and it won't go away easily," said

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Izuru Makihara, a University of Tokyo professor of politics and public policy. "There is a growing sense of fairness, and people are rejecting privileges for politicians." Makihara suggested Ishiba needs bold political reform measures to regain public trust.

A total of 1,344 candidates, including a record 314 women, ran for office in Sunday's election.

In another blow to the ruling coalition, a number of LDP veterans who have served in Cabinet posts, as well as Komeito's new leader, Keiichi Ishii, lost seats.

Experts say a CDPJ-led government is not in the picture because of its lack of viable policies.

"If they take power and try to change the economic and diplomatic policies of the current government, they will only end up collapsing right away," Makihara said. Realistically, Ishiba's ruling coalition would seek a partnership with either the Innovation Party or the Democratic Party of the People, he said.

At a downtown Tokyo polling station, a number of voters said they had considered the corruption scandal and economic measures in deciding how to vote.

Once a popular politician known for criticism of even his own party's policies, Ishiba has also seen support for his weeks-old Cabinet plunge.

Ishiba pledged to revitalize the rural economy, address Japan's falling birth rate and bolster defense. But his Cabinet has familiar faces, with only two women, and was seen as alienating members of the faction led by late premier Shinzo Abe. Ishiba quickly retreated from earlier support for a dual surname option for married couples and legalizing same-sex marriage, an apparent compromise to the party's influential ultra-conservatives.

His popularity fell because of "the gap in what the public expected him to be as prime minister versus the reality of what he brought as prime minister," said Rintaro Nishimura, a political analyst at The Asia Group.

Georgian president won't recognize parliamentary election result and calls for a protest

By EMMA BURROWS Associated Press

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Georgia's president said Sunday she did not recognize the results of this week-end's parliamentary vote, which election officials say was won by the ruling party, adding that the country fell victim to a "Russian special operation" aimed at moving it off a path toward Europe.

Standing alongside opposition leaders, President Salome Zourabichvili urged Georgians to rally Monday night on Tbilisi's main street to protest what she called a "total falsification, a total stealing of your votes," raising the prospect of further political turmoil in the South Caucasus nation.

She spoke the day after an election that could decide whether Georgia embraces Europe or falls under the sway of Russia.

"This election cannot be recognized, because it is the recognition of Russia's intrusion here, Georgia's subordination to Russia," Zourabichvili said.

The Central Election Commission said Sunday that the ruling party, Georgian Dream, got 54.8% of Saturday's vote with almost all ballots counted.

Georgian Dream has become increasingly authoritarian over the past year, adopting laws similar to those used by Russia to crack down on speech. Brussels suspended Georgia's EU membership process indefinitely because of a Russian-style "foreign influence law," passed in June. Many Georgians viewed Saturday's vote as a referendum on the opportunity to join the European Union.

The election campaign in the South Caucasus nation of 3.7 million people, which borders Russia, was dominated by foreign policy and marked by a bitter fight for votes and allegations of a smear campaign.

Zourabichvili suggested "Russian elections" were held in the country, and said "technology was used to whitewash counterfeiting. Such a thing has never happened before."

European electoral observers said the election took place in a "divisive" environment marked by intimidation and instances of vote buying, double voting and physical violence.

During the campaign, Georgian Dream used "anti-Western and hostile rhetoric ... promoted Russian misinformation, manipulations, and conspiracy theories," said Antonio López-Istúriz White, the head of

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the European Parliament monitoring delegation.

"Paradoxically, the government further claimed that it was continuing Georgia's European integration," he added.

The conduct of the polls, he said, is more evidence that points to the ruling party's "democratic backsliding."

President of the European Council Charles Michel said he called on Georgia's officials to "swiftly, transparently and independently investigate" the electoral irregularities and called on the ruling party to demonstrate its "firm commitment" to the EU.

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, who is a member of Georgian Dream, on Sunday described his party's victory as "impressive and obvious," and said "any attempts to talk about election manipulation ... are doomed to failure."

Hungary's Victor Orbán was the first foreign leader to congratulate Georgian Dream and will be the first foreign leader to visit Georgia and meet the prime minister when he visits the capital for a visit Monday and Tuesday.

Georgian electoral observers, who were stationed across the country, also reported multiple violations and said the results do not reflect "the will of the Georgian people."

In the capital Tbilisi, Tiko Gelashvili, 32, said, "The results that were published are just lies and rigged."

Initial figures suggested turnout in the vote was the highest since Georgian Dream was first elected in 2012.

The United National Movement opposition party said its headquarters were attacked on Saturday while Georgian media reported two people were hospitalized after being attacked outside polling stations.

"The most important question is whether or not these elections will be recognized by the international community," said Natia Seskuria, executive director of the Regional Institute for Security Studies in Tbilisi. Georgia's "economic and political prospects" hinge on the election, she said.

Georgians have a complex relationship with Russia, which ruled it from Moscow until Georgia gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Russia and Georgia fought a short war in 2008, and Moscow still occupies 20% of Georgia's territory.

Despite that, Georgian Dream has adopted Russia-style laws and many Georgians fear the government is distancing the country from the West and into Moscow's orbit.

The election observers said instances of intimidation and electoral violations were particularly noticeable in rural areas.

Georgian Dream scored its highest share of the vote — polling almost 90% — in the Javakheti region of southern Georgia, 135 kilometers (83 miles) west of the capital. In Tbilisi, it got no more than 44% of the vote in any district.

Javakheti is predominantly agricultural and many people are ethnic Armenians who speak Armenian, Russian and limited Georgian. Before the election, the AP traveled to the region where voters suggested they were instructed how to vote by local officials. Several questioned why Georgia needed a relationship with Europe and suggested it would be better off allied with Moscow.

On Navajo Nation, a push to electrify more homes on the vast reservation

By JOSHUA A. BICKEL and SUMAN NAISHADHAM Associated Press

HALCHITA, Utah (AP) — After a five-year wait, Lorraine Black and Ricky Gillis heard the rumblings of an electrical crew reach their home on the sprawling Navajo Nation.

In five days' time, their home would be connected to the power grid, replacing their reliance on a few solar panels and propane lanterns. No longer would the CPAP machine Gillis uses for sleep apnea or his home heart monitor transmitting information to doctors 400 miles away face interruptions due to intermittent power. It also means Black and Gillis can now use more than a few appliances — such as a fridge, a TV, and an evaporative cooling unit — at the same time.

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"We're one of the luckiest people who get to get electric," Gillis said.

Many Navajo families still live without running water and electricity, a product of historic neglect and the struggle to get services to far-flung homes on the 27,000-square-mile (70,000-square-kilometer) Native American reservation that lies in parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Some rely on solar panels or generators, which can be patchy, and others have no electricity whatsoever.

Gillis and Black filed an application to connect their home back in 2019. But when the coronavirus pandemic started ravaging the tribe and everything besides essential services was shut down on the reservation, it further stalled the process.

Their wait highlights the persistent challenges in electrifying every Navajo home, even with recent injections of federal money for tribal infrastructure and services and as extreme heat in the Southwest intensified by climate change adds to the urgency.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of a series of on how tribes and Indigenous communities are coping with and combating climate change.

"We are a part of America that a lot of the time feels kind of left out," said Vircyntia Charley, district manager at the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, a non-for-profit utility that provides electric, water, wastewater, natural gas and solar energy services.

For years, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority has worked to get more Navajo homes connected to the grid faster. Under a program called Light Up Navajo, which uses a mix of private and public funding, outside utilities from across the U.S. send electric crews to help connect homes and extend power lines.

But installing power on the reservation roughly the size of West Virginia is time-consuming and expensive due to its rugged geography and the vast distances between homes. Drilling for power poles there can take several hours because of underground rock deposits while some homes near Monument Valley must have power lines installed underground to meet strict regulations around development in the area.

About 32% of Navajo homes still have no electricity. Connecting the remaining 10,400 homes on the reservation would cost \$416 million, said Deenise Becenti, government and public affairs manager at the utility.

This year, Light Up Navajo connected 170 more families to the grid. Since the program started in 2019, 882 Navajo families have had their homes electrified. If the program stays funded, Becenti said it could take another 26 years to connect every home on the reservation.

Those that get connected immediately reap the benefits.

Until this month, Black and Gillis' solar panels that the utility installed a few years ago would last about two to three days before their battery drained in cloudy weather. It would take another two days to recharge.

"You had to really watch the watts and whatever you're using on a cloudy day," Gillis said.

Then a volunteer power crew from Colorado helped install 14 power poles while the tribal utility authority drilled holes six feet deep in which the poles would sit. The crew then ran a wire about a mile down a red sand road from the main power line to the couple's home.

"The lights are brighter," Black remarked after her home was connected.

In recent years, significantly more federal money has been allocated for tribes to improve infrastructure on reservations, including \$32 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 — of which Navajo Nation received \$112 million for electric connections. The Navajo tribal utility also received \$17 million through the Biden administration's climate law, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, to connect families to the electric grid. But it can be slow to see the effects of that money on the ground due to bureaucracy and logistics.

Next spring, the tribal utility authority hopes to connect another 150 homes, including the home of Priscilla and Leo Dan.

For the couple, having grid electricity at their home near Navajo Mountain in Arizona would end a nearly 12 year wait. They currently live in a recreational vehicle elsewhere closer to their jobs, but have worked on their home on the reservation for years. With power there, they could spend more time where Priscilla grew up and where her dad still lives.

It would make life simpler, Priscilla said. "Because otherwise, everything, it seems like, takes twice as long to do."

A Lebanese family was holding a Sunday gathering when an Israeli strike toppled their building

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

AIN EL DELB, Lebanon (AP) — It was Sunday, family time for most in Lebanon, and Hecham al-Baba was visiting his sister. She insisted he and their older brother stay for lunch, hoping to prolong the warm gathering in stressful times.

The brother declined. Like many in Lebanon, he hadn't been sleeping because of Israel's intensifying airstrikes, so he left to take a nap.

The 60-year-old al-Baba, on his annual visit from Germany to see his family in Lebanon, stayed. His sister Donize even convinced him to call an old flame over for coffee. He excitedly stepped into the bathroom to clean up before his visitor arrived.

Within seconds, a huge boom shook the basement apartment. Al-Baba fell to the floor. Something hit him in the chest, knocking the breath out of him. He pulled himself up and reached for the door, screaming his sister's name. A second explosion threw him back to the floor. The bathroom ceiling — and the whole building above it — collapsed on his back.

An Israeli air raid hit the six-story residential building in Ain el Delb, a neighborhood outside the coastal city of Sidon. The entire building tipped over down a hillside and landed on its face, taking with it 17 apartments full of families and visitors. More than 70 people were killed, and 60 injured.

Israel said the Sept. 29 strike targeted a Hezbollah commander and claimed the building was a headquarters for the group. It could not be independently confirmed whether any of the residents belonged to Hezbollah.

In a video that surfaced online mourning one of the people believed to be residing in the building, he appeared in an old photo wearing military fatigues, a sign of affiliation with Hezbollah.

Either way, experts say the strike illustrates Israel's willingness to kill significant numbers of civilians in pursuit of a single target. That tactic has fueled the high death toll among Palestinians in Gaza in Israel's year-old campaign against Hamas.

Israel has intensified bombardment of Lebanon since Sept. 23, vowing to cripple Hezbollah, which began firing into northern Israel after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack triggered the war in Gaza. Israel says it is targeting Hezbollah members and infrastructure and says the group places military assets in civilian areas.

Some 2,000 people have been killed, including Hezbollah fighters and commanders — but also hundreds of civilians, often in strikes on homes.

"It seems to be a feature so similar to Gaza in that these are families being killed together in single strikes," said Emily Tripp, director of the London-based group Airwars, which monitors conflicts.

In the first week of Israel's escalation, it hit a home in Tyre province, killing a family of 15, all of them women and children except for a Hezbollah member. A strike in Byblos killed six family members of a Hezbollah fighter, who had already died in fighting a month before — raising questions about the quality of intelligence used in the strikes. A hit on a shack housing Syrian migrant worker families killed 23.

The strike in Ain el Delb was one of the deadliest of the Israeli campaign. Among those killed were al-Baba's sister, her husband and two of their children, a daughter in her 20s and a teenage boy.

Al-Baba was trapped for hours, with the rubble pressing him in an agonizing, kneeling position, his neck twisted, his face stuck to the bathroom floor, unable to feel his legs. He knew his sister's family was dead from the constant, unanswered ringing of their phones.

"No one said a word. I didn't hear a movement," he said.

'People don't know. Israel knows'

The Israeli military said it enacted evacuation procedures before acting on confirmed intelligence in the Ain el Delb strike. Residents who spoke to The Associated Press said they received no warning.

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"I wish we had. We would have left," said Abdul-Hamid Ramadan, who lived on the top floor and whose wife Jinan and daughter Julia were killed. "I would have lost my home. But not my wife and daughter."

Israel says it often issues evacuation orders before striking. But in Lebanon, as in Gaza, rights groups say the advance warnings are often inadequate and come in the middle of the night or through social media.

Ramadan, a retired army officer, said he knew of no Hezbollah members or weapons in the building, where he has lived for more than 20 years.

No one thought the neighborhood — where most residents are Sunni Muslims and Christians — would be on the list of Israeli targets. In the building, 15 out of the 17 apartments were occupied by longtime residents who all knew each other. Displaced people from the south had begun arriving a week earlier, seeking shelter with relatives in the building.

Al-Baba said his sister confided in him before she was killed that she was concerned about a much-loved Shiite tenant, mainly because he had been receiving guests. She feared he may be a target of Israel and asked her brother if she should leave. She decided to stay because she had no idea where to go.

Neither al-Baba nor his sister knew anything about the tenant being linked to Hezbollah.

Israeli strikes have stoked fears among Lebanese over the possibility their building could be hit for hosting someone who Israel claims, rightly or wrongly, to be connected to Hezbollah. Building administrations have asked tenants to declare the names of displaced sheltering with them. Some have refused to take in people from the south.

The first strike hit the building's lower floors around 4 p.m. The Ramadan family were shocked but didn't think the building was collapsing. Only Ramadan's wife, Jinan, ran for the stairs. A few moments passed, long enough for Ramadan's son Achraf to bring his sister Julia a glass of water to calm her.

Then the second missile hit. The building swayed, then collapsed.

Ramadan fell off the couch, which along with a nearby cabinet protected him from the falling ceiling. Achraf, a fitness trainer and former soldier, took cover under a door frame. Julia fell to the floor.

For what seemed like two hours, the three communicated through the rubble. Ramadan said Julia was only two meters (yards) away, her voice faint but audible. He called for help using his mobile phone still in his hands.

When help came, Achraf got out first; then his father, about six hours after the strike. In the chaos, they thought Julia had been pulled out. But the rescuers returned to find the 28-year-old dead. Her mother died in the hospital from internal bleeding.

"I lost the cornerstone of the house: my wife, my partner and friend," Ramadan said. "I lost my daughter Julia ... She was my joy, my smile, the future."

They are buried in unmarked graves in a section of the Sidon cemetery dedicated to the Ain el Delb building victims.

Like in Gaza, there is concern that the number of civilian casualties is "quite high" given that the alleged military target is often unstated or relatively small, said Rich Weir, the senior conflict, crisis and arms researcher at Human Rights Watch.

He said there has been an "escalation in terms of the amount of damage ... the taking down of entire buildings in densely packed residential neighborhoods, which brings inherent risks to civilians." Israel has also expanded the scope of its targets, hitting Hezbollah financial institutions, he said.

Ramadan was not surprised at the killing of so many people for one possible Hezbollah member. It has happened before, he said.

"We hear in the news an apartment was targeted. And people wonder who it was," he said. "People don't know. Israel knows."

'Worse than a coffin'

At the bottom of the building's wreckage, Hecham al-Baba was trapped in pitch black darkness for four hours, squeezed with his legs bent under him. The falling door had broken two of his ribs. It was difficult to breathe. All he could think about was that he might lose his legs.

"There was no blood going to my legs," he said. "I couldn't feel them. I couldn't move. I tried to stay

strong. I don't want to remember. It upsets me."

Finally, he heard movement: people removing bricks, a bulldozer. He started screaming. His lungs and chest hurt. They called to him to shout louder. "I told them I can't."

Then through a hole, a beam of light flashed in the darkness. At the sight of him, a rescuer cried out, "What a way to be stuck! It's worse than a coffin."

It took another four hours before the rescuers pulled him out head-first through the floor beneath him, covered in dust and soot.

The entire rescue operation took more than 43 hours. The Health Ministry put the death toll at 45, but the civil defense chief for Sidon, Mohamed Arkadan, said first responders pulled 73 bodies from the rubble. Five bodies remain unaccounted for, he said.

Doctors told al-Baba his ribs will heal with time.

But not his pain.

He said he will wear black all his life to mourn his sister. Past conflicts never stopped him from returning to Lebanon to visit family. This time, it may be a while before he comes back.

"There will be no peace," he said, thinking of his family tragedy and the wars in both Lebanon and Gaza. "No one will bring me justice. No one."

Satellite images show damage from Israeli attack at 2 secretive Iranian military bases

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An Israeli attack on Iran damaged facilities at a secretive military base southeast of the Iranian capital that experts in the past have linked to Tehran's onetime nuclear weapons program and at another base tied to its ballistic missile program, satellite photos analyzed Sunday by The Associated Press show.

Some of the buildings damaged sat in Iran's Parchin military base, where the International Atomic Energy Agency suspects Iran in the past conducted tests of high explosives that could trigger a nuclear weapon. Iran long has insisted its nuclear program is peaceful, though the IAEA, Western intelligence agencies and others say Tehran had an active weapons program up until 2003.

The other damage could be seen at the nearby Khojir military base, which analysts believe hides an underground tunnel system and missile production sites.

Iran's military has not acknowledged damage at either Khojir or Parchin from Israel's attack early Saturday, though it has said the assault killed four Iranian soldiers working in the country's air defense systems. Iran announced Sunday a civilian also had been killed, but provided no details.

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not respond to a request for comment. The Israeli military declined to comment.

However, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday told an audience that the Israeli attack "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed," while stopping short of calling for an immediate retaliatory strike. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu separately said Sunday that Israel's strikes "severely harmed" Iran and that the barrage "achieved all its goals."

Damage spread across three Iranian provinces

It remains unclear how many sites in total were targeted in the Israeli attack. There have been no images of damage so far released by Iran's military.

Iranian officials have identified affected areas as being in Ilam, Khuzestan and Tehran provinces. Burned fields could be seen in satellite images from Planet Labs PBC around Iran's Tange Bijar natural gas production site in Ilam province on Saturday, though it wasn't immediately clear if it was related to the attack. Ilam province sits on the Iran-Iraq border in western Iran.

The most telling damage could be seen in Planet Labs images of Parchin, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) southeast of downtown Tehran near the Mamalu Dam. There, one structure appeared to be totally de-

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stroyed while others looked damaged in the attack.

At Khojir, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) away from downtown Tehran, damage could be seen on at least two structures in satellite images.

Analysts including Decker Eveleth at the Virginia-based think tank CNA, Joe Truzman at the Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies and former United Nations weapon inspector David Albright, as well as other open-source experts, first identified the damage to the bases. The locations of the two bases correspond to videos obtained by the AP showing Iranian air defense systems firing in the vicinity early Saturday.

Base linked to Iran's onetime nuclear weapons program

At Parchin, Albright's Institute for Science and International Security identified the destroyed building against a mountainside as "Taleghan 2." It said an archive of Iranian nuclear data earlier seized by Israel identified the building as housing "a smaller, elongated high explosive chamber and a flash X-ray system to examine small-scale high explosive tests."

"Such tests may have included high explosives compressing a core of natural uranium, simulating the initiation of a nuclear explosive," a 2018 report by the institute says.

In a message posted to the social platform X early Sunday, the institute added: "It is not certain whether Iran used uranium at 'Taleghan 2,' but it is possible it studied the compression of natural uranium hemispheres, which would explain its hasty and secretive renovation efforts following the IAEA's request to access Parchin in 2011."

It's unclear what, if any, equipment would have been inside of the "Taleghan 2" building early Saturday. There were no Israeli strikes on Iran's oil industry, nor its nuclear enrichment sites or its nuclear power plant at Bushehr during the assault.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, who leads the IAEA, confirmed that on X, saying "Iran's nuclear facilities have not been impacted."

"Inspectors are safe and continue their vital work," he added. "I call for prudence and restraint from actions that could jeopardize the safety & security of nuclear & other radioactive materials."

Damage seen at facilities for Iran's ballistic missile program

Other buildings destroyed at Khojir and Parchin likely included buildings where Iran used industrial mixers to create the solid fuel needed for its extensive ballistic missile arsenal, Eveleth said.

In a statement issued immediately after the attack Saturday, the Israeli military said it targeted "missile manufacturing facilities used to produce the missiles that Iran fired at the state of Israel over the last year."

Destroying such sites could greatly disrupt Iran's ability to manufacture new ballistic missiles to replenish its arsenal after the two attacks on Israel. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which oversees the country's ballistic missile program, has been silent since Saturday's attack.

Iran's overall ballistic missile arsenal, which includes shorter-range missiles unable to reach Israel, was estimated to be "over 3,000" by Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, then-commander of the U.S. military's Central Command, in testimony to the U.S. Senate in 2022. In the time since, Iran has fired hundreds of the missiles in a series of attacks.

There have been no videos or photos posted to social media of missile parts or damage in civilian neighborhoods following the recent attack — suggesting that the Israeli strikes were far more accurate than Iran's ballistic missile barrages targeting Israel in April and October. Israel relied on aircraft-fired missiles during its attack.

However, one factory appeared to have been hit in Shamsabad Industrial City, just south of Tehran near Imam Khomeini International Airport, the country's main gateway to the outside world. Online videos of the damaged building corresponded to an address for a firm known as TIECO, which advertises itself as building advanced machinery used in Iran's oil and gas industry.

Officials at TIECO requested the AP write the company a letter before responding to questions. The firm did not reply to a letter sent to it.

Russian forces thwart attempted cross-border assault from Ukraine, official says

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian forces thwarted an attempt at another cross-border incursion by Ukraine into southwestern Russia, a local official reported Sunday, months after Kyiv staged a bold assault on its nuclear-armed enemy that Moscow is still struggling to halt.

An “armed group” sought Sunday to breach the border between Ukraine and Russia’s Bryansk region, its governor, Aleksandr Bogomaz, said but was beaten back. Bogomaz did not clarify whether Ukrainian soldiers carried out the alleged attack, but claimed on Sunday evening that the situation was “stable and under control” by the Russian military.

There was no immediate acknowledgement or response from Ukrainian officials.

The region neighbors Kursk province, where Ukraine launched a surprise push on Aug. 6 that rattled the Kremlin and constituted the largest attack on Russia since World War II. Hundreds of Russian prisoners were blindfolded and ferried away in trucks in the opening moments of the lightning advance, and Ukraine’s battle-hardened units swiftly pressed on across hundreds of square miles (square kilometers) of territory.

Responsibility for previous incursions into Russia’s Belgorod and Bryansk regions has been claimed by two murky groups: the Russian Volunteer Corps and the Freedom of Russia Legion.

Russian officials and state media have sought to downplay the significance of Kyiv’s thunderous run in Kursk, but the country’s forces have so far been unable to dislodge Ukrainian troops from the province. Western officials have speculated that Moscow may send troops from North Korea to bolster its effort to do so, stoking the almost three-year war and bringing geopolitical consequences as far away as the Indo-Pacific region.

Russian lawmakers Thursday ratified a pact with Pyongyang envisioning mutual military assistance, a move that comes as the U.S. confirmed the deployment of 3,000 North Korean troops to Russia.

North Korean units were detected Wednesday in Kursk, according to Ukraine’s Main Intelligence Directorate, known by its acronym GUR. The soldiers had undergone several weeks of training at bases in eastern Russia and had been equipped with clothes for the upcoming winter, GUR said in a statement late Thursday. It did not provide evidence for its claims.

Moscow warns West against approving long-range strikes against Russia

Also on Sunday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow is working on ways to respond if the U.S. and its NATO allies allow Ukraine to strike deep inside Russia with long-range Western missiles.

Putin told Russian state TV that it was too early to say exactly how Moscow might react, but the defense ministry has been mulling a range of options.

Russia has repeatedly signaled that it would view any such strikes as a major escalation. The Kremlin leader warned on Sept. 12 that Moscow would be “at war” with the U.S. and NATO states if they approve them, claiming military infrastructure and personnel from the bloc would have to be involved in targeting and firing the missiles.

He reinforced the message by announcing a new version of the nuclear doctrine that considers a conventional attack on Russia by a nonnuclear nation that is supported by a nuclear power to be a joint attack on his country — a clear warning to the U.S. and other allies of Kyiv.

Putin also declared the revised document envisages possible nuclear weapons use in case of a massive air attack, opening the door to a potential nuclear response to any aerial assault — an ambiguity intended to deter the West.

Ukrainian leaders have repeatedly said they need permission to strike weapons depots, airfields and military bases far from the border to motivate Russia to seek peace. In response, U.S. defense officials have argued that the missiles are limited in number, and that Ukraine is already using its own long-range drones to hit targets farther into Russia.

That capability was evidenced by a Ukrainian drone strike in mid-September that hit a large Russian military depot in a town 500 kilometers (300 miles) from the border.

The U.S. allows Kyiv to use American-provided weapons in more limited, cross-border strikes to counter

attacks by Russian forces.

Civilian deaths reported in Kherson as warring sides trade drone strikes

In a separate update, Bryansk Gov. Bogomaz claimed that over a dozen Ukrainian drones were shot down over the region on Sunday. Separately, a total of at least 16 drones were downed over other Russian regions, including the Tambov province some 450 kilometers (290 miles) north from the border, officials reported. There were no reports of casualties from any of the alleged attacks.

In Ukraine's southern city of Kherson, Russian shelling killed three civilians on Sunday, local Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin claimed. Another Kherson resident died in a blaze sparked by shells hitting a high-rise, according to Ukraine's Emergency Service.

Air raid sirens wailed for over three hours in Kyiv overnight into Sunday, and city authorities later reported that "around 10" drones had been shot down. They said no one had been hurt. Ukraine's air force on Sunday reported that it had shot down 41 drones launched by Russia across Ukrainian territory.

Miami's win over Florida State was particularly emotional for RB Mark Fletcher

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Mark Fletcher Jr. never considered not playing in Miami's rivalry game against Florida State, for the simple reason that his father would have wanted him out there.

And it was no accident that Miami's opening touchdown was his.

Fletcher rushed for 71 yards and a score in Miami's 36-14 win over Florida State on Saturday night — playing despite the fact that his father, Mark Fletcher Sr., died earlier in the week. Fletcher took a knee in the Hard Rock Stadium end zone after scoring, pointing to the sky.

"Just a shout out to my dad, paying him respect," Fletcher said. "It's been a long time since he'd seen Hard Rock this packed. I know he would have loved this, this energy out here, all the seats was taken up. I know he would have loved it. So, I just did this for him."

Miami (8-0, 4-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) rose one spot to No. 5 in the AP Top 25 on Sunday.

"Big Mark," as Fletcher's dad was known by everyone around the Miami program, was a regular visitor to practice. He would hold court in the stands at games, talking to anyone and everyone with a personality that Miami coach Mario Cristobal described as larger than life.

"He's got the best seat in the house going forward, looking from above," Cristobal said. "I know he's super proud of Mark."

Fletcher was the only running back to touch the ball for Miami on that initial series, starting his night with a 13-yard rush on his first touch. His touchdown even had others on the Miami sideline pointing to the sky.

"This game was for him and his family," Miami quarterback Cam Ward said. "What he's going through outside of football, I don't wish on no man. He got the game ball, and he deserves it."

That game ball presentation came in the locker room afterward. There were other worthy performances — Ward threw for 208 yards, Damien Martinez rushed for 148 yards and two scores, and the defense held Florida State to 248 yards.

But teammates wanted the night to belong to Fletcher.

"It meant everything to me," Fletcher said. "It just shows the brotherhood we have. I just played a good game, and I'm not even the one who had all the greatest stats, but they just showed that to me, to show how much they supported me. I'm nothing but appreciative."

The Hurricanes are entering November unbeaten for the first time since 2017, are one of four unbeaten teams left in ACC games — Clemson is 5-0, Miami and SMU are 4-0 and Pitt is 3-0 — and play host to Duke this Saturday. It'll be another trying few days for Fletcher; services for his father are scheduled for later this week.

"I'm staying strong," Fletcher said. "I know my dad wanted me to come out here and ball out for him. It's just extra motivation. I love that man so much. He's going to be so missed. But I've got to keep his legacy living on. I'm so happy I got his name. I'm so happy I got his name."

British chef Jamie Oliver urges followers to help solve the 'grate cheese robbery'

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British chef Jamie Oliver is on the case of the stolen cheddar.

Oliver, who rose to fame as "The Naked Chef" on TV by stripping food down to its essentials, got cheeky in an otherwise serious plea to his social media followers to help solve the mystery of the missing 22 metric tons (48,488 pounds) of award-winning cheddar worth 300,000 British pounds (\$390,000) that was stolen in a scam.

Calling it the "grate cheese robbery," Oliver told his 10.5 million Instagram fans to be on the lookout for "lorry loads of very posh cheese."

Nearly 1,000 wheels of cloth-wrapped artisanal cheddar were swiped from Neal's Yard Dairy by a con artist posing as a wholesale distributor for a major French retailer, the company said. The cheese was gone before the company realized it had been scammed and reported the theft Oct. 21.

"If the deal seems too gouda to be true, it probably is! Let's find these cheese stealers," Oliver wrote.

Cheddar, which is named for the village in southwest England where it originated, is the world's best-known cheese because it does not have the protected status of other regional products like champagne and, thus, is produced in many countries. But there are only a small number of real British cheddar makers, Oliver said.

"These are some of the cheeses, or most of them, that got nicked," he said in a video accompanying his post.

The cheeses were from three makers: Hafod Welsh organic cheddar, Westcombe cheddar, and Pitchfork cheddar.

Detectives at Scotland Yard and international authorities are searching for the culprits.

Neal's Yard Dairy, a distributor, wholesaler, and retailer of British artisanal cheese, has asked international cheesemongers to be on the lookout for the stolen cheese, particularly in 10-kilogram (22-pound) and 24-kilogram (52-pound) blocks.

"If anyone hears anything about posh cheese going for cheap, it's probably some wrong'uns," Oliver said.

More than 120 killed in paramilitary rampage in east-central Sudan, UN and a doctors group say

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Fighters from the notorious paramilitary Rapid Support Forces ran riot in east-central Sudan in a multi-day attack that killed more than 120 people in one town, a doctors group and the United Nations said.

It was the group's latest attack against the Sudanese military after suffering a series of setbacks, losing ground to the military in the area. The war, which has been going on for more than a year and a half, has wrecked the African country, displacing millions of its population and pushing it to the brink of a full-blown famine.

RSF fighters went on a rampage in villages and towns on the eastern and northern sides of the province of Gezira between Oct. 20-25, shooting at civilians and sexually attacking women and girls, the United Nations said in a statement Saturday, adding that they looted private and public properties, including open markets.

The attack displaced more than 46,500 people in the city of Tamboul and other villages in eastern and northern Gezira last week, according to Sunday's data from the International Organization for Migration's Tracking Matrix.

"The killings and appalling human rights violations in Gezira province intensify the unacceptable human toll this conflict has taken on the people of Sudan," IOM Director General Amy Pope told The Associated Press ahead of her trip to the country next week.

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She called for concerted international efforts to stop the conflict, saying: "There is no time to lose. Millions of lives are in the balance."

"These are atrocious crimes," Clementine Nkweta-Salami, U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, said in a statement on Saturday. "Women, children, and the most vulnerable are bearing the brunt of a conflict that has already taken far too many lives."

She said the attacks resembled the horrors committed during the Darfur genocide in the early 2000s, including rape, sexual violence, and mass killings.

The RSF was born out of Arab militias, commonly known as Janjaweed, mobilized by ex-Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir against populations in Darfur that identify as Central or East African. At the time, the Janjaweed were accused of mass killings, rapes and other atrocities, and Darfur became synonymous with genocide. Janjaweed groups still aid the RSF.

The Sudanese Doctors' Union said in a statement that at least 124 people were killed and 200 others were wounded in the town of Sariha, adding that the group rounded up at least 150 others. It called on the U.N. Security Council to pressure the RSF to open "safe corridors" to enable aid groups to reach people in impacted villages.

"There is no way to help the injured or evacuate them for treatment," the statement said.

Footage circulating online, some shared by RSF fighters themselves, showed members of the paramilitary group abusing detained people. One video showed a man wearing a military uniform grabbing an old man by the chin and dragging him around as other armed men chanted in the background.

The RSF didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Coordination of Civilian Democratic Forces, an alliance of pro-democracy parties and groups, also accused the RSF of storming villages, and opening fire on civilians as well as rounding up and mistreating "a large number of residents."

In a statement, the alliance held the RSF "responsible for these massive violations," and called for holding the preparators accountable.

The attack on Gezira came as the military had successfully taken back areas held by the RSF.

In September, the military launched a massive operation in and around the capital city of Khartoum, reclaiming large swaths of areas from the RSF. Also, earlier this month, it seized control of Jebel Moya, a strategic mountainous area in Gezira province, as well as areas in Gezira and nearby Sinnar province, driving out RSF forces.

In October, a top RSF commander, Abu Aqlah Keikel, the de facto ruler of Gezira, defected and surrendered himself to the military.

That prompted RSF fighters to attack villages and towns in Gezira seen as loyal to Keikel, according to local reports.

The war in Sudan began in April 2023 when simmering tensions between the military and the RSF exploded into open fighting in Khartoum, before spreading across the country.

The war has been marked by atrocities such as mass rape and ethnically motivated killings. The U.N. and international rights groups say these acts amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, particularly in the western region of Darfur, which has been facing a bitter onslaught by the RSF.

The conflict has killed more than 24,000 people so far, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data, a group monitoring the conflict since it started.

Destruction of Lebanon-Syria border crossings in Israeli airstrikes creates difficulties

By ALBERT AJI Associated Press

QUSAIR, Syria (AP) — A stream of refugees fleeing Lebanon to Syria crossed a narrow makeshift bridge on foot Sunday in the Qusair area of Syria's Homs province after the official border crossing was put out of commission by an Israeli strike two days earlier.

Only three functioning crossings remain between the countries, which share a border 375 kilometers

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(233 mi) long.

In late September, an Israeli airstrike hit the border crossing of Matraba in Lebanon's northeast, forcing it to close. A few weeks later came a strike on Masnaa, the main crossing between the two countries, putting it out of service. The Jousieh crossing was struck on Friday.

The Israeli military has accused the Hezbollah militant group of using the crossings to move weapons and military equipment from Syria to Lebanon. But humanitarian officials say that the closure of the crossings have intensified an already severe humanitarian crisis by blocking key routes for supplies and impeding access for those fleeing to safety.

"The situation is a tragedy," said Ghossoun Mubarak, who fled with her three children from the city of Baalbek in eastern Lebanon, describing the bombardment that pushed her to leave her home. They crossed via the makeshift foot bridge on Sunday.

The United Nations refugee agency, or UNHCR, said this week that around 430,000 people had crossed from Lebanon into Syria over the past month since Israel launched a major aerial bombardment and ground invasion of Lebanon as part of its push against Hezbollah. Lebanese officials give a higher estimate of more than half a million people.

Rula Amin, a spokesperson for the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, voiced concern over the damage to the crossings, calling them "a main lifeline for people escaping the conflict."

"Today, it was better," said Omar Abu Jabal, 29, who was returning to Lebanon Sunday via the Jousieh crossing after a work trip. "No issues along the way. But before, there were bombings, which stopped people from moving."

Nabil Aakoul, director of transportation for the Homs province, said the recent strikes destroyed a bridge over the Orontes River, disrupting movement between vital agricultural areas. Aakoul estimated that rebuilding the bridge will cost around 35 billion Syrian pounds (around \$2.5 million dollars at the official exchange rate), while the damage has severed access to agricultural areas and isolated communities dependent on cross-river trade and travel.

Yahya Abu Youssef, who lives near the damaged bridge, described the strike as "inhumane" and reported injuries to children and livestock nearby. "All that's here is a bridge connecting villages and farms," he said, noting that villagers now face an additional 10 kilometers (6 miles) of travel to reach the city of Homs.

Biden calls out Musk over a published report that the Tesla CEO once worked in the US illegally

NEW YORK (AP) — President Joe Biden slammed Elon Musk for hypocrisy on immigration after a published report that the Tesla CEO once worked illegally in the United States. The South Africa-born Musk denies the allegation.

"That wealthiest man in the world turned out to be an illegal worker here. No, I'm serious. He was supposed to be in school when he came on a student visa. He wasn't in school. He was violating the law. And he's talking about all these illegals coming our way?" Biden said while campaigning on Saturday in Pittsburgh at a union hall.

The Washington Post reported that Musk worked illegally in the country while on a student visa. The newspaper, citing company documents, former business associates and court documents, said Musk arrived in Palo Alto, California in 1995 for a graduate program at Stanford University "but never enrolled in courses, working instead on his startup."

Musk wrote on X in reply to a video post of Biden's comments: "I was in fact allowed to work in the US." Musk added, "The Biden puppet is lying."

Investors in Musk's company, Zip2, were concerned about the possibility of their founder being deported, according to the report, and gave him a deadline for obtaining a work visa. The newspaper also cited a 2005 email from Musk to his Tesla co-founders acknowledging that he did not have authorization to be in the U.S. when he started Zip2.

According to the account, that email was submitted as evidence in a now-closed California defamation

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lawsuit and said that Musk had applied to Stanford so he could stay in the country legally.

Musk is today the world's richest man. He has committed more than \$70 million to help Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and other GOP candidates win on Nov. 5, and is one of the party's biggest donors this campaign season. He has been headlining events in the White House race's final stretch, often echoing Trump's dark rhetoric against immigration.

Trump has pledged to give Musk a role in his administration if he wins next month.

There was no immediate response to messages left with X and Tesla seeking Musk's comment.

AP Top 25: Miami cracks top 5 for 1st time since 2017; Notre Dame, BYU and Texas A&M enter top 10

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Miami edged ahead of Texas and climbed to No. 5 in The Associated Press Top 25 college football poll on Sunday, its highest ranking since 2017, and Notre Dame, BYU and Texas A&M all moved into the top 10.

Oregon, Georgia, Penn State and Ohio State remained the top four teams, and Washington State and Colorado entered the Top 25 for the first time this season.

Led by Heisman Trophy candidate Cam Ward, Miami improved to 8-0 with its win over Florida State on Saturday. The Hurricanes have been in the top 10 eight straight polls but not this high since they spent two weeks at No. 2 in November 2017.

Texas, which had dropped from No. 1 to No. 5 after its home loss to Georgia, slipped another spot to No. 6 following a three-point win at Vanderbilt.

Notre Dame, knocked out of the top 10 after its Week 2 loss to Northern Illinois, moved up four spots and is No. 8 following its 51-14 win over Navy.

No. 9 BYU went on the road and beat UCF to go 8-0 and has its highest ranking since 2020, when the Cougars opened with nine straight wins.

Texas A&M's 38-23 win over LSU was its second of the season against a top-10 opponent, and first-year coach Mike Elko's Aggies were rewarded with a four-rung promotion to No. 10. That's their highest ranking since they were sixth in September 2022.

No. 1 Oregon received 61 of 62 first-place votes — two more than last week — after a 38-9 win over Illinois. No. 2 Georgia, which was idle, received the other first-place vote.

Penn State overcame the loss of quarterback Drew Allar to injury just before halftime to win at Wisconsin and remained No. 3 going into this weekend's home game against Ohio State, which stayed No. 4 after scuffling to a 21-17 win at home against nearly four-touchdown-underdog Nebraska.

Poll points

Notre Dame and Texas A&M made the biggest upward moves. LSU's drop from No. 8 to No. 16 was the biggest demotion.

BYU has risen in six consecutive polls since it entered at No. 22 on Sept. 22. Pittsburgh has moved up in four straight since it made its season debut at No. 22 on Oct. 6.

Because of Texas' drop to No. 6, this is the first poll this season that the Southeastern Conference has had only one representative in the top five. This is the fourth straight week the Big Ten has had three of the top four teams.

Miami is the first Atlantic Coast Conference team in the top five since Florida State was No. 4 the first week of last December.

In-and-out

Washington State (7-1) beat San Diego State for its third straight win and entered at No. 22 to become the first ranked team this season from what remains of the Pac-12 (Oregon State is the only other current member).

Colorado (6-2) has won five of six after beating Cincinnati and is No. 23, the first ranking for Deion Sanders and his Buffaloes since they appeared in three straight polls early last season.

Vanderbilt's first ranking since the 2013 season lasted just one week. The Commodores, who had been

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No. 25, received the most votes among teams outside the Top 25.

Navy, in the poll two straight weeks, was knocked out after committing six turnovers in its 37-point loss to Notre Dame. Rival Army (7-0) climbed two spots to No. 21.

Conference call

SEC — 8 (Nos. 2, 6, 7, 10, 14, 16, 19, 25).

Big Ten — 5 (Nos. 1, 3, 4, 13, 24).

ACC — 4 (Nos. 5, 11, 18, 20).

Big 12 — 4 (Nos. 9, 11, 17, 23).

American — 1 (No. 21).

Independent — 1 (No. 8).

Mountain West — 1 (No. 15).

Pac-12 — 1 (No. 22).

Ranked vs. Ranked

— No. 4 Ohio State at No. 3 Penn State. This will be the fourth meeting of top five teams this season. Buckeyes have won seven straight in the series. Both teams have health issues, none bigger than the knee injury to Penn State's Allar.

— No. 18 Pittsburgh at No. 20 SMU. Of the four teams unbeaten in ACC play, these two are the biggest surprises. Pitt was picked 13th in the conference in the preseason media poll and SMU seventh.

Swing-state priest teaches ancient techniques for surviving today's political turmoil

By PETER SMITH Associated Press

LANCASTER, Pa. (AP) — The Rev. David Peck knows first-hand how divided communities wracked by violence can be gutted by that repeated devastation.

In his previous work as an Anglican church representative for international development, Peck saw on his trips to Africa how religious groups could be part of the problem — but also part of the solution.

Now, Peck is a pastor in the heartland of Pennsylvania — a state that is the epicenter of a bitterly contested presidential campaign that has stoked deep anxiety, conflicts among families and friends, even fears of election-related violence.

Opposing groups can find reconciliation by drawing on common spiritual traditions, Peck said. It can be the shared belief in mercy or the recognition of the human dignity of all.

He's realized "just how under-resourced people are in applying their faith creatively into a conflicted political landscape," said Peck, rector of the historic St. James Episcopal Church.

"I think we've really got the best tools" in spiritual traditions to confront these conflicts, he said. "We've just not been accessing and utilizing them very effectively."

So he's started a weekly series of gatherings this fall at St. James, called "Contemplative Citizenship." It's aimed at helping people take a deep breath — literally — and apply ancient techniques of prayer and meditation that enable people to respond to conflict more deliberately.

Quick to anger? Election anxieties spur these Christians to do better

In the subdued lighting of the church's sanctuary in downtown Lancaster on a recent Tuesday evening, he led a guided meditation for about 50 people — Episcopalians, Catholics, Quakers among them — who had brought their visceral anxieties about the election.

"The hope of democracy in a deeply divided country is of citizens that are more contemplative," Peck told the gathering. He called for "a more prayerful, thoughtful and engaged citizenship that is better able to see the sins of our own parties, in our own selves as well as other people, so that we can live and vote and debate more humbly."

This doesn't mean giving up one's firm political convictions. But the program aims to help people build the spiritual muscles to enable them not to react quickly in anger at someone's contrary viewpoint, whether on social media or in real life.

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Each week in the program, Peck gives a talk and then introduces participants to a classic prayer to meditate on. One week it was the Lord's Prayer. Future sessions will include the use of mantras such as in the Hindu tradition and the Metta Prayer from Buddhist practice.

On this particular evening in mid-October, he focused on the Jesus Prayer, cultivated over centuries by Eastern Orthodox monks.

He opened with a talk drawing on Scripture, poetry, even the lyrics of the Rolling Stones. He then led participants in a period of quiet meditation, followed by an open mic sharing of reflections.

Participants said that while it's difficult to filter out the hostility of the ongoing political campaign, they valued the opportunity to learn ways to respond more from a position of spiritual calm and strength.

"Now more than ever, we need this," said Timothea Kirchner, a member of St. James.

She formerly worked as a county and public school administrator, where she said "it was my job to try to bring good people together who had very different opinions and to help them find common ground."

But today, she said, "I find the conversations to be so full of vitriol. I just feel that a place like St. James has an obligation to make the conversations happen again, to find each other's humanity."

What can be learned from Gandhi, King and the Rolling Stones

Dennis Downey, a Catholic attending the service, said the lessons are useful for people of any religious tradition. "We have enough separation today," Downey said. "We need things that will bring us together and provide a measure of hope and healing."

During the session, Peck led participants in a time of quiet meditation on the Jesus Prayer, a practice that involves uttering a repeated phrase in rhythm with one's breath: "Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

This mantra-like phrase, sober as it is, underscores a valuable political lesson, he said — that one's own side isn't always right, nor the other side always evil. He quoted the Rolling Stones' classic, "Sympathy for the Devil," which said the blame for the Kennedy brothers' assassinations extended to "you and me."

Peck said the lyric was a sober reminder that "there was not only something wrong with the bad people out there, but something wrong within me and the good people out there, too."

While many fear the potential for violent conflict during and after the election, Peck is hopeful. He draws on his experience years ago as a secretary for international development for the Archbishop of Canterbury — the leader of the global Anglican communion, of which the Episcopal Church is a part — on issues of international development. It was in that role that he saw the role of faith-based groups in Africa working to bring peace amid conflict.

He also noted that faith-based liberation movements in history, such as those led by Mahatma Gandhi and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. had strong spiritual roots. In the Civil Rights Movement, the churches and Christians had formal training in practices of prayer and nonviolence.

"We do have great academic work and resources online, but they do need to be taught in community, and they need to be practiced," Peck said. "Even if we know it in our heads, when we're under stress and distress, it's hard work."

In Beirut, a photographer's frozen moments slow down time and allow the contemplation of destruction

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

We watch video after video, consuming the world on our handheld devices in bites of two minutes, one minute, 30 seconds, 15. We turn to moving pictures — "film" — because it comes the closest to approximating the world that we see and experience. This is, after all, 2024, and video in our pocket — ours, others', everyone's — has become our birthright.

But sometimes — even in this era of live video always rolling, always recording, always capturing — sometimes the frozen moment can entrance the eye like nothing else. And in the process, it can tell a larger story that echoes long after the moment was captured. That's what happened this past week in Beirut, through the camera lens of Associated Press photographer Bilal Hussein and the photographs he captured.

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When Hussein set up his camera outside an evacuated Beirut apartment building Tuesday after Israel announced it would be targeted as part of military operations against Hezbollah, he had one goal in mind — only one. “All I thought of,” he says, “was photographing the missile while it was coming down.”

He found a safe spot. He ensured a good angle. He wasn’t stressed, he said; like many photographers who work in such environments, he had been in situations like this one before. He was ready.

When the attack came — a bomb, not a missile in the end — Hussein swung into action. And, unsurprisingly for a professional who has been doing this work for two decades, he did exactly what he set out to do.

Time slowed down

The sequence of images he made bursts with the explosive energy of its subject matter.

In one frame, the bomb hangs there, a weird and obtrusive interloper in the scene. It is not yet noticed by anyone around it, ready to bring its destruction to a building that, in moments, will no longer exist. The building’s balconies, a split-second from nonexistence, are devoid of people as the bomb finds its mark.

These are the kind of moments that video, rolling at the speed of life or even in slow motion, cannot capture in the same way. A photo holds us in the scene, stops time, invites a viewer to take the most chaotic of events and break it down, looking around and noticing things in a strangely silent way that actual life could not.

In another frame, one that happened micromoments after the first, the building is in the process of exploding. Let’s repeat that for effect, since even as recently as a couple generations ago photographs like this were rare: in the process of exploding.

Pieces of building are shooting out in all directions, in high velocity — in real life. But in the image they are frozen, outward bound, hanging in space awaiting the next seconds of their dissolution — just like the bomb that displaced them was doing milliseconds before. And in that, a contemplation of the destruction — and the people it was visited upon — becomes possible.

Tech gives us new prisms to see the world

The technology to grab so many images in the course of little more than one second — and do it in such clarity and high resolution — is barely a generation old.

So to see these “stills,” as journalists call them, come together to paint a picture of an event is a combination of artistry, intrepidity and technology — an exercise in freezing time, and in giving people the opportunity to contemplate for minutes, even hours, what took place in mere seconds. This holds true for positive things that the camera captures — and for visitations of violence like this one as well.

Photography is random access. We, the viewers of it, choose how to see it, process it, digest it. We go backward and forward in time, at will. We control the pace and the speed at which dizzying images hurtle at us. And in that process, something unusual for this era emerges: a bit of time to think.

That, among many other things, is the enduring power of the still image in a moving-picture world — and the power of what Bilal Hussein captured on that clear, sunny day in Beirut.

Vance calls Russia an American adversary but won’t label Moscow as an enemy

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance says Russia is a U.S. adversary but suggests it’s counterproductive to approach Moscow as an enemy.

The Ohio senator also said Donald Trump is committed to NATO, the transatlantic military alliance seen as the bulwark preventing further Russian aggression in Europe, although the former president has pledged to “finish the process we began under my administration of fundamentally reevaluating NATO’s purpose and NATO’s mission.”

Vance, in a series of television interviews that aired Sunday, nine days before the election, made clear that Trump, if back in the White House, would press European members to spend more on defense and that their administration would work to quickly wind down Moscow’s war in Ukraine that began in February 2022 when Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered troops across the border.

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"We're not in a war with him, and I don't want to be in a war with Vladimir Putin's Russia," Vance said when pressed during an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" on whether Russia is an enemy. Vance said "we have to be careful about the language that we use in international diplomacy. We can recognize, obviously, that we have adversarial interests with Russia."

U.S. officials this past week confirmed that North Korea has sent 3,000 troops to Russia for training before potentially being deployed in Ukraine. U.S. officials say Russia has ramped up a disinformation campaign aimed at sowing distrust in the results in U.S. election on Nov. 5.

Officials on Friday confirmed Moscow's role in creating a video that appears to show the destruction of mail ballots in Pennsylvania, in what was the latest effort linked to Russia on spreading false information on social media.

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris has argued that Trump is too cozy with Putin and that Trump's return to the White House would be calamitous for Ukraine and America's European allies.

Vance was circumspect about supporting further sanctions against Russia, saying the Biden administration's use of the tool for Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been as effective as a "wet firecracker."

"I don't think that we should overreact to anything. What we should do is encourage our fellow Americans to be careful," Vance told CBS' "Face the Nation." "Don't trust everything that you see on social media. And of course, we should push back where appropriate. But that's the big question is, what is an appropriate response to a country making social media videos? I'm not going to make a commitment to that sitting right here."

Trump has boasted of having had an effective relationship with Putin when Trump was in office. The former president has praised the Russian leader, suggested cutting U.S. money for Ukraine and repeatedly criticized NATO.

The former president has said he would not defend NATO members that failed to meet defense spending targets, and warned he would "encourage" Russia "to do whatever the hell they want" to alliance countries that he considered "delinquent."

Vance underscored that a Trump administration would continue to support NATO but that it would lean on Europe to increase defense spending.

NATO announced in June that a record 23 of the 32 member nations were reaching the alliance's defense spending target, 2% of GDP, this year. That's a nearly fourfold increase from 2021, when only six nations were meeting the goal.

"Of course, we're going to honor our NATO commitments," Vance said. "But I think it's important ... that we recognize that NATO is not just a welfare client. It should be a real alliance."

Former Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, a prominent Republican critic of Trump who has endorsed Harris, said Trump's approach to Putin demonstrates "a total lack of understanding of the importance of our allies in keeping the peace."

Trump "talks about our allies as though he were a mafia boss," Cheney said on CNN's State of the Union. "He seems to completely fail to understand that, in order to keep peace, we have to have allies with us."

In the wide-ranging interviews, which included with CNN, Vance also played down recent comments by Trump about ending the federal income tax.

Trump said in a Fox News appearance last week "there is a way, if what I'm planning comes out" to do away with it. He told podcaster Joe Rogan on Friday that he was serious about replacing revenue the income tax by raising tariffs.

Trump has pledged to also end taxes on tips, Social Security and overtime pay if elected.

"He's talking aspirationally about something that he himself thinks is less of a focus than cutting taxes on tips," Vance said of Trump's call to eliminate the federal income tax.

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Today in History: October 28

Statue of Liberty dedicated in New York

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Oct. 28, the 302nd day of 2024. There are 64 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 28, 1886, the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, was dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

Also on this date:

In 1636, the General Court of Massachusetts passed a legislative act establishing Harvard College.

In 1858, Rowland Hussey Macy opened his first New York store at Sixth Avenue and 14th Street in Manhattan.

In 1919, Congress enacted the Volstead Act, which provided for enforcement of Prohibition, over President Woodrow Wilson's veto.

In 1922, fascism came to Italy as Benito Mussolini took control of the government.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt rededicated the Statue of Liberty on its 50th anniversary.

In 1962, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev informed the United States that he had ordered the dismantling of missile bases in Cuba; in return, the U.S. secretly agreed to remove nuclear missiles from U.S. installations in Turkey.

In 1991, what became known as "The Perfect Storm" began forming hundreds of miles east of Nova Scotia; lost at sea during the storm were the six crew members of the Andrea Gail, a fishing boat from Gloucester, Massachusetts.

In 2001, the families of people killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack gathered in New York for a memorial service filled with prayer and song.

In 2012, the San Francisco Giants won their second World Series title in three years, beating the Detroit Tigers to complete a four-game sweep.

In 2016, the FBI dropped what amounted to a political bomb on the presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton when it announced it was investigating whether emails on a device belonging to disgraced congressman Anthony Weiner, the estranged husband of one of Clinton's closest aides, Huma Abedin, might contain classified information.

In 2018, The Boston Red Sox beat the Los Angeles Dodgers to win the World Series in five games.

In 2021, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said his company was rebranding itself as Meta, an effort to encompass its virtual-reality vision for the future, while keeping the same name for the social network itself.

In 2022, Tesla CEO Elon Musk took control of Twitter for \$44 billion after a protracted legal battle and months of uncertainty.

In 2022, Paul Pelosi, the 82-year-old husband of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, was attacked and severely beaten by an assailant with a hammer who broke into their San Francisco home.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz singer Cleo Laine is 97. Actor Joan Plowright is 95. Basketball Hall of Famer Lenny Wilkens is 87. Actor Jane Alexander is 85. Actor Dennis Franz is 80. Actor-singer Telma Hopkins is 76. TV personality and Olympic gold medal decathlete Caitlyn Jenner is 75. Actor Annie Potts is 72. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is 69. Actor Daphne Zuniga (ZOO'-nih-guh) is 62. Actor Lauren Holly is 61. Talk show host-comedian Sheryl Underwood is 61. Football Hall of Famer Steve Atwater is 58. Actor-comedian Andy Richter is 58. Actor Julia Roberts is 57. Actor Jeremy Davies is 56. Singer Ben Harper is 55. Football Hall of Famer Terrell Davis is 52. Country singer Brad Paisley is 52. Actor Joaquin Phoenix is 50. Actor Gwendoline Christie is 46. Actor Matt Smith is 42. Actor Troian Bellisario is 39. Singer-songwriter Frank Ocean is 37. Tennis player Taylor Fritz is 27. Actor Nolan Gould is 26.