

Groton Daily Independent

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I can't afford an Ancestry DNA Kit to learn about my relatives. So instead, I posted online that I had won the lottery.



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)

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

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1440

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

'Infinite Money' Lawsuit

JPMorgan Chase has begun suing people who took advantage of the summer's so-called "infinite money glitch" that enabled them to withdraw thousands of dollars from Chase ATMs. The bank filed suits in three federal courts—in Texas, Florida, and California—to try to recoup an untold amount of losses.

In August, videos began circulating on TikTok on how to exploit the "glitch." Generally, a person either wrote and deposited a fake paper check, or one person deposited a fake check while an accomplice withdrew the funds before JPMorgan had time to bounce the check. JPMorgan fixed the vulnerability, but yesterday's lawsuits began to showcase the scheme's impact. In one case, a man from Houston is accused of stealing \$290K after an accomplice deposited a fake check for \$335K. Other cases involve owed sums ranging between \$80K and \$141K.

Paper check usage has declined in recent years and accounts for an estimated 5% of transactions. Last year, fraud involving checks resulted in \$26.6B in losses.

Tree Species at Risk

More than one-third of the world's tree species are at risk of going extinct, according to a new global analysis released yesterday. The assessment, published during the United Nations COP16 biodiversity summit in Cali, Colombia, found at least 16,425 tree species are at risk from a total of 47,282 (approximately 80% of documented tree species) examined worldwide.

Tree species in 192 countries are at risk, with the highest proportion of threatened trees found on islands and in South America due to invasive species as well as the warming climate and deforestation for urban development. More than 5,000 tree species on the list are used for construction timber, while over 2,000 are used for medicine, food, and fuel.

While global leaders representing about 85% of the world's forests have committed to ending deforestation by 2030, reports have found efforts to do so may be stalling.

Feds Sweep NYC Jail

An operation involving multiple federal agencies was initiated yesterday at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, where high-profile inmates Sean "Diddy" Combs and Sam Bankman-Fried are currently held, amid rising concerns over the facility's conditions. Prison officials said the initiative was preplanned and there is no active threat.

The MDC is the only operating federal prison in New York City after federal authorities closed the Metropolitan Correctional Center in 2021, where sex offender Jeffrey Epstein died by suicide. The MDC has been under recent scrutiny due to a series of violent incidents, multiple deaths, contraband smuggling, and severe staffing shortages. Nine inmates were charged in September in connection with violent attacks that include two murders and assaults involving makeshift weapons.

The facility is primarily used for post-arrest detention of those awaiting federal trial in Manhattan or Brooklyn or short-sentence convictions. The MDC houses about 1,200 inmates, with roughly 470 employees and approximately 70% of its corrections officer positions filled.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Barcelona's Aitana Bonmatí wins Ballon d'Or as soccer's best female player for second straight year; Manchester City's Rodri takes honor for best male player.

French actor Gérard Depardieu's criminal trial for sexual assault postponed until March by French court due to Depardieu's health issues.

Actor Jay Johnston sentenced to one year in prison for role in Jan. 6, 2021, US Capitol storming.

Jon Stewart extends deal to continue hosting Monday edition of "The Daily Show" through December 2025.

Science & Technology

Apple debuts its Apple Intelligence features for iPhone, iPad, and Mac; marks the company's first public foray into AI products.

UK man sentenced to 18 years in prison for AI-generated child sexual abuse content; advocates call outcome a landmark decision in AI law.

Biologists decode genetic adaptations that allow critically endangered Cat Ba langurs to drink salt water; traits give increased ability to metabolize calcium and sodium.

Engineers demonstrate prototype device using recycled polystyrene—a common packing material—that generates enough static electricity from air motion to lower air-condition power demand by 5%.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +0.3%, Dow +0.7%, Nasdaq +0.3%) as investors await earnings reports this week from five of "Magnificent Seven" tech stocks—Alphabet, Apple, Amazon, Microsoft, and Meta.

Boeing launches \$19B stock sale by issuing 90 million new shares, \$5B in depository shares to avoid credit downgrade amid ongoing machinists strike.

Volkswagen reportedly plans to shut down three factories in Germany, lay off thousands, and cut salaries by 10%; domestic closures would be the first in the 87-year history of Germany's largest employer.

Nuclear startup Pacific Fusion Corp. raises over \$900M in funding; startup seeks to commercialize fusion technology for energy.

Politics & World Affairs

Suspect vehicle identified in connection with devices that set fires to ballot drop boxes in Oregon and Washington state.

Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner (D) sues to halt political action committee led by Elon Musk from awarding \$1M daily giveaways to voters registered in swing states.

Man sentenced to life for the 2022 killing of Memphis teacher and 34-year-old mother Eliza Fletcher, an heir to a multibillion-dollar hardware company who was abducted while jogging.

Pentagon confirms North Korea has sent roughly 10,000 troops to aid Russia in its war against Ukraine.



Burial sites bring history to life across South Dakota

By Jackie Hendry
SDPB and South Dakota News Watch

DE SMET, S.D. – Hundreds of thousands of tourists every year frequent sites tied to South Dakota's pioneer and Wild West history, and cemeteries are among the historic sites that bring the past to life for those visitors.

Jim Hagen, South Dakota Tourism secretary, said history lovers are one of the department's main audiences. "Whether it's Native American history and culture, pioneer, Old West ... interest in South Dakota history but American history too. We have a ton of that in the state."

A prime example is the Ingalls Homestead in De Smet, the setting for much of the "Little House on the Prairie" book series by Laura Ingalls Wilder. The series has been translated into dozens of languages and is the basis of a still-popular television series from the 1970s and 1980s. Hagen said no matter where he travels in the world, he sees an enduring interest in the stories of Ingalls Wilder.

"To take that pioneer history and to be able to share that in a marketing aspect to visitors to say, 'Did you know that you can come and walk in Laura's footsteps and experience this at the Ingalls Homestead? Or go into the city of De Smet and go through Ma and Pa's house, and go through the museum, and see where they lived, and see where they're buried?' I mean, that's huge."

De Smet's little cemetery on the prairie

This summer marked 53 years of the annual Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant in De Smet. Local actors play out scenes from the "Little House on the Prairie" series on an outdoor stage for visitors from across the country.

Ann Lesch, Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant board member and operations manager for the Ingalls Homestead, said this year's pageant has a new script, the first of three to be performed over the next few summers.

"For many years, we told the stories that were directly from the books," Lesch said. "But what we've done with these scripts is tell those same stories but through the eyes of Laura as she's writing it and editing the books with her daughter, Rose. And their relationship as a writer and editor, mother, daughter is pretty unique in American history, to have that kind of relationship in literature."

In addition to updating the pageant itself, the De Smet community has developed other programs during pageant weekends.

Tours of the De Smet Cemetery – where Charles and Caroline Ingalls, three of their daughters, and the infant son of Laura and Almanzo Wilder are buried – began as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the pageant. Community actors read summaries of the lives of some of the residents.



Community actors share local history with visitors on July 20, 2024, in De Smet, S.D. A reader's theater-style tour of the De Smet Cemetery began during the 50th annual Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant. (Photo: Jackie Hendry/ South Dakota Public Broadcasting)

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The cemetery tours have resonated with visitors, Lesch said. "It allows us to highlight the Ingalls family. We always choose one or two of the Ingalls family members," she said. "But it also allows us to highlight some of the other community members that either were featured in the books, but just a little bit, or were not featured in the books because of the way Laura wrote the books, where she condensed characters together."

One such De Smet resident is Aubrey Sherwood, whose father founded the local newspaper.

Sherwood took over the newspaper in 1929 and was an early advocate for preserving the history presented in the Ingalls Wilder stories. He also was an early tour guide, offering drives around the community to visitors who arrived at his newsroom wanting to know more about De Smet.

"So we always include Aubrey on our cemetery tours as well so that we can honor what he did for our community to help preserve our history," Lesch said.

Celebrity death sells in Deadwood

Across the state in the Black Hills, Deadwood is home to one of the West's most famous cemeteries, thanks to a few VIPs buried there.

Kevin Kuchenbecker, who works in Deadwood's city planning, zoning and historic preservation office, said Mount Moriah Cemetery was founded in 1876, two years after the town, though the original was on lower, flatter ground.

"They needed that for development and moved some of the bodies up here," he said, "including one of the most famous in Deadwood's history, if not the Wild West, Wild Bill Hickok. He's buried in this cemetery right beside Calamity Jane, who died in 1903. And we have Preacher Smith and Seth Bullock and a variety of other legends here."

Mount Moriah Cemetery has been closed to new burials for 75 years. A \$2 admission fee supports on-going upkeep of the grounds.

"It's just beautiful, sacred ground. But it is a tourist attraction. We get about 100,000 to 120,000 visitors a year that come up and pay homage to our Old West legends," said Kuchenbecker. "People are drawn to those historic graves of celebrities, and Wild Bill Hickok is and was a celebrity."

Deadwood's connection to that Old West works in tandem with another industry: gambling.

"The most famous poker game in history was August 2nd, 1876, with Wild Bill getting shot and having the Dead Man's Hand," said Kuchenbecker, referring to the hand of aces and eights Hickok held when he was murdered by Jack McCall.

More than a century later, city leaders proposed low-stakes gambling as a funding mechanism to support the preservation of Deadwood's historic buildings. Kuchenbecker sees the value in the relationship between the two industries for attracting visitors year after year.

"History is the lure, and then what are those distractions while they're here? They can dine, they can shop, they can game, they can recreate."

Since its legalization in 1989, the Deadwood Gaming Association reports about \$2.6 billion in gross revenues for the industry in Deadwood. It also funds grants for paint, windows and siding repairs on historic buildings.

"Wild Bill Hickok getting shot while playing poker in Deadwood basically made the town," said George Milos, executive director of the Deadwood Gaming Association.

Events like Deadwood's annual Wild Bill Hickok Days, which celebrated 40 years this summer, daily



Ann Lesch, Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant board member and operations manager for the Ingalls Homestead, said cemetery tours give visitors a chance to learn local history beyond what's included in the "Little House on the Prairie" series. She spoke with a crew from SDPB on July 20, 2024, in De Smet, S.D. (Photo: Krystal Schoenbauer / SDPB)

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Wild Bill Hickok's grave has been a major attraction since his death in 1876. After the repeated destruction of his headstone by vandals, the current bronze bust sits undisturbed on Sept. 25, 2024, in Deadwood, S.D. (Photo: Jaxon Thorson/ South Dakota

Public Broadcasting)

Editor's note: This story is part of a series that Jackie Hendry, host and producer of South Dakota Public Broadcasting's "South Dakota Focus," will write to preview the upcoming show on South Dakota News Watch, an independent, nonprofit news organization. Read more in-depth stories at sdnewswatch.org and sign up for an email every few days to get stories as soon as they're published. Contact us at info@sdnewswatch.org.

reenactments during the summer months and the continued interest in history make the city a unique destination, he said.

"You can go anywhere and gamble. You can't go anywhere and watch Wild Bill get shot three times a day," Milos said.

How to watch 'South Dakota Focus'

The next episode of "South Dakota Focus" airs on Thursday, Oct. 31, at 8 p.m. Central time / 7 p.m. Mountain time. It can be viewed on SDPB-TV1, Facebook, YouTube and SD.net.

The episode includes:

- How De Smet keeps visitors engaged with the enduring legacy of Laura Ingalls Wilder
- The relationship between historic preservation and the gaming industry in Deadwood
- A Deadwood tour guide invites visitors to learn the gruesome history of the mining town, and shares a few ghost stories along the way



Kevin Kuchenbecker works in Deadwood, S.D., city planning, zoning and historic preservation. He reflected on Mount Moriah Cemetery's role as a tourist attraction on Sept. 25, 2024, in Deadwood. (Photo: Jaxon Thorson/ South Dakota

Public Broadcasting)

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.

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Names Released in Minnehaha County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: SD Highway 42, mile marker 350, nine miles west of Sioux Falls, SD

When: 6:28 a.m., Thursday, October 24, 2024

Driver 1: Kellin Duane DeVries, 56-year-old male from Hartford, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 1999 Harley Davidson FLHTCUI

Helmet Used: Yes

Driver 2: Benjamin Joseph Lambert, 19-year-old male from Sioux Falls, SD, minor injuries

Vehicle 2: 2016 Dodge Ram 1500

Seat Belt Used: No

Minnehaha County, S.D.- A motorcyclist died Thursday morning in a two-vehicle collision nine miles west of Sioux Falls, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Kellin Duane DeVries, the driver of a 1999 Harley Davidson, was traveling westbound on SD Highway 42 near mile marker 350. At the same time, a 2016 Dodge Ram, driven by Benjamin Joseph Lambert, was eastbound on SD 42 and attempted to pass the vehicle in front of him by entering the westbound lane. While passing, he collided head-on with the approaching motorcycle.

DeVries passed away at the scene. Lambert sustained minor injuries.

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

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



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

Lawrence County Fatal Motorcycle Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: US Highway 14A, mile marker 17, six miles south of Spearfish, SD

When: 2:15 p.m., Sunday, October 27, 2024

Driver 1: 46-year-old male from Belle Fourche, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2015 Kawasaki ZX1000K

Helmet Used: No

Lawrence County, S.D.- A motorcyclist died Sunday afternoon a single vehicle crash six miles south of Spearfish, SD.

The name of the person involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2015 Kawasaki motorcycle was traveling northbound on US Highway 14A near mile marker 17 when he left the roadway and went over the embankment into the creek. The driver became separated from his motorcycle, sustaining fatal injuries from the crash. The cause of the crash is currently under investigation.

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

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

Service Notice: Donald Pasch

Donald Pasch of Watertown, SD passed away at the age of 65 on Saturday, October 26, 2024 in Watertown.

Memorial services will be 2:00pm, with visitation one hour prior to the service, on Saturday, November 2, 2024, at Cornerstone Church in Watertown, SD.

Interment will be at Groton Cemetery in Groton, SD.

For more information go to www.wightandcomes.com.

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

Secretary of State emphasizes election security

(Pierre, S.D.) – Ahead of the November 5th General Election, Secretary of State Monae L. Johnson would like to remind voters of the safeguards and security built into South Dakota’s election processes.

In order to ensure the integrity of its elections, South Dakota does NOT have online voter registration. When a person registers to vote, local county auditors review the information provided before their registration is official. A person MUST be a U.S. citizen to register to vote. All voters go through numerous checks to ensure they are actually eligible to vote.

South Dakota has strong voter ID laws to ensure the integrity of its elections. Voters must be verified BEFORE casting a ballot. South Dakota requires a photo ID at the polls and on absentee ballot request forms. Voters must present one of the following IDs:

- A South Dakota driver’s license or nondriver ID card.

- A passport or an identification card including a picture issued by an agency of the United States government.

- A tribal identification card including a picture.

- A current student identification card including a picture issued by a high school or an accredited institution of higher education located within the State of South Dakota.

If a voter does not have an acceptable ID, they must be given the opportunity to sign a personal affidavit in which they state under the penalty of perjury that they are the person they have declared they are.

ONLY paper ballots are used in South Dakota. South Dakota does NOT allow ballot drop boxes. Marked ballots are placed into a sealed and secure locked ballot box that is delivered by two poll workers of different political parties to the county auditor’s office after the polls are closed. All ballots are removed from the ballot box in public view and put into the tabulating machine, which is NOT connected to the internet. All machines are publicly tested prior to election day.

“By using only paper ballots, not connecting tabulating machines to the internet, requiring photo ID, conducting post-election audits, and encouraging South Dakota citizens to volunteer as poll watchers and work as election workers helps to ensure that South Dakota has safe and secure elections,” stated Secretary Johnson.

South Dakota will also be conducting post-election audits. State law calls for an audit that reviews voted ballots in five percent of voting precincts, comparing the paper record to the results produced by the voting system. The post-election audit in South Dakota will be conducted manually by HAND-COUNTING. “Post-election audits promote election transparency and provide verification of election results,” said Secretary Johnson.

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- ✓ 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

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Netters end regular season with three set thriller win over Faulkton

It was an intense match as the regular season for the Lady Tigers came to an end Monday night with a 3-0 win over Faulkton Area. The match was played in Faulkton.

"I love the atmosphere over here," said Coach Chelsea Hanson. "You really have to depend on your teammates because there's times you can't hear them. The volleys were long and I can't wait to see how many digs we had. It was a great way to end the regular season."

The first set was tied nine times with three lead changes at the end resulting in the set going extra points before Groton Area pulled out a 27-25 win. The Tigers jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the second set and went on to win, 25-19. The third set was tied seven times with the lead changing hands five times before Groton Area had a seven point run at the end and went on to win, 25-19.

Jaedyn Penning led Groton Area with eight kills, one ace serve and one block. Rylee Dunker also had eight kills and had one solo and one assisted block. Taryn Traphagen had seven kills and one block. Chesney Weber had seven kills. Faith Traphagen had four kills and one block. Kella Tracy had two kills and one assisted block. Elizabeth Flihs had two ace serves and Laila Roberts had one ace serve.

Carley Cotton led Faulkton with 10 kills while Presleigh Martinmaas had five kills, one ace serve and one block, Jaymi Seen had five kills and one block, Anika Mueller had two kills and one ace serve and Claire Cotton had two kills.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match, losing the first set, 25-16, winning the second set that had six lead changes and was tied seven times, 25-23, and won the third set that was tied four times with two lead changes, 15-12.

Emerlee Jones had seven kills, Makenna Krause had five kills and one ace serve, McKenna Tietz and Kella Tracy each had four kills and one ace serve, Talli Wright had two kills, two ace serves and one block, LIby Althoff had two ace serves and one kill and Sydney Locke had one kill.

Austina Sorensen led Faulkton with six kills while Raegan Geditz had five kills, Brooklyn Mueller had five kills and two ace serves, Khloe Kaup had two kills and one ace serve, Eleanor Hanson had two ace serves and Rhyann Roseland had one ace serve.

The match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Fans of Jaedyn Penning, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms and The Meathouse in Andover.

The junior varsity match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Adam and Nicole Wright.

Groton Area is now 18-6 on the season. The Tigers are the number one team in the region and will play in the second round of the regionals next Thursday, Nov. 7, in Groton.

- Paul Kosel

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Men's Basketball Holds Steady for Civic Arena Exhibition Win

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University men's basketball team opened 2024-25 exhibition play on Monday evening with a 78-64 victory over Dickinson State. With a number of new faces off the bench, Wolves fans were treated to a Retro Night experience in the Aberdeen Civic Arena.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 78, DSU 64

Records: NSU 0-0, DSU 0-0

Attendance: 1027

HOW IT HAPPENED

The Wolves led 36-28 at the half and out-scored the Blue Hawks 42-36 in the second, despite trailing near the 13-minute mark

Northern shot 47.8% from the floor, 44.4% from the 3-point line, and 55.6% from the foul line

The Wolves defense held the Blue Hawks to shooting percentages of 33.3 from the floor and 25.8 from beyond the arc

They tallied 50 points in the paint, 17 second chance points off 14 offensive rebounds, 14 points off turnovers, 12 points off the bench, and seven fast break points

NSU out-rebounded DSU 52-33 and recorded a game leading 12 assist and seven steals

Three players scored in double figures, led by James Glenn with 20 points, knocking down 8-of-15 from the floor; he also added a team leading five steals

Tobi Obiora followed with a double-double, recording 17 points and 13 rebounds, and Kwat Abdelkarim added 14 points and a team leading three assists

Both Obiora and Abdelkarim shot 50.0% from the floor in the win

Marcus Burks and Ethan Russell rounded out the starting five with eight and seven points respectively; Burks tallied a team second best eight rebounds and dished out three assists

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

James Glenn: 20 points, 53.3 field goal%, 5 steals, 3 rebounds, 2 assists

Tobi Obiora: 17 points, 50.0 field goal%, 13 rebounds

Kwat Abdelkarim: 14 points, 50.0 field goal%, 4 rebounds, 3 assists

UP NEXT

The Wolves officially opened their 2024-25 campaign next Friday and Sunday in Missouri. Northern will face off against host Missouri Western on November 8 at 2 p.m. and tip-off with Emporia State at 12 p.m. on November 10.

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Wolves Run Away with Win Against Trojans

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University women's basketball team took down Dakota State, 89-66 Monday night in an exhibition match. The Wolves took an early lead in the first two quarters outscoring the Trojans by 20 points. Madelyn Bragg led the charge for NSU with 20 points on the night along with six rebounds.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 89, DSU 66

Records: NSU 0-0 , DSU 0-0

Attendance: 639

HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern State notched 24 points in the first, 25 points in the second, 22 points in the third, and 18 in fourth quarter

The Wolves shot well in the contest shooting 49.4% from the floor, 35.7% from beyond the three, and 72.7% from the foul line

NSU tallied 58 points in the paint, 26 points off of turnovers, and 29 points off the bench

Madelyn Bragg led the Northern State offense with 20 points, six rebounds, and one block on the night

Rianna Fillipi and Michaela Jewett followed behind with 16 and 15 points each with Fillipi notching six steals

In addition, Jewett recorded six rebounds along with two made three-pointers

Izzy Moore led the team off the bench with nine points, two assists, and one steal

NORTHERN STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Madelyn Bragg: 20 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 block

Rianna Fillipi: 16 points, 6 steals, 5 rebounds, 2 assists

Michaela Jewett: 15 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal

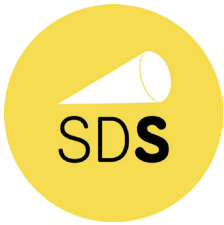
Alayna Benike: 7 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists

Izzy Moore: 9 points, 2 assists, 1 steal

Decontee Smith: 9 points, 6 rebounds, 2 blocks, 1 assists

UP NEXT

Northern State is back at home to take on Pittsburg State and Nebraska Kearney. Tip-offs are slated for Friday, November 8 at 12 p.m. against the Gorillas and Saturday, November 9 at 4 p.m. against the Lopers.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Lennox City Council reviews projected windfall from possible state prison sewer deal

No agreement drafted yet after backlash killed Harrisburg plan

BY: JOHN HULT - OCTOBER 28, 2024 10:10 PM

LENNOX – The Lennox City Council could pay off three infrastructure projects and eliminate a monthly sewer surcharge for its residents if it agrees to accept wastewater from a men’s prison proposed by the state Department of Corrections, according to a city official.

That’s if the state agrees to a deal similar to one rejected by Harrisburg earlier this year.

The Lennox City Council did not vote to accept an agreement during Monday’s night’s council meeting, as there’s currently no proposal on the table.

Instead, the council reviewed the financial windfall a deal to service inmate sewage could bring to the town of 2,400 if the city were offered a deal like Harrisburg’s.

Council members gave City Administrator Nathan Vander Plaats their blessing to work with the DOC to prepare an agreement.

If a deal comes together, the council could vote on the matter on Nov. 12.

“I think we need to see a deal before we make any decisions,” Council Member Chad Swier said. “We’re just theorizing numbers here.”

The city of Harrisburg, about six miles from the prison’s proposed location in rural Lincoln County, rejected a state proposal for sewer services after pushback from rural residents with property near the site. That deal would have dropped a \$7.1 million one-time payment into city coffers, in addition to annual payments.

The prison proposal would replace the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls. The building was erected in 1881, and Corrections Secretary Kellie Wasko has argued that the facility is too antiquated to operate safely. Lawmakers have committed \$569 million to the project, but there is no guaranteed price yet.

The project has drawn intense criticism from the proposed site’s rural neighbors. Some of those neighbors filed a lawsuit that sought to force the state to adhere to Lincoln County’s zoning ordinances. A circuit court judge dismissed that case last week.

Lennox is about 15 miles from the prison site, across Interstate 29 to the west. Vander Plaats said the city approached the state after Harrisburg’s vote against a sewage deal.

Vander Plaats presented a fiscal analysis of what a deal with Lennox might mean, based on the Harrisburg proposal. It suggests the deal could come in the form of a \$10.5 million one-time payment.

That’s enough money for the city to retire its debt on a wastewater treatment facility and two clean water basins. Clearing that debt from the city ledger and adding the state’s payments would boost the city’s bottom line by \$350,000 annually, according to an analysis prepared by Vander Plaats. He said the city wouldn’t see the money until 2028 at the earliest.

But that figure drops by \$150,000 annually when factoring in around \$4.5 million in necessary upgrades to the city’s facilities. The city would take on 200,000 more gallons of sewage each day, the analysis says.

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

Medical marijuana industry pushes for rule changes and representation as cardholders decline

BY: JOHN HULT - OCTOBER 28, 2024 6:11 PM

Cannabis industry advocates said Monday that they need representation on the state's Medical Marijuana Oversight Committee.

The committee also learned that the number of patient cards issued in South Dakota has continued to fall since a February peak, sparking concern from the group's patient representative about marijuana card denials.

South Dakota's medical cannabis program is governed by both state law and a set of administrative rules interpreting those laws for use in the day-to-day operations of the program.

The issues presented by the cannabis industry on Monday were largely related to rules, not the medical pot chapter of South Dakota law. Most of those issues could be resolved through the rulemaking process, but the committee didn't review any potential rule changes at its meeting in Pierre.

That's in part because of an early deadline for rules this year. Rules need to be posted, and the public needs time to comment on changes, before getting approval from the state's Rules Review Committee.

That committee's final meeting before the 2025 legislative session came last month, which was earlier than previous years.

Emily Kerr of the health department told the committee that there wasn't enough time to write new rules and hold public hearings after the 2024 legislative session.

"We really want to take the time to have robust conversations with legislators and industry," she said.

Staffing was also mentioned as a hurdle for rule changes. The program recently hired three more people to help administer the cannabis program, but they've only been on the job a few months.

Industry: Rules push up prices

Pot lobbyist Jeremiah Murphy told the committee he understands that timing was an issue this year, in part because the health department runs the program with minimal staffing.

But he also said the committee is failing to address important operational issues that relate to its statutorily required duty to oversee the program and make recommendations to help make sure cannabis is accessible to patients at reasonable prices.

A change to state law in 2023 altered the committee's makeup, which had originally required the inclusion of three medical cannabis patients. Now, there is one patient, and everyone else on the committee is in law enforcement, lawmaking or a part of the medical community.

Murphy said the lack of operational knowledge has allowed rules that push up the price of doing business – and, in turn, push up the price of cannabis for patients – to go unchallenged.

"We'd like to see the focus turn to include, more broadly, operations," Murphy said. "Is this program working, and do the rules make sense? Yes for public safety, but do they make sense for the people trying to run businesses?"

Murphy's only ask for the committee's lawmakers was for them to consider adjusting the committee's makeup by changing state law. But he had several examples from the Department of Health's interpretation of its cannabis program rules he said could be fixed by the committee and the department.

Some of the rules, Murphy argued, are illogical, wasteful and overly burdensome.

One requires growers to test their crops in 50-pound batches, but that 50 pounds is measured before the crop is dried. Dried marijuana weighs about a fifth of its wet weight, Murphy said.

If the health department allowed operators to dry out the product before being divided into batches, operators would only need to pay for a fifth as many tests.

Ned Horsted of 605 Cannabis said he spends "six to 10 times" what he would if the state used the dry weight system commonly used in other states.

Murphy and the other cannabis industry advocates pointed to a handful of other issues, as well. Cannabis deliveries must use the same courier for pickup and delivery, for example, regardless of how many stops

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they might make or how far they're going in a given day.

"There needs to be a way to safely put that product in another person's hands," Murphy said.

Lawmaker unconvinced of need for law change

Sen. Erin Tobin, R-Winner, said she expects most of the issues presented Monday could be cleared up through the rule-making process, rather than by legislation. She also told Murphy she's not sure changing the committee's makeup is necessary to make changes to rules.

Patients, municipal governments, school board members and designated caregivers might also have input for the committee, Tobin said.

She noted that the bill that changed the committee's makeup specified that its members are meant to take input and consider the views of industry representatives, patients and the like at each of its meetings.

"You could argue that we need one of everything, right?" Tobin said. "We have an opportunity with the speaker and a mic for anybody that would like to come forward, and that's valuable to us."

Patient numbers dropping

Brad Jurgensen, the lone patient representative on the committee, noted that the number of medical marijuana cards in South Dakota has dropped considerably.

As of Oct. 24, there were 12,186 patient cards in circulation in South Dakota. That's down by 1,519 from February, when the state hit 13,705 card holders.

"Is there any state-specific reason why those numbers would be going down?" Jurgensen asked.

By then, Kerr had left the room.

Kittrick Jefferies, of Black Hills-based Puffy's dispensaries, told the committee that his customers talk of being denied because their condition doesn't qualify for a medical cannabis card under state law, but that "it's all anecdotal."

Department of Health spokesperson Tia Kafka did not immediately respond to a Searchlight question on why the number of cardholders is dropping.

The number of practitioners approved to write pot prescriptions, however, has continued to increase. More practitioners have been added to the state's list every month since December of 2022.

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

Ethanol cooperative kicks in another \$400,000 to support carbon pipeline ballot question

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - OCTOBER 28, 2024 3:53 PM

A cooperative that owns four ethanol plants has made a second \$400,000 contribution to support a Nov. 5 ballot question about carbon dioxide pipelines.

Glacial Lakes Energy owns plants in Watertown, Mina, Aberdeen and Huron. The money went to the Vote Yes for a Strong South Dakota ballot question committee, which supports Referred Law 21.

The cooperative has now contributed a total of \$800,000 to the campaign. Its latest \$400,000 contribution came Friday, according to a supplemental campaign finance report. An earlier report disclosed a previous \$400,000 contribution.

There are no limits on contributions to ballot question committees in South Dakota.

Referred Law 21 is a response to controversial plans by Iowa-based Summit Carbon Solutions to capture some of the carbon dioxide emitted by Midwest ethanol plants — including in eastern South Dakota — and transport it via pipeline to North Dakota for underground storage.

The law would establish financial and other protections for landowners and counties affected by pipe-

lines. It requires pipeline companies to cover damages, mandates CO2 pipelines be buried at least 4 feet deep, and compels companies to share rupture modeling data. The law also says counties can collect up to \$1 per linear foot of pipeline for property tax relief and road repairs. Supporters describe the law as a "bill of rights" for landowners.

Ethanol producers view carbon pipelines as crucial to their survival. Glacial Lakes and other ethanol producers have now contributed a total of \$2.7 million in support of the ballot measure. Other major contributors include Sioux Falls-based biofuels producer POET, as well as Gevo, a company aiming to produce ethanol-based jet fuel in Lake Preston.

Besides the four plants that Glacial Lakes Energy it owns, it also has ownership stakes in other plants, including a 16% interest in Minnesota-based Granite Falls Energy, according to the Glacial Lakes website.

South Dakota Republican Gov. Kristi Noem is an investor in Granite Falls Energy, according to the last financial interest statement she filed with the South Dakota Secretary of State's Office. Noem is also a former investor in Glacial Lakes, but her spokesman told South Dakota Searchlight last year that she no longer has that investment.

Noem signed the bill adopted by the Legislature last winter that citizen opponents petitioned onto the ballot, which is now known as Referred Law 21. Glacial Lakes and Granite Falls are both partners in the Summit project.

Opponents of Referred Law 21 say it requires local governments to prove their restrictions on pipelines are reasonable, rather than requiring pipeline companies to prove them unreasonable. They describe that as an attack on local control.

Pipeline opponents also have concerns about potentially hazardous pipeline leaks and Summit's likely use of eminent domain, which is a legal process to obtain land access from unwilling landowners. Referred Law 21 does not address eminent domain.

Opponent groups have raised about \$224,000 for their campaign, mostly from individuals and farm and ranch corporations.

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

Speakers at six-hour Trump rally in NYC insult Puerto Ricans, mock Harris' race

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY - OCTOBER 28, 2024 9:12 AM

NEW YORK — Former President Donald Trump promised "America's new golden age" of closed borders and world peace as he rallied a capacity crowd at Madison Square Garden in his home city in the final stretch of the 2024 presidential contest against Vice President Kamala Harris.

Trump headlined the over six-hour rally that featured nearly 30 speakers, some of whom insulted Latinos and attacked Democratic nominee Harris over her race, and he vowed "to make America great again, and it's going to happen fast."

"It is called America first, and it is going to happen as no one has ever seen before," Trump said, adding "We will not be overrun, we will not be conquered. We will be a free and proud nation once again. Everyone will prosper."

But the event also generated intense criticism from Democrats for remarks made by comedian Tony Hinchcliffe, who spoke during the afternoon hours ahead of Trump and called Puerto Rico a "floating island of garbage in the middle of the ocean right now."

The joke could prove politically problematic for Republicans, who have been courting the Latino vote, and particularly in the swing state of Pennsylvania, where hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans live.

The United States is home to 5.6 million Puerto Ricans, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of

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census data, and about 8% of them live in Pennsylvania.

Hinchcliffe, who hosts a podcast called "Kill Tony," also said Latinos "love making babies" and made a lewd joke about them.

Florida Republican U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, whose state is also home to hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans, on X wrote, "It's not funny and it's not true. Puerto Ricans are amazing people and amazing Americans!"

Democrats brought in U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who is Puerto Rican, and the vice presidential nominee, Tim Walz, to blast the joke. "When you have some a-hole calling Puerto Rico floating garbage ... that's what they think about anyone who makes less money than them," she said.

Harris on Sunday in Philadelphia laid out a new policy proposal focused on Puerto Rico.

The former president's 80-minute speech mostly featured his standard campaign promises and stories, though he added a proposal to his list of tax breaks — a benefit for those caring for sick or aging relatives in their homes. Harris also introduced a policy for at-home care for seniors earlier in October.

Trump repeated his popular pledges to "get transgender insanity the hell out of our schools," "stop the invasion" at the border and restore peace to Ukraine and the Middle East, which he claims would have never become war-torn had he been in office.

U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, told the crowd his time campaigning around the country for Trump has revealed "something very powerful out there happening among the base."

"I'm telling you, there's an energy out there that we have not seen before," Johnson said.

NYC stop a detour

Trump held the rally nine days before polls close on Nov. 5. Nearly 42 million Americans have already voted early, in person or by mail, in more than two dozen states, according to the University of Florida Election Lab's early voting tracker.

Trump's New York stop detoured from the seven battleground states in this election's spotlight — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. His campaign also announced on Sunday two upcoming stops in New Mexico and Virginia during the contest's final week.

Still, both candidates once again hit Pennsylvania over the weekend, with Trump delivering remarks Saturday at Penn State University in State College, Pennsylvania, and Harris spending Sunday rallying a crowd in Philadelphia.

Harris spoke to the press in Philadelphia, a city she described as "a very important part of our path to victory."

"I'm feeling very optimistic about the enthusiasm that is here and the commitment that folks of every background have to vote and to really invest in the future of our country," Harris told reporters.

The vice president criticized Trump for using "dark and divisive language," including his comments this week that America is the "garbage can of the world."

"I think people are ready to turn the page," she said.

Tucker Carlson goes after Harris

Numerous speakers attacked Harris' record — a standard feature of political rallies — but some comments invoked her race. Trump's childhood best friend, David Rem, clutched a crucifix and told the crowd Harris is the "antichrist."

Conservative media personality Tucker Carlson described Harris as a "Samoan Malaysian low IQ former California prosecutor" as he was spinning a scenario in which the Democrats reflect on their candidate post-election.

"Donald Trump has made it possible for the rest of us to tell the truth about the world around us," Carlson said earlier in his speech.

Harris' mother was Indian, and her father is Jamaican. Trump has previously questioned her race during his interview with the National Association of Black Journalists.

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Carlson, who was fired by Fox News in April 2023, accused Democrats of telling "lies," and said in a mocking voice, "Jan. 6 was an insurrection, they were unarmed, but it was very insurrection-y."

The violent attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 by thousands of Trump supporters came after months of the former president refusing to concede the 2020 presidential election, which President Joe Biden won.

Twenty-eight speakers preceded Trump, beginning at just after 2 p.m. and holding court until the former president took the stage at 7:13 p.m. Trump's wife, Melania, in a rare campaign rally appearance, introduced him and spoke briefly.

The lineup included the founder of Death Row Records, TV personality Dr. Phil and pro wrestling's Hulk Hogan and Dana White — some of whom spoke at July's four-day Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, whose super PAC has flooded more than \$75 million into the campaign, was among the cast of speakers.

Musk told the crowd to vote early and that he wants to see a "massive crushing victory."

"Make the margin of victory so big that you know what can't happen," he said, referring to debunked claims of voter fraud in the 2020 presidential election.

Focus on NYC

The day was heavy on the mystique of New York and Trump's ties to it. New York City is not only where Trump grew up and followed his father's path into real estate, but now also where he was convicted in May in a Manhattan court on 34 state felony counts for a hush money scheme involving a porn star.

A vendor hawking campaign gear to supporters waiting to enter Madison Square Garden Sunday morning advertised a hat that read "I'm voting for the convicted felon."

Several speakers credited Trump with changing the New York City skyline. The 58-story Trump Tower stands on 5th Avenue in midtown Manhattan, among his other real estate holdings on the island.

"New York City made Donald Trump, but Donald Trump also made New York City," said Lara Trump, Trump's daughter-in-law and co-chair of the Republican National Committee.

Howard Lutnick, chair and CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald and co-chair of the Trump campaign's "transition team," told the story of losing just over 650 of his employees in the World Trade Center attack on Sept. 11, 2001 masterminded by known terrorist Osama bin Laden.

"We must elect Donald J. Trump president because we must crush jihad," Lutnick said.

Lutnick bantered with Musk on stage, estimating the pair could possibly cut \$2 trillion in federal spending under a second Trump administration. Trump has chosen the duo to lead a commission on government efficiency if elected.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who took a leading role in spreading Trump's false claims that he won the 2020 election, received a standing ovation from the full arena.

He accused Biden and Harris of spreading "socialism, fascism and communism."

Giuliani, a major player in Trump's false claim that he won the 2020 election, appeared at the rally just days after a federal judge in New York ordered him to surrender his apartment and valuables to election workers in Georgia whom he was found guilty of defaming.

Giuliani, along with a handful of other speakers, also implied that Democrats are responsible for the two assassination attempts on Trump.

"I'm not gonna do conspiracy," Giuliani said, "but it's funny that they tried to do everything else, and now they're trying to kill him."

The accusation was a theme throughout the daylong event. Speaker after speaker implied or outright blamed Democrats for the two attempts on Trump's life, never mentioning the perpetrators. The gunman in the first attempt was killed by law enforcement, and the second, who never fired at Trump, has been charged in Florida; neither has been found to have ties to Democrats.

Trump focused some of his comments on New York City, referencing his childhood and adding that he felt sympathy for the city's indicted Mayor Eric Adams.

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The rally ended, not with Trump's signature closer "YMCA" by the Village People, but with a live rendition of "New York, New York" by Christopher Macchio.

Ashley Murray covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include domestic policy and appropriations.

Rep. Johnson sitting on nearly \$6 million in campaign cash as he seeks reelection

Democratic challenger for US House seat has \$16,000 left after raising \$170,000

BY: JOHN HULT - OCTOBER 28, 2024 5:30 AM

South Dakota Republican Congressman Dusty Johnson has almost \$6 million in campaign cash as he runs for a fourth term in the U.S. House, a figure that dwarfs his Democratic opponent and could contribute to a potential campaign for governor two years from now.

Johnson has a federal campaign committee, Friends of Dusty Johnson, and two associated federal political action committees: Dusty Johnson Victory Committee and Dakota Leadership PAC. He also has an associated state-level committee called Dusty PAC.

Friends of Dusty Johnson is the committee with the most swollen bank account. According to its latest filing with the U.S. Federal Election Commission, the committee has collected \$3.5 million in contributions this campaign cycle, and has \$5.1 million cash on hand.

With so much money in his campaign account, Johnson was not only able to fund his current campaign but also transferred \$40,050 to the National Republican Congressional Committee in June.

Dusty Johnson Victory Committee has pulled in \$998,500 during the current cycle and transferred most of it to Johnson's other committees, ending with about \$5,000 cash on hand, according to its most recent filing.

Johnson has transferred \$223,117 from the federal victory committee to the state-level Dusty PAC, according to an Oct. 16 filing with the South Dakota Secretary of State's office.

Dusty PAC gave \$2,500 to the state Republican Party after the primary, according to that report, as well as \$250 to Citizens for Hoffman. That's a campaign committee for state Sen. Brent Hoffman, R-Hartford, who did not seek reelection. Hoffman told South Dakota Searchlight he hadn't decided his future at the time he got the check from Johnson – Johnson's state PAC donated to a host of GOP candidates prior to the primary – and didn't cash it until this summer.

Hoffman said he gave the money to the campaign of Taffy Howard, who challenged Rep. Johnson in the 2022 U.S. House primary and is now in a race for a District 34 state Senate seat with Democrat Kehala Two Bulls.

Rep. Johnson's Victory Committee also transferred \$321,900 to Friends of Dusty Johnson for use in the current U.S. House campaign.

It's unclear how many state-level candidates may have pulled in donations from Dusty PAC after its Oct. 16 report, however. Sen. Helene Duhamel, R-Rapid City, filed her pre-general election finance report on Monday – the official deadline – and it lists a \$250 contribution from Dusty PAC. Sioux Falls Republican Sen. Arch Beal also reported a \$250 contribution from Dusty PAC after Oct. 16, and Dusty PAC contributed to Sioux Falls Republican Sen. Larry Zikmund's campaign, according to Zikmund's report.

Johnson's federal Dakota Leadership PAC has collected \$302,724 this election cycle and spent a little more than half, \$156,583, mostly to support other candidates for U.S. Congress.

The congressman's Victory Committee and Dakota Leadership PAC each donated \$5,000 to Donald J. Trump for President 2024 Inc.

Should Johnson choose to run for governor in 2026 when Republican Gov. Kristi Noem is term-limited, he'd be able to transfer federal campaign money for use in that race. Noem did that in 2018 during her first race for governor. Then a congresswoman, Noem transferred \$1.6 million from her congressional campaign committee to her gubernatorial campaign.

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Rep. Johnson's current opponent has less funding to work with in her bid to claim the U.S. House seat for Democrats.

Sheryl Johnson has pulled in \$170,136 to her campaign committee, Sheryl Johnson for Congress. She's spent most of that, leaving \$16,263 on hand at the end of September.

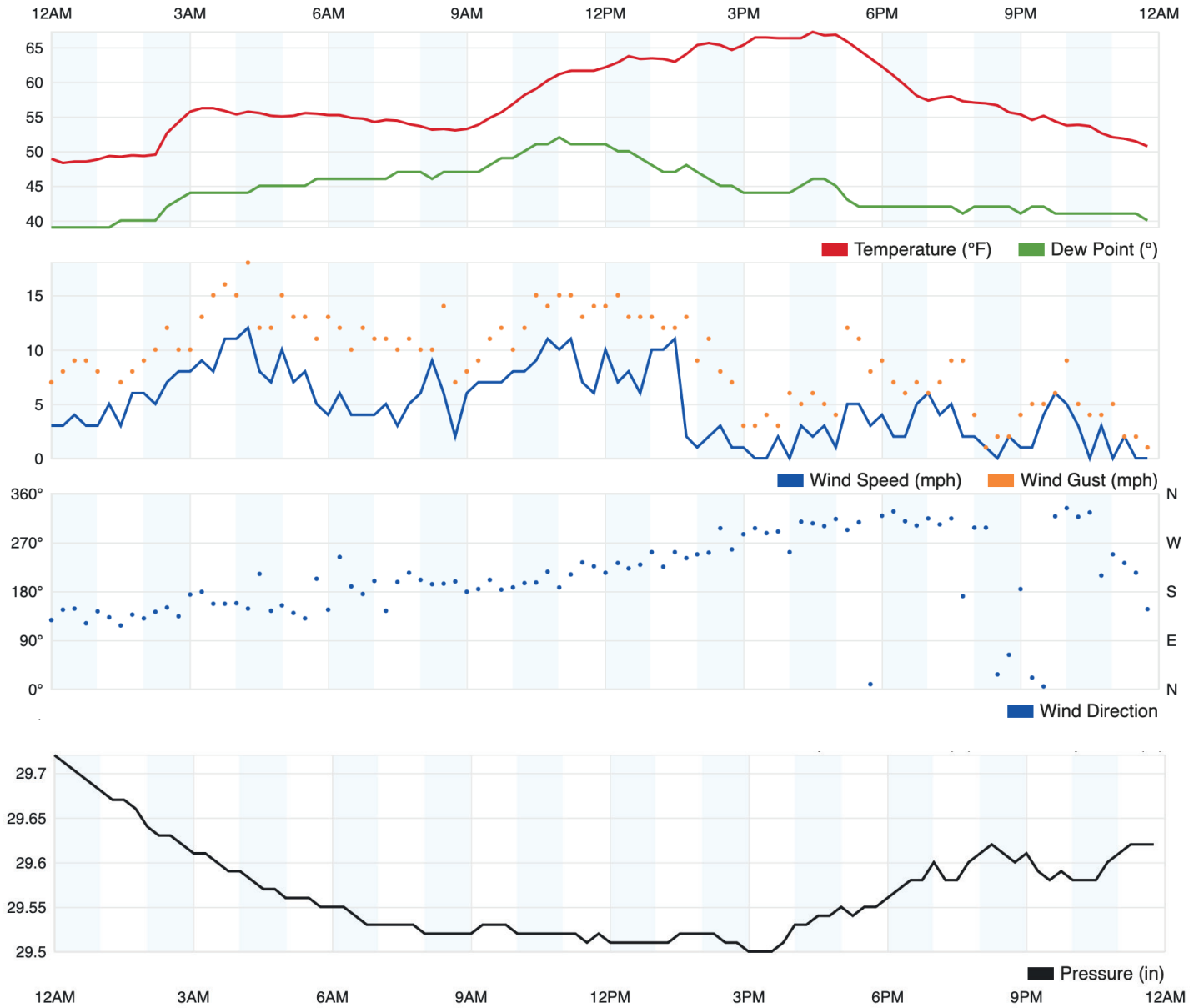
The national Democratic Party did not contribute to Sheryl Johnson's campaign.

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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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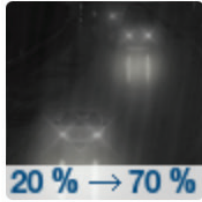
Today



High: 59 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Tonight



Low: 39 °F

Breezy.
Slight Chance
Rain then
Rain Likely

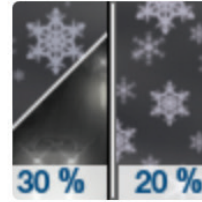
Wednesday



High: 48 °F

Rain Likely
and Breezy

Wednesday
Night



Low: 27 °F

Chance
Rain/Snow
then Slight
Chance Snow

Thursday



High: 46 °F

Mostly Sunny



Rainfall Timing

October 29, 2024
4:24 AM

Key Messages:

- Light rain across north central & western South Dakota this morning
- Moderate rainfall this afternoon & evening for north central & western South Dakota
- Light rainfall spreads east this evening & overnight, lingers into Wednesday morning
- Sprinkles & pockets of light rain or rain snow mix possible Wednesday (limited/negligible accumulations)
- Thursday evening - Chilly but showers will be done!

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



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Showers will be on the increase today, but the bulk of the rain moves in this afternoon/evening and overnight, with lingering showers into early Thursday. This system will mainly bring moisture to western and north central South Dakota, with much less potential east river.

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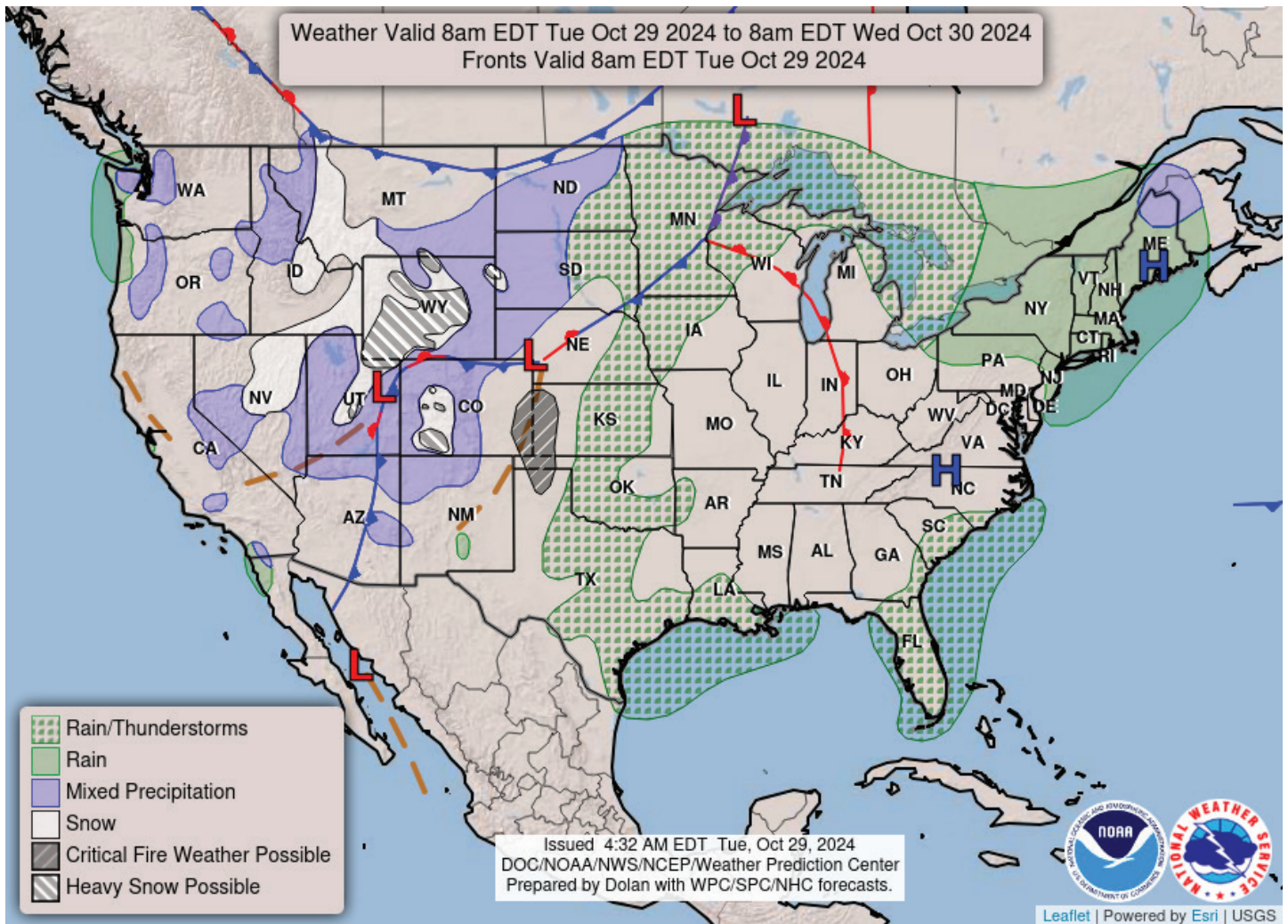
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 67 °F at 4:32 PM
Low Temp: 48 °F at 12:15 AM
Wind: 18 mph at 4:15 AM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 10 hours, 17 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 79 in 1937
Record Low: -5 in 1925
Average High: 52
Average Low: 27
Average Precip in Oct.: 2.05
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.07
Average Precip to date: 20.38
Precip Year to Date: 19.82
Sunset Tonight: 6:24:56 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:08:33 am



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Today in Weather History

October 29, 1925: Record cold occurred across the area on this date in 1925. The record lows were 9 at Wheaton, Minnesota, 2 degrees below zero at Watertown, 5 degrees below zero at Aberdeen, 7 degrees below zero southeast of McInstosh, and a frigid late October 19 degrees below zero at Kennebec.

1693: From the Royal Society of London: "There happened a most violent storm in Virginia which stopped the course of ancient channels and made some where there never were any." Known as the Accomack Storm, this event likely caused changes to the Delmarva shoreline, and coastal inlets.

1917 - The temperature at Denver, CO, dipped to zero, and at Soda Butte, WY, the mercury plunged to 33 degrees below zero, a U.S. record for the month of October. (David Ludlum)

1942 - A tornado struck the town of Berryville in northwest Arkansas killing 20 persons and causing half a million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1948: An historic smog event occurred in the town of Donora, Pennsylvania. The smog killed 20 people and sickened 7,000 more.

1956 - A violent tornado, or series of tornadoes, moved along a path more than 100 miles in length from south of North Platte NE into Rock County NE. It was an unusually late occurrence so far north and west in the U.S. for such a storm. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Arizona produced wind gusts to 86 mph at the Glendale Airport near Phoenix, baseball size hail and 70 mph winds at Wickenburg, and up to an inch of rain in fifteen minutes in Yavapai County and northwest Maricopa County. Arizona Public Service alone reported 2.5 million dollars damage from the storms. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Wintry weather prevailed in the Upper Midwest. South Bend, IN, equalled their record for October with a morning low of 23 degrees. International Falls MN reported a record low of 11 degrees in the morning, then dipped down to 8 degrees above zero late in the evening. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in Oklahoma and north central Texas during the late afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced weak tornadoes near Snyder and Davidson, and produced hail two inches in diameter at Altus. Large hail damaged 60 to 80 percent of the cotton crop in Tillman County OK. Nine cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 70s. For Marquette MI it marked their fifth straight day of record warmth. Arctic cold invaded the western U.S. Lows of 7 degrees at Alamosa CO and 9 degrees at Elko NV were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

2011 - New York City received one inch of snow, the earliest they had received that much snow since records began. It was also only the fourth times since the Civil War snow had fallen in New York City in October. The storm also left over three million people without power including 62% of the customers of Connecticut Light and Power.



THE PROCESS AND THE PRODUCT

The village blacksmith was known for his strength and skills. He was also known for his extreme suffering and unending patience. Everyone also admired his deep and abiding faith in God and his love for his Lord.

One day a new resident of the village stopped by to meet and talk with him. Shortly after they began their conversation, the visitor to his shop said, "I understand that you have a great faith in God. But with all of the pain and suffering you have endured throughout the years, do you really believe that He loves you?"

"Oh yes," said the blacksmith, "yes, I do."

"Prove it then, if you will," said the man.

Picking up a piece of metal the blacksmith said, "For me to make something useful of this metal, I must put it into the fire and allow the heat to make it soft. Then I must put it on the anvil and hammer it with blow after blow if it is to become a useful item. Unless I heat it until it is soft and then hammer it until it takes shape and becomes something useful, it is worthless."

When days are difficult and nights have no guiding lights, it is not because God wants to harm us. It is because He loves us and has a unique plan for each of us. In times of doubt, visit the Garden of Gethsemane.

Prayer: Lord, even Your Son experienced a time in His life when He openly asked "if there was another way." And when there was none He accepted the "heat." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Mark 15

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 17 Hrs 20 Mins
DRAW: 53 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.28.24

1 10 22 28 41 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$13,080,000

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 35
DRAW: Mins 53 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.28.24

3 17 21 35 39 8

TOP PRIZE:
\$7,000/week

NEXT 16 Hrs 50 Mins
DRAW: 53 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.26.24

7 11 13 34 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$77,000

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 50
DRAW: Mins 53 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.28.24

6 16 19 24 40 5

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 19
DRAW: Mins 53 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.28.24

21 27 32 48 67 17

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$39,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 19
DRAW: Mins 53 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

07/04/2024 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/09/2024 FREE SNAP Application Assistance 1-6pm at the Community Center
07/14/2024 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
07/17/2024 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
07/17/2024 Pro Am Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/25/2024 Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day
07/25/2024 Summer Downtown Sip & Shop 5-8pm
07/25/2024 Treasures Amidst The Trials 6pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
07/26/2024 Ferney Open Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
07/27/2024 1st Annual Celebration in the Park 1-9:30pm
08/05/2024 School Supply Drive 4-7pm at the Community Center
Cancelled: Wine on 9 at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm
08/08/2024 Family Fun Fest 5:30-7:30pm
08/9-11/2024 Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament
08/12/2024 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 1:15-7pm
09/07/2024 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
09/07-08/2024 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
09/08/2024 Sunflower Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
10/05/2024 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
10/11/2024 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
10/31/2024 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
10/31/2024 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
11/16/2024 Groton American Legion "Turkey Raffle" 6:30-11:30pm
11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
12/01/2024 Groton Snow Queen Contest, 4:30 p.m.
12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday Party with Live & Silent Auctions 6pm-close
04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/09/2025 Legion Auxiliary Salad Luncheon
07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
09/20/2025 NSU Gypsy Day
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

Monday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Deuel, 25-12, 25-19, 25-15

Baltic def. Canton, 21-25, 25-15, 25-16, 26-24

Bennett County def. Little Wound, 25-8, 25-15, 25-12

Bridgewater-Emery def. Centerville, 23-25, 25-16, 19-25, 25-11, 15-6

Burke def. Wagner, 25-21, 15-25, 25-10, 25-20

Chester def. Arlington, 25-19, 25-12, 25-11

Dakota Valley def. Tea, 25-16, 25-7, 25-8

Edgemont def. Pine Ridge, 25-13, 25-8, 25-13

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Estelline-Hendricks, 25-19, 25-21, 26-24

Faith def. Newell, 25-23, 25-8, 25-10

Freeman def. Canistota, 25-21, 25-18, 25-16

Garretson def. Sioux Valley, 25-22, 25-21, 20-25, 15-25, 15-12

Gayville-Volin High School def. Avon, 25-17, 31-29, 27-25

Gregory def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-18, 25-15, 16-25, 14-25, 15-10

Groton def. Faulkton, 27-25, 25-19, 25-19

Hanson def. McCook Central-Montrose, 25-14, 25-27, 25-20, 25-11

Harding County def. Bison, 25-17, 25-10, 25-10

Ipswich def. Herreid-Selby, 25-23, 22-25, 25-21, 25-12

Kimball-White Lake def. Colome, 25-11, 26-24, 25-16

Lemmon High School def. Dupree, 25-18, 25-21, 16-25, 25-18

Leola-Frederick High School def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-17, 25-16, 25-18

Lyman def. Chamberlain, 18-25, 25-15, 25-27, 25-23, 15-6

Mahpiya Lúta Red Cloud def. Todd County, 25-23, 19-25, 25-27, 25-17, 15-13

Northwestern def. North Central, 25-11, 23-25, 25-14, 25-8

Parker def. Vermillion, 14-25, 25-21, 25-20, 25-22

Sanborn Central-Woonsocket def. Howard, 25-5, 25-22, 25-21

Sargent Central, N.D. def. Sisseton, 22-25, 25-21, 23-25, 25-17, 15-10

Sioux Falls Christian def. Lennox, 19-25, 25-21, 27-25, 25-17

Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Marty, ccd

Tripp-Delmont-Armour def. Ethan, 24-26, 25-18, 27-25, 17-25, 15-10

Viborg-Hurley def. Alcester-Hudson, 28-26, 14-25, 15-25, 26-24, 15-12

Waverly-South Shore def. Tiospa Zina, 25-13, 25-19, 27-25

West Central def. Tri-Valley, 27-25, 25-18, 19-25, 25-17

White River def. St. Francis Indian, 25-16, 25-12, 25-19

Winner def. Platte-Geddes, 25-16, 25-17, 24-26, 25-21

Wolsey-Wessington def. Redfield, 25-14, 25-14, 25-15

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

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 other 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.

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."

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"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."

"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."

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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 month, 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.

Harris reaches for a big moment in her closing argument for 'turning the page' on Trump

By ZEKE MILLER AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris will pledge to Americans that she'll work to improve their lives while Republican Donald Trump is only in it for himself as she delivers her campaign's closing argument Tuesday from the same site where the former president fomented the Capitol insurrection in 2021.

One week out from Election Day, Harris' address from the grassy Ellipse near the White House is designed to encourage Americans to visualize their alternate futures if she or Trump takes over the Oval Office in less than three months.

She hoped to sharpen that contrast by delivering her capstone speech from the place where Trump on Jan. 6, 2021, spewed falsehoods about the 2020 presidential election that inspired a crowd to march to the Capitol and try unsuccessfully to halt the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's victory and the sealing of his own defeat.

With time running out and the race razor-tight, Harris and Trump both have been looking for big moments to try to shift the momentum one way or the other. But after her speech in the nation's capital, Harris will be back to furiously scouring for votes one rally and one event after another in the battleground states.

On Tuesday, aides said, Harris aims to look beyond the startling imagery of her location on the Ellipse to make a broader case for voters to reject Trump and consider what she offers.

"There's a big difference between he and I," Harris told reporters Monday in previewing her speech. "If he were elected, on day one he's going to sit in the Oval Office working on his enemies list. On day one, if I am elected, which I fully expect to be, I will be working on behalf of the American people on my to-do list."

Campaign aides stressed that she will not be delivering a treatise on democracy — a staple of President Biden's own attempts to draw a contrast with Trump.

But her campaign is hoping the setting will help catch the attention of battleground state voters who remain on the fence about whom to vote for — or whether to vote at all.

It comes days after Harris traveled to Texas, a reliably Republican state, to appear with megastar Beyoncé and emphasize the consequences for women after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. That,

too, was a speech meant to register with voters far away in the battleground states.

The vice president's latest address has been in the works for weeks. But aides hoped her message would land with more impact after Trump's rally Sunday at Madison Square Garden in New York, where speakers hurled cruel and racist insults. Harris said the event "highlighted the point that I've been making throughout this campaign."

"He is focused and actually fixated on his grievances, on himself and on dividing our country," she said.

Harris was expected to use her speech to lay out a pragmatic and forward-looking plan for the country, including reminding voters about her economic proposals and pledging to staunchly work for access to reproductive care, including abortion.

Also central to her message: positioning herself as a "new generation" of leader after Trump and even her current boss, Biden.

As for Trump, she said Monday, "People are literally ready to turn the page. They're tired of it."

Harris' aides, many of whom also advised Biden's campaign before he dropped out, still believe that centering the race on who Trump is and how she's different will be their strongest message for voters.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, said it was important for battleground voters to be reminded of the consequences of their choice this fall and for Harris "to really drive home the stakes of this election and the clear contrast in the race."

He said Harris had the stronger argument on economic policies, reproductive freedom and the matter of chaos vs. order, adding that she "has a vision that's going to bring more order and more hopefulness and more joy."

Trump was set to use planned remarks to reporters at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida on Tuesday morning to attempt to preemptively rebut Harris' speech, according to a person familiar with the matter.

North Korea sends foreign minister to Russia as its troops train to fight in Ukraine

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea said Tuesday its top diplomat is visiting Russia, in another sign of their deepening relations as rival South Korea and Western nations say the North has sent thousands of troops to support Russia's war in Ukraine.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said a delegation led by Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui departed for Russia on Monday, but didn't specify the purpose of the visit. In a closed-door hearing at South Korea's parliament, the South's spy agency said Choe may be involved in high-level discussions on sending additional troops to Russia and negotiating what the North would get in return, according to Lee Seong-kweun, a lawmaker who attended the meeting.

The announcement of Choe's visit came hours after the Pentagon said North Korea has sent about 10,000 troops to Russia, who are expected to arrive in battlefields in Ukraine within "the next several weeks."

South Korean and Western leaders have expressed concern that North Korean involvement could help prolong Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and that Russia may offer technology in return that could advance the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile program.

Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh told reporters Monday that some of the North Korean soldiers have already moved closer to Ukraine and were believed to be heading for the Kursk border region, where Russia has been struggling to push back a Ukrainian incursion.

South Korea's National Intelligence Service told lawmakers it's examining the possibility that some groups of North Korea's military personnel in Russia, including generals or other high-ranking officials, may have already moved to frontline areas. The spy agency also said the two sides appear to be struggling to resolve communication issues although the Russian military is training North Korean troops on Russian military terminology, Lee said.

The agency said space-based reconnaissance is an area where North Korea is likely receiving Russian

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help. It said North Korea may be acquiring advanced components from Russia as it prepares to launch another military reconnaissance satellite following a failed attempt in May, said Park Sun-won, another lawmaker who attended the hearing.

North Korea first placed a spy satellite in orbit last November. Its leader Kim Jong Un has described those assets as crucial for monitoring South Korean and U.S. military activities and enhancing the threat of his nuclear-capable missiles.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in telephone calls with European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte on Monday shared South Korean intelligence assessments that North Korean troops could be deployed to battlefronts "more quickly than anticipated." He called for closer coordination with European governments aimed at "monitoring and blocking" illegal exchanges between Pyongyang and Moscow, Yoon's office said in a statement.

After initially denying the claims about North Korean troop deployments, Pyongyang and Moscow have adopted a vaguer stance, asserting that their military cooperation conforms with international law without directly admitting the presence of North Korean forces in Russia.

North Korea has also been accused of providing millions of artillery shells and other military equipment to Russia to fuel its war in Ukraine. The United States and its partners have described Russia's procurement of North Korean personnel and supplies as a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, and raised suspicions that Moscow is helping Pyongyang to evade sanctions and unlawfully finance its weapons program.

Russia, along with China, has blocked U.S.-led efforts at the Security Council to tighten sanctions on North Korea over its recent missile testing activities, which intensified after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Russia also vetoed a U.N. resolution to extend the mandate of a panel of monitors in March in a move that effectively abolished oversight by U.N. experts of Security Council sanctions against North Korea. It prompted Western accusations that Moscow was acting to shield its arms purchases from Pyongyang.

"The illegal military collusion between Russia and North Korea poses a significant security threat to the international community and a serious matter that could potentially harm our security. We must thoroughly examine all possibilities and prepare countermeasures," Yoon said in a Cabinet meeting in Seoul on Tuesday.

Yoon last week raised the possibility of supplying Ukraine with weapons while saying Seoul is preparing countermeasures that could be rolled out in stages depending on the degree of military cooperation between Pyongyang and Moscow.

South Korea, a growing arms exporter, has provided humanitarian aid and other non-lethal support to Ukraine and joined U.S.-led economic sanctions against Moscow. It has so far resisted calls by Kyiv and NATO to directly supply Ukraine with weapons, citing a longstanding policy of not providing arms to countries engaged in active conflict.

Freeman and Buehler lead Dodgers past slumping Yankees 4-2 for 3-0 advantage in World Series

By MIKE FITZPATRICK AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After all that buildup, it's been all Dodgers so far.

Freddie Freeman homered for the third straight game and Walker Buehler pitched another World Series gem as Los Angeles beat the slumping New York Yankees 4-2 on Monday night for a 3-0 lead in the Fall Classic.

With superstar Shohei Ohtani playing despite a partially dislocated left shoulder, the Dodgers moved within one victory of a surprising sweep in this much-hyped matchup between traditional powers.

"One more win. That's all I care about right now," Freeman said.

Teoscar Hernández threw out a runner at home plate with a pinpoint peg from left field. Mookie Betts and Kiké Hernández each delivered an RBI single, and the Dodgers chased Yankees starter Clarke Schmidt in the third inning.

Buehler and six relievers combined on a five-hitter for Los Angeles, on the cusp of its second championship in five years and the eighth in franchise history.

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"Walker Buehler, he's been doing this his whole career in big games, big moments," Freeman said. "Steps up when you need him."

Freeman's two-run shot three batters in gave him a home run in five consecutive World Series games dating to 2021 with Atlanta, matching a major league record set by George Springer with Houston.

Looking much healthier after a sprained right ankle slowed him earlier this postseason, Freeman connected for the first game-ending grand slam in World Series history to win a dramatic opener in Los Angeles.

Since then, it's been a one-sided fight.

Game 4 is Tuesday night at Yankee Stadium. Down to three healthy starters, the Dodgers plan their fourth bullpen game of this postseason. Rookie right-hander Luis Gil goes for New York.

The only team in big league history to overcome a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven postseason series was the Boston Red Sox against the Yankees in the 2004 American League Championship Series.

"Hopefully we can go be this amazing story and shock the world," New York manager Aaron Boone said. "But right now it's about trying to get a lead, trying to grab a game, and force another one, and then on from there. But we've got to grab one first."

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts helped spark that stunning Red Sox comeback with a pivotal stolen base.

"Don't talk about that. Wrong guy. Way too early," he said. "I don't want to divulge any secrets, but from the other side, I just think that we have got to stay focused, stay urgent."

In the 11 previous World Series meetings between these old October rivals, the lone sweep was by the Dodgers in 1963 behind Hall of Fame pitchers Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale.

That was the only other time the Dodgers had a 3-0 lead in a World Series.

New York hasn't been swept in a Fall Classic since 1976 by the Cincinnati Reds. But on all five occasions they fell behind 3-0 in a best-of-seven postseason series, the Yankees lost Game 4.

Los Angeles has won seven World Series games in a row against the Yankees dating to its 1981 crown.

This one marked the first Series game at Yankee Stadium since New York clinched its 27th title in 2009 against Philadelphia. But a return home didn't help skidding Aaron Judge and the punchless Bronx Bombers, held to four runs and nine hits in the past two games.

New York didn't score until Alex Verdugo's two-run homer off Michael Kopech with two outs in the ninth inning. Kopech then retired Gleyber Torres on a grounder to end it.

Buehler allowed two hits in five innings. His only previous win this year during an injury-interrupted season was May 18 against Cincinnati.

The two-time All-Star improved to 4-4 in 18 career postseason starts, including a 2-0 record with a 0.50 ERA in three World Series outings. He has yielded one run and seven hits with 22 strikeouts over 18 innings in those assignments — Game 3s against Boston (2018), Tampa Bay (2020) and the Yankees.

"It's weird. For me, I think the playoffs, big games, that's always been the only thing I really cared about," Buehler said. "I was kind of awful all year. I think once you get to the playoffs, the adrenaline, I think whatever fear I had about my elbow or trying to throw a certain pitch or whatever goes away, because it's all now, it's all go. It's helped me I think."

After the Yankees struggled at the plate during two losses in Los Angeles, Boone decided against any major changes to the lineup.

New York players held a short meeting in the afternoon, and a recording from late Yankees public-address announcer Bob Sheppard introduced five-time World Series champion Derek Jeter when he threw out a ceremonial first pitch. Bronx-born rapper Fat Joe revved up the sold-out crowd of 49,368 with a pregame performance on the infield.

But it was the Dodgers who started fast.

Schmidt walked Ohtani on four pitches to begin the game. One out later, Freeman sent a 1-2 cutter 355 feet into the lower deck in right field for his 13th career postseason homer.

He joined Yankees outfielder Hank Bauer (1958) and Giants slugger Barry Bonds (2002) as the only players to go deep in the first three games of a World Series.

"When you come into a road park, you want to try to strike early and quiet the crowd, and we were able

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to do that in the first inning," Freeman said.

Ohtani finished 0 for 3 with that walk and was grazed on the foot by a pitch. He grimaced after several swings and clutched his collar with his left hand even when taking a lead off first base to protect his ailing shoulder.

But he got through the game just fine.

"The pain has subsided, so I felt pretty good about it," Ohtani said through a translator. "I was told to wear a device that keeps my shoulder warm. So during the (pregame) ceremony and throughout the game, I was wearing that per recommended by the trainers. The reason why I was holding onto myself when I was running is to make sure that I wouldn't use that same shoulder arm if I were to slide."

No. 9 batter Tommy Edman drew another four-pitch walk from Schmidt leading off the third and scored on Betts' bloop single. Kiké Hernández added an RBI single in the sixth.

Schmidt walked four over 2 2/3 innings in his third postseason start. He lost his fifth consecutive decision dating to a May 16 win at Minnesota.

New York nailed a runner at home plate when Edman attempted a safety squeeze in the fourth, but the Dodgers flashed some sensational defense to stomp out any Yankees momentum.

Betts made a diving grab in right field after Giancarlo Stanton doubled with one out in the fourth. Teoscar Hernández then fired up all his teammates with a perfect 94 mph throw to the plate on Anthony Volpe's single, cutting down Stanton to preserve a 3-0 cushion.

UP NEXT

Gil (15-7, 3.50 ERA) has made one postseason start, permitting two runs over four innings for a no-decision in Game 4 of the ALCS at Cleveland.

He won seven straight starts before a no-decision against the Dodgers at Yankee Stadium on June 9, when he gave up three runs in 5 2/3 innings of a 6-4 win by New York.

Newspaper non-endorsements at Washington Post, LA Times fit a trend, but their readers aren't happy

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

The number of newspapers endorsing a candidate for president has dwindled with the industry's financial troubles the past two decades, in part because owners reason that it makes no sense to alienate some subscribers by taking a clear stand in a politically polarizing time.

Yet in the past week, The Washington Post and Los Angeles Times have angered readers for precisely the opposite reason: by choosing not to select a favored candidate.

The fallout from both decisions continued Monday, with Post owner Jeff Bezos taking the unusual step of publicly defending the move in the columns of his own paper. Three members of the Post's editorial board resigned their positions and some journalists pleaded with readers to not express their disapproval by canceling subscriptions. Many thousands have already done so.

Bezos, in a note to readers, said it was a principled stand to ditch endorsements. People essentially don't care and see it as a sign of bias, he said. His comments appeared hours after NPR reported that more than 200,000 people had canceled their Washington Post subscriptions.

If NPR's report is true, that would be a startling blow to an outlet that lost money and shed staff despite having more than 2.5 million subscribers last year. A Post spokeswoman would not comment on the report.

Subscribers are falling away in recent days

The Times has acknowledged losing thousands of subscribers due to its own decision.

Both newspapers had reportedly prepared editorials supporting Democrat Kamala Harris. Instead, at the behest of Bezos and Patrick Soon-Shiong at the Times, they decided not to endorse. Post publisher Will Lewis called it "a statement in support of our readers' ability to make up their own minds."

By announcing their decisions within two weeks of Election Day, however, the newspapers left themselves vulnerable to criticism that their publishers were trying not to anger Republican Donald Trump if voters returned him to power. "It looked like they were not making a principled decision," said John Woolley, co-

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director of the American Presidency Project at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

Retired Post editor Martin Baron, on social media, said the decision showed “disturbing spinelessness at an institution famed for courage” and that Trump would see it as a further invitation to intimidate Bezos.

Endorsements have a long history

Back in the 1800s, newspapers were sharply partisan in both their news pages and editorials. Even when a trend toward unbiased news reports took hold in the 1900s, editorial pages remained opinionated and the two functions were kept separate.

As recently as 2008, 92 of the nation’s 100 largest newspapers endorsed either Democrat Barack Obama or Republican John McCain for president. But by 2020, only 54 made a choice between Trump and Joe Biden, according to the presidency project. Figuring there were even fewer this year, Woolley said they aren’t even planning to count.

Studies found readers paid endorsements little heed and, in a digital world, many didn’t understand the distinction between straight news stories and advocacy-driven editorials. In many cases, chain ownership took the decision out of the hands of local editors. At a time the news business is struggling, they didn’t want to give any readers an excuse to leave.

“They really don’t want to rattle or piss off the people who are not going to like their endorsement,” said Rick Edmonds, media business analyst at the Poynter Institute, a journalism think tank. “The solution is just not to do them.”

That hasn’t seemed to fly at newspapers in two large metropolitan areas with liberal populations. The Post, under Baron’s leadership during the Trump administration, saw its circulation spike with aggressive political coverage that frequently angered the former president.

The Post’s decision drew ire from many quarters

Besides Baron, the decision was denounced by Watergate era reporting legends Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. Columnists Robert Kagan and Michele Norris said they were quitting the newspaper in protest. Three of the nine members of the Post’s editorial board said they were leaving that role.

Out West, a Los Angeles Times editorial writer, Karin Klein, wrote in the Hollywood Reporter that she was quitting the newspaper. Klein said that while Soon-Shiong had the right to impose his will on editorial policy, by making the non-endorsement so late in the campaign he was effectively expressing the opposite of the neutrality he claimed to seek.

Indeed, timing was the one regret Bezos expressed. “I wish we had made the change earlier than we did, in a moment further from the election and the emotions around it,” he wrote. “That was inadequate planning, and not some intentional strategy.”

In an article about the continuing fallout on the Post’s website Monday, more than 2,000 people left comments, many of them saying they were leaving. Even former GOP congresswoman Liz Cheney said she was canceling.

“From what I’ve seen in recent days, the paper is hearing its subscribers very clearly,” Post media critic Erik Wemple said during an online chat Monday.

There are worries that journalists will be the ones hurt

The protests have left some journalists alarmed, worried that they and their colleagues would only be hurt in the end. The union representing Los Angeles Times workers issued a statement last week that “before you hit that ‘cancel’ button,” recognize that subscriptions help underwrite the salaries of hundreds of journalists.

“The more cancellations there are, the more jobs will be lost, and the less good journalism there will be,” Post columnist Dana Milbank wrote.

It would be better, one commenter on the newspaper’s website said on Monday, to boycott Amazon — founded by Bezos — than the Washington Post.

Milbank said he was angered by the decision, too. He helped organize a protest letter that some of the paper’s columnists signed. But he noted that, except for the endorsement decision, he’s seen no evidence of Bezos interfering in the Post’s editorial operations.

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"For the past nine years, I've been labeling Trump a racist and a fascist, adding more evidence each week — and not once have I been stifled," he wrote. "I've never even met nor spoke to Bezos."

The owner said as much in his column. "I challenge you to find one instance in those 11 years where I have prevailed upon anyone at the Post in favor of my own interests," he wrote. "It hasn't happened."

Some newspapers are bucking the trend of non-endorsements. The Oregonian, for example, reversed its decision not to endorse after staying neutral in 2012 and 2016. "We heard the community's disappointment over our non-endorsements loud and clear," editor Therese Bottomly wrote in response to a question by Poynter's Edmonds.

In Cleveland, Plain Dealer Editor Chris Quinn polled his editorial board about whether to make a presidential endorsement. "We don't delude ourselves about our presidential endorsement impacting voters," Quinn wrote. "If we are not going to impact voters, why publish something that will anger half our audience?"

He cast the deciding vote. The Plain Dealer endorsed Harris. Quinn had raised the question via text to some of his readers. They felt a non-endorsement would be a betrayal, he wrote — an act of cowardice.

"That was enough for me," Quinn wrote. "Our duty is to the readers."

Congo wants UN peacekeepers gone. But endless war around minerals is complicating that

By SAM MEDNICK and RUTH ALONGA Associated Press

GOMA, Congo (AP) — The end of one of the world's deadliest and yet most shadowy wars is as difficult to predict as the end of the large peacekeeping force meant to contain it.

Congo desperately wants stability in its mineral-rich east, of intense interest to the global economy. But political friction means the government wants the longtime United Nations peacekeeping force there to get out.

That would leave the vast region, overrun with dozens of armed groups including one affiliated with the Islamic State organization, with even less defense for millions of displaced civilians. But frustration has become so high with the peacekeepers that many Congolese want them gone, too.

The Associated Press witnessed the dilemma on a rare visit and night patrol with the U.N. force now known as MONUSCO, which entered Congo more than two decades ago and has 14,000 peacekeepers on the ground.

It patrols a landscape that feels far from the authority of Congo's government, with its dirt roads churned into slippery mud in pounding rains and residents long accustomed to feeling that, security-wise, they are on their own. Some of the region's armed groups are self-defense collectives.

During a visit to one frontline town, Sake, about 14 miles (24 kilometers) from the regional hub of Goma, the AP spoke with militia members trying to defend the population from a resurgent group, the M23, and its sniper fire from surrounding hills.

The M23 is backed by neighboring Rwanda, whose government denies it. The involvement of better-equipped Rwandan forces, with U.N. experts estimating up to 4,000 of them in Congo, has led to talk of war by Congo's government.

A July truce brokered by the United States and Angola has reduced the fighting between Rwandan and Congolese forces, but clashes between M23 and other militias continue.

"We are fighting the enemy who is a foreigner in our country. They are not Congolese, but they want to take Congo," said one fighter, Amini Bauma.

Sake is one of the last main routes into Goma under government control, but fierce fighting this year forced most residents to flee, leaving boarded-up homes.

About 160 civilians and soldiers came through Sake's military hospital during the summer, most with gunshot wounds, said Omar Kalamo, a nurse. In August, a bomb exploded behind the building, he said.

Some who fled are now returning, finding little safety elsewhere. Bitakuya Buhesha found his house destroyed. But he said he'd rather brave the gunfire than live in displacement camps, which have been infiltrated by fighters.

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"We've waited a long time and we do don't know whether our army will win this war or if it'll be the M23 rebels," he said.

Many Congolese who once looked to the U.N. peacekeeping force with hope are now angry. Multiple protests, some of them violent, have targeted the force in recent years.

Last year, at Congo's request, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to draw down the peacekeeping force and gradually hand over its security responsibilities to Congo's government by this December.

But the soaring violence means that departure is now delayed.

On a recent day, peacekeepers in armored vehicles pulled into a small base in the hazy hills outside Goma, its tents surrounded by looping razor wire and sandbags. Troops perched with a machine gun pointed in the rebels' direction.

In recent months, clashes between Congo's army and M23 came within a mile of the base.

The U.N. force is trying to find new ways to repel the rebels. Last year, it established new bases between the frontlines and about 600,000 displaced people sheltering around Goma. It is training Congolese soldiers in the hope that they can fill the security void once it leaves.

"If the belligerent armed groups had come forward and attacked the civilians, the MONUSCO would have changed its stance purely from defensive to offensive operations," said U.N.'s center sector commander for North Kivu province, Brig. General Ranjan Mahajan.

MONUSCO described the security challenges "multiple and multifaceted" and said only one of its brigades is tasked to go on the offensive. That affects a single area, Beni, where deadly attacks have been especially frequent. The U.N. mission otherwise is defensive and works alongside Congolese forces and others.

But some Congolese, who see the U.N. force as not aggressive enough, said any new efforts to protect them are futile.

"You can see that MONUSCO is there, but that's in name only ... People are dying, but it does nothing," said Maombie Aline, a displaced person in Goma.

And yet, the international community has warned that the U.N. force's pullout would leave a security vacuum. More than 80% of Congo's 7 million displaced people live in areas protected by the U.N., according to the Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

Last month, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said the peacekeepers' pullout from South Kivu province in June left critical gaps, and the Security Council shouldn't authorize further withdrawals until there's a plan to mitigate them. The U.S. is the force's top financial supporter.

Congo's communication minister, Patrick Muyaya, said there would be a new timeline for MONUSCO's departure, but didn't give details. He said a joint team of government and U.N. officials was evaluating the situation.

Goma's streets are full of armed men, local and foreign. In addition to the U.N. force and an unknown number of Congolese forces, there are about 1,000 foreign mercenaries, a coalition of local militia and a Southern African regional force. A recently deployed East African force was kicked out amid criticism it was ineffective.

"It's a military jungle," said Onesphore Sematumba, a Congolese researcher for the International Crisis Group. "There are many actors, but everyone has their own agenda ... they can't make a difference because they are divided."

Global interest in eastern Congo's minerals is one reason the violence is so difficult to be contained, experts said.

Congo is the world's largest producer of cobalt, a mineral used to make lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles and smartphones. It also has substantial gold, diamond, copper and cobalt reserves.

In May, M23 fighters seized the town of Rubaya, which holds deposits of tantalum — used in electronics, including Apple devices — and extracted from coltan. The area is estimated to supply more than 15% of global production of tantalum and now generates about \$300,000 a month for M23, said Bintou Keita, head of Congo's U.N. mission.

U.N. experts in June said a portion of Rubaya minerals have been smuggled across the Rwandan border.

Rwanda is selling minerals from eastern Congo and passing them off as conflict-free, said Darren Davids, an analyst with the Economist Intelligence Unit — allegations documented by both U.N. experts and the U.S. Davids said the international community has hesitated to meaningfully call on Rwanda to stop the fighting because it has become a reliable trading partner for the West as competition grows for the minerals. Meanwhile, the Rwandan-backed rebels are accused of obstructing and threatening the U.N. mission so it can seize more territory, and are widely expected to benefit from its departure. Rwanda's government and M23 didn't respond to requests for comment.

The ability to cast a ballot isn't always guaranteed in Alaska's far-flung Native villages

By MARK THIESSEN, BECKY BOHRER and GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

KAKTOVIK, Alaska (AP) — Early last summer, George Kaleak, a whaling captain in the tiny Alaska Native village of Kaktovik, on an island in the Arctic Ocean just off the state's northern coast, pinned a flyer to the blue, ribbon-lined bulletin board in the community center.

"Attention residents," it read. "In search of elections chairperson to conduct the August and November elections. ... If interested please contact the State of Alaska Nome Elections."

No one was interested, Kaleak said, and the state failed to provide an elections supervisor or poll workers.

When the primary arrived on Aug. 20, Kaktovik's polling station didn't open. There was nowhere for the village's 189 registered voters to cast a ballot. Kaleak, who also is an adviser to the regional government, didn't even try.

"I knew there was nobody to open it," he said during an interview in Kaktovik earlier this month.

The development might have shocked voters or politicians elsewhere in the U.S., especially in swing states where any polling irregularities prompt scrutiny from party activists and news organizations, conspiracy theories spreading on social media and calls for investigations.

In Kaktovik, life went on. Some residents were frustrated, but they turned their attention to a more pressing matter: the start of whaling season.

Remote villages, few poll workers

The shuttered polling station represents just the latest example of persistent voting challenges in Alaska's remote Native villages, a collection of more than 200 far-flung communities that dot the nation's largest state. Many of the villages are far from the main road system, so isolated they are reachable only by small plane. Mail service can be halted for days at a time due to severe weather or worker illness.

Polling sites also did not open for the August primary in Wales, in far western Alaska along the Bering Strait. They opened late in several other villages. In Anaktuvuk Pass, the polling place didn't open until about 30 minutes before closing time; just seven of 258 registered voters there cast ballots in person.

This year, with control of Congress on the line, the implications of any repeated problems during the November general election could be enormous. The state's only representative in the House is Democratic Rep. Mary Peltola — the first Alaska Native to serve in Congress. She is popular among Alaska Native voters, won the recent endorsement of the Alaska Federation of Natives and is in a tight reelection fight against Republican Nick Begich.

"This congressional seat is going to be won by dozens of votes," Peltola told a federation convention this month.

State, regional and local officials all say they are trying to ensure everyone can vote in the Nov. 5 election. In a written statement, Carol Beecher, director of the Alaska Division of Elections, called her agency "highly invested in ensuring that all precincts have workers and that sites open on time." She acknowledged it can be difficult to find temporary workers to help run elections.

'Out of sight and out of mind'

Like other Indigenous populations across the U.S., Alaska Native voters for years faced language barriers at the polls. In 2020, the state Division of Elections failed to send absentee ballots to the southwest Alaska village of Mertarvik in time for the primary election because its staff didn't realize anyone was living there.

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In June 2022, a special primary for the U.S. House was conducted primarily by mail after the sudden death of Republican U.S. Rep. Don Young. Some rural Alaska and lower-income urban districts had notably high rates of ballots disallowed — around 17% — due largely to missing witness signatures on envelopes or other mistakes the state provides no means of correcting.

Two months later, precinct locations in two southwest Alaska villages — Tununak and Atmoutluak — did not open for the regular primary and special general election for the U.S. House, which were held on the same day. Ballots from several other villages arrived too late to be fully tabulated under the new ranked choice voting system the state uses for general elections.

“When these things happen in rural Alaska, when it’s out of sight and out of mind, it seems like the system just shrugs and writes it off as a character flaw for remote Alaskans,” said Michelle Sparck, with the nonprofit Get Out The Native Vote. “And we’re here saying this is unacceptable.”

Alaska allows absentee voting, but that can present its own challenges, given the sometimes questionable reliability of mail delivery in rural Alaska.

The Alaska Federation of Natives, the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, passed a resolution last year raising concerns with mail service. It is surveying residents about their postal service, including how it affects their ability to vote or obtain medicine.

A land of caribou, whales and polar bears

Kaktovik is 670 miles (1,078 km) north of Anchorage, on Barter Island, between the Arctic Ocean and Alaska’s North Slope, an area of vast, treeless tundra nearly the size of Oregon. The temperature can dip to 20 below zero F (29 below C) during the perpetual darkness of winter. Air travel provides the only year-round access to Kaktovik, with ocean-going barges delivering goods in the warmer months.

It’s the only community in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and whether the next presidential administration will support drilling for oil in the refuge — as many villagers hope — is a major topic of concern. The nearest settlement is Deadhorse, about 110 miles (177 kilometers) west, the oil company supply stop that marks the end of the gravel road featured in the reality TV show “Ice Road Truckers.”

Kaktovik’s roughly 270 residents, mostly Inupiat, live in single-story houses laid out in a grid of about 20 blocks. They subsist by hunting caribou and bowhead whales; village whalers landed three bowheads this year.

After butchering the whales on a nearby beach, the villagers pile the bones farther away, where polar bears feast on the scraps. That’s made Kaktovik a popular spot for polar bear tourism. The village also has a polar bear patrol, led by village mayor Nathan Gordon Jr., to run the animals out of town when they get too close.

During the August primary, some residents were away hunting or fishing. The mayor was on vacation with his family in Anchorage.

Plenty of obstacles to staffing polling sites

Madeline Gordon, a former election worker, had taken a new job at a village grocery store. Gordon, the mayor’s cousin, said she told the Nome office of the state elections division in early summer that she wouldn’t be able to run the primary election, but the state nevertheless mailed a box of ballots to her home.

She gave the box to a city clerk, Tiffani Kayotuk. A state official told Kayotuk to hang onto it until further notice, Kayotuk said. The box was still in her office when she went on maternity leave on the day of the primary.

It had been clear well before then that Kaktovik would need help running the primary.

Kaleak, a deputy adviser to the top official of the regional North Slope Borough — equivalent to a county government in other states — posted the flyer seeking help staffing the election on the community center bulletin board. It was still hanging there recently, near one for the volunteer fire department and another for the local fuel depot. He also posted notices on a community Facebook page.

But the position required travel to Utqiagvik, formerly known as Barrow, for training. And, Kaleak said, the pay — \$20.50 an hour — wasn’t enough to be attractive in a village where gas is \$7.50 a gallon and other goods, shipped long distance, are similarly pricey. Small pumpkins were going for \$80 apiece this month.

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Taylor Thompson, who heads the legal department for North Slope Borough, said a borough official had reached out to the state elections division before the August primary to find out if they anticipated problems, and offered to fly a borough staffer to the village if needed.

"The state just didn't take us up on it," Thompson said.

She said she "lost it" when she learned from a news article that Kaktovik's precinct hadn't opened. This time, the borough is sending a worker to Kaktovik to ensure the precinct opens for the general election.

"We're going to make sure that someone is there, no matter what, if the state's not going to fulfill their obligations," Thompson said.

Determined to ensure voters won't be disenfranchised again

The borough also was trying to coordinate with the state to ensure polls will be staffed in two other villages, Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk Pass.

Beecher, the elections division director, said the state was notified late on the afternoon before the primary that Kaktovik didn't have anyone to run the polls. The division immediately reached out to the village and the borough in hopes of finding someone, she said.

"Unfortunately, despite best efforts, sometimes the trained staff are no longer available, requiring the division to secure other workers and get them trained in a short timeframe," Beecher said.

The mayor said he got an earful when he returned from vacation.

"I end up coming back and hearing about how the primary wasn't opened and how people had to miss their first-ever election," Gordon Jr. said.

Charles Lampe, the president of the Kaktovik Inupiat Corp. and a city council member, favors getting city officials trained to work elections. That way, he said, "nothing like this ever happens again."

For Kaleak, the disenfranchisement of Alaska Native voters should raise as much outrage as the disenfranchisement of voters anywhere else in the country.

"Every person should be able to have a vote, and it should count, and it should be fair," he said.

Ballot drop box fires rekindle concerns that election conspiracy theories are making them a target

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY and ALI SWENSON Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Two ballot drop boxes in the Pacific Northwest were damaged in a suspected arson attack just over a week before Election Day, destroying hundreds of ballots at one location in Vancouver, Washington.

At the other, in neighboring Portland, Oregon, it appears a fire suppression system worked to contain the blaze and limited the number of ballots damaged to three. Authorities are reviewing surveillance footage as they try to identify who is responsible.

Here's what happened, how rules and security measures about drop boxes vary across the country, and how election conspiracy theories have undermined confidence in their use.

What do we know?

Police said incendiary devices started the fires in the drop boxes in Portland and Vancouver. Authorities said evidence showed the fires were connected and that they also are related to an Oct. 8 incident when an incendiary device was placed at a different drop box in Vancouver.

Multnomah County Elections Director Tim Scott said his office was planning to contact the three voters whose ballots were damaged in Portland to help them get replacements.

In Vancouver, hundreds of ballots were lost at a ballot box at the Fisher's Landing Transit Center when the drop box's fire suppression system did not work as intended. Clark County Auditor Greg Kimsey said the box was last emptied at 11 a.m. Saturday. Voters who dropped their ballots there afterward are being urged to contact the office to get a new one.

The office will be increasing how frequently it collects ballots and changing collection times to the evening to keep ballot boxes from remaining full overnight when vandalism is more likely to occur.

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Kimsey described the suspected arson as “a direct attack on democracy.”

When and where can drop boxes be used?

Drop boxes have been used for years in states such as Colorado, Oregon, Utah and Washington, where ballots are mailed to all registered voters.

They grew in popularity in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, as election officials sought options for voters who wanted to avoid crowded polling places or were worried about mail delays.

In all, 27 states and the District of Columbia allow ballot drop boxes, according to data collected by the National Conference of State Legislatures. Six others don't have a specific law but allow local communities to use them.

Placement can vary widely. In some communities, they're located inside public buildings, available only during office hours. Elsewhere, they are outside and accessible at any hour, typically with video surveillance or someone watching.

Sporadic problems have occurred over the years.

In 2020, a few drop boxes were hit by vehicles, and one in Massachusetts was damaged by arson. In that case, most of the ballots were legible enough for voters to be identified and sent replacements. A drop box also was set on fire in Los Angeles County in 2020.

How should they be secured?

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency advises state and local election officials to place drop boxes in convenient, high-traffic areas that are familiar to voters, such as libraries and community centers.

If drop boxes are not staffed, they should be secured and locked at all times, located in well-lit areas and monitored by video surveillance cameras, the guidance says. Many are bolted to the ground, surveilled with cameras or confined to public buildings during business hours, where they can be monitored.

How have conspiracy theories contributed to concerns around drop boxes?

Ballot drop boxes have been in the spotlight for the last four years, targeted by right-wing conspiracy theories that falsely claimed they were responsible for massive voter fraud in 2020.

A debunked film called “2,000 Mules” amplified the claims, exposing millions to a groundless theory that a ballot harvesting operation was depositing fraudulent ballots in drop boxes in the dark of night.

An Associated Press survey of state election officials across the U.S. found there were no widespread problems associated with drop boxes in 2020.

Paranoia about drop boxes continued into the 2022 midterms, when armed vigilantes began showing up to monitor them in Arizona and were restricted by a federal judge. This year, the conservative group True the Vote launched a website hosting citizen livestreams of drop boxes in various states.

In Montana, where an important U.S. Senate race is on the ballot, Republicans recently seized on an unsubstantiated ballot box tampering claim to raise money off doubts about the electoral process.

How have states responded since the 2020 election?

Republican lawmakers in several states sought to tighten rules around mail voting after the 2020 election, and much of their focus was on the use of ballot drop boxes.

Six states have since banned them: Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina and South Dakota, according to research by the Voting Rights Lab, which advocates for expanded voting access.

Other states have restricted their use. This includes Ohio and Iowa, which now permits only one drop box per county, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

In Georgia's Fulton County, which includes Atlanta and has over 1 million residents, 10 ballot drop boxes are available for this year's presidential election. That's down from 38 four years ago under an emergency rule prompted by the pandemic. It's the result of an election overhaul by Georgia Republicans in response to former President Donald Trump's false claims of a stolen election.

Overall, 12 states prohibit drop boxes or do not list drop boxes as an approved method of returning a ballot, according to data collected by the National Conference of State Legislatures. Five other states do not have a state law and do not use drop boxes.

Drop boxes had been used for years in Wisconsin, one of this year's presidential battlegrounds, but

support for them has split along ideological lines since 2020. In Wausau, the conservative mayor carted away the city's lone drop box, an action that's under investigation by the state Department of Justice. The drop box has since been returned and is in use.

Arab American voters make their choice — Harris, Trump or neither — in the election's final days

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Bowls of labneh and platters of za'atar bread covered the tables in a Lebanese restaurant near Detroit, yet no one seemed to have much of an appetite.

On one side were Kamala Harris' top emissaries to the Arab American community. On the other were local leaders who were explaining — once again — why many in the community couldn't vote for the vice president because of the war in Gaza.

"I love this country, but I'll tell you, we have never been so disappointed in this country as we are now," said Nabih H. Ayad, chairman of the Arab American Civil Rights League. "We wanted to give the Democratic Party the opportunity to do something, and they haven't."

"The one line we can't cross," Ayad said, "is genocide."

Nasrina Bargzie and Brenda Abdelal, who were hired by Harris' campaign to spearhead Arab and Muslim outreach, listened intently but said little in response.

If Harris loses Michigan and the presidential election next week, it's conversations like this one that could explain why. The Detroit area has the country's largest concentration of Arab Americans, and Democrats fear that Harris will pay a steep political price for U.S. support for Israel, which rejects allegations that its military operations in Gaza constitute a genocide.

Community members who normally back Democrats said they face an impossible decision. Either they punish Harris for what they view as complicity in the deaths of at least 43,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, or they endure Donald Trump's return to the White House, which they fear would revive discrimination toward their community.

A reminder of the situation's complexity came in Ann Arbor on Monday night, when Harris held a campaign rally. Assad Turfe, one of the few Arab American elected officials in Michigan to endorse the vice president, said his community needs someone "who sees us, who understands us and who will give voice to our pain," adding that "without a doubt that Kamala Harris is that leader."

But as Harris began her remarks, pro-Palestinian protesters interrupted by chanting, "Israel bombs, Kamala pays, how many kids have you killed today?" Harris responded, "hey guys, I hear you" and "we all want this war to end as soon as possible."

It's unclear how many skeptics Harris will be able to win over, especially since she has not proposed any concrete changes on U.S. policy toward Israel or the war in Gaza. Four years ago, Joe Biden won by a 3-to-1 margin in Dearborn, where nearly half of the 110,000 residents are of Arab descent. Now Democrats are concerned some of these voters will go to Trump or third-party candidates like Jill Stein.

"They're split. There are those who will vote for Harris, recognizing that they could get a seat at the table," said U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., who convened the recent meeting at the Lebanese restaurant in his efforts to help the Harris campaign. "But there's a chunk that will vote for Stein or stay at home. Then there's a minority who will vote for Trump."

Trump has secured a number of endorsements from Muslims in the area, including from two Democratic mayors who represent Muslim-majority cities outside Detroit. He brought several Muslims on stage at a rally in metro Detroit on Saturday.

He argues he will put "a stop to the endless wars" and notes the Abraham Accords that Israel signed with several Arab nations during his presidency. He has also mocked Harris' embrace of former Rep. Liz Cheney, a conservative Republican whose father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, was a key force behind the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Harris is campaigning with Liz Cheney to try to pull away moderate Republicans turned off by Trump in Michigan and elsewhere.

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But many top Arab American leaders — even those who have not endorsed Harris — are still deeply negative toward Trump and say his endorsements don't reflect a majority of the community. They also remember his call for a "total and complete shutdown" on Muslims entering the country and his travel restrictions on visitors from Muslim-majority countries. And some point out that Trump has suggested that he would give Israel even more leeway to attack its rivals in the region.

Harris wins over someone who backed the 'uncommitted' movement

Turfe, a Lebanese American and the deputy executive of Wayne County, is among the few Arab American leaders in Michigan to have endorsed Harris. He says it's to ensure the community doesn't return to a Trump presidency that "opened up old wounds for the generation that lived through those post 9/11 years."

Turfe said he was jolted awake by immigration agents in 2005 when they came to detain his wife, who had come to the country when she was 2 years old and was unaware that she didn't have legal citizenship.

"They came for her and they ripped my family apart," he said.

Then in 2006, Turfe's two grandmothers were killed in Lebanon as Israel fought with Hezbollah in a war backed by President George W. Bush.

Turfe said his community was primarily Republican until those years. But members moved toward the Democrats during Barack Obama's presidency and then helped Biden beat Trump in 2020.

Those political bonds are now ruptured.

Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing 1,200 Israelis and kidnapping more than 200 hostages. Israel launched its offensive shortly afterward with military and diplomatic support from Biden's administration.

As civilian casualties mounted in Gaza, anti-war Democrats in Michigan and elsewhere launched a protest vote movement in the Democratic primary. They garnered over 100,000 "uncommitted" votes, with the majority coming from the state's Muslim-majority cities like Dearborn.

Turfe was part of the "uncommitted" movement while Biden was running for reelection, but he said he changed his mind when Harris became the nominee. He endorsed her in August and met her before a rally near Detroit in October.

He said he told Harris about his grandmothers' deaths nearly two decades ago, and "I felt her empathy."

"She felt my pain," Turfe said.

Turfe's endorsement has sparked a backlash. On social media, photoshopped images accuse him of endorsing atrocities in Gaza. He's also received text messages labeling him a traitor. Longstanding relationships in his hometown of Dearborn have become strained.

Dearborn resident Suehaila Amen is accustomed to having her community in the national spotlight, having starred in the 2012 TLC reality series "All-American Muslim." A lifelong Democrat, Amen said she won't be voting for Harris.

"They want to send their people to come and scope and see how we're feeling because now they're scared that they're going to be losing a swing state," said Amen, who lived in Lebanon from 2017 to 2021. "But, you know, if she loses, it's by her own doing, by her own hand, and she'll deserve it."

Amen said she doesn't want Trump to win but "I have to, at the end of the day, sleep at night."

Harris makes her closing argument to Arab Americans

Harris made a rare reference to Israel's fight against Hamas and Hezbollah during a recent speech in Oakland County, outside of Detroit.

"This year has been very difficult, given the scale of death and destruction in Gaza and given the civilian casualties and displacement in Lebanon," she said. The death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, she said, "can and must be a turning point."

Harris also said she is "very proud to have the support" of Turfe and other Muslim leaders.

But Harris has not called for any reduction in the flow of U.S. weapons to Israel, and her campaign did not allow a pro-Palestinian speaker to take the stage at August's Democratic National Convention, a key demand of the "uncommitted" movement.

Khanna, a progressive Democrat from California, has stayed in close contact with Arab American leaders in metro Detroit for months and received the "Profile in Courage" award from the Arab American

Civil Rights League this summer. Khanna is Hindu but said his family's background has given him shared experiences with Arab Americans.

During the Oct. 26 meeting with Arab American leaders, Khanna sat next to Harris' Arab and Muslim outreach directors while acknowledging that "not enough" has been done by Harris to help end the Israel-Hamas war.

"If Trump is elected, people like me won't be in any of the rooms," Khanna said. "Harris gives people like us a seat at the table to advocate for you."

It's the kind of message that resonates with Mike Musheinesh, a Palestinian American who runs his own auto parts store and attended the meeting. He said the community should vote for Harris "even if we have to hold our nose."

"If we want a seat at the table, we need to help her over the finish line," he said.

As Israel strikes deeper into Lebanon, fear rises in communities where the displaced took refuge

By KAREEM CHEHAYEB and MALAK HARB Associated Press

AITO, Lebanon (AP) — Dany Alwan stood shaking as rescue workers pulled remains from piles of rubble where his brother's building once stood.

An Israeli airstrike destroyed the three-story residential building in the quiet Christian village of Aito a day before. His brother, Elie, had rented out its apartments to a friend who'd fled here with relatives from their hometown in southern Lebanon under Israeli bombardment.

Things were fine for a few weeks. But that day, minutes after visitors arrived and entered the building, it was struck. Almost two dozen people were killed, half of them women and children. Israel said it targeted a Hezbollah official, as it has insisted in other strikes with high civilian death tolls.

This strike — in northern Lebanon, deep in Christian heartland — was particularly unusual. Israel has concentrated its bombardment mostly in the country's south and east and in Beirut's southern suburbs — Shiite-majority areas where the Hezbollah militant group has a strong presence.

Strikes in the traditionally "safe" areas where many displaced families have fled are raising fears among local residents. Many feel they have to choose between helping compatriots and protecting themselves.

"We can't welcome people anymore," Alwan said as rescue teams combed through the rubble in Aito. "The situation is very critical in the village, and this is the first time something like this has happened to us."

The war brings out long-running tensions

Aito is in the Zgharta province, which is split between Christian factions who are supporters and critics of Hezbollah.

Some Christian legislators critical of Hezbollah have warned of the security risks that could come with hosting displaced people, mostly from the Shia Muslim community. They worry that many may have familial and social ties to Hezbollah, which in addition to its armed wing has civilian services across southern and eastern Lebanon.

Some also worry that long-term displacement could create demographic changes and weaken the Christian share in Lebanon's fragile sectarian power-sharing system. The tiny country has a troubled history of sectarian strife and violence, most notably in a 15-year civil war that ended in 1990.

Lebanon for decades has struggled to navigate tensions and political gridlock within its sectarian power-sharing government system. Parliament is deeply divided among factions that back and oppose Hezbollah and has been without a president for almost two years.

When Hezbollah fired rockets at northern Israel in solidarity with Palestinian ally Hamas in the war-torn Gaza Strip, the move was met with mixed feelings. Critics say it was a miscalculation that has brought the widespread devastation of Gaza here.

Many have been moved to help

After nearly a year of low-level fighting, the Israeli military escalated its attacks against Hezbollah a month ago, launching daily aerial bombardments and a ground invasion. Most of Lebanon's estimated 1.2

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million displaced people fled over the past month.

In late September, traffic jams stretching for miles clogged streets leading to Beirut as people left, some with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

For many, the violence has moved them to help their fellow residents, cutting across sectarian lines.

Michella Sfeir, who was safe in the north, said she wanted to take action after seeing a picture of a driver pouring water from his bottle into a nearby driver's empty one.

"The first thing you can think of is: How can I help immediately?" she said.

She now helps prepare meals at a women's art center that's become a community kitchen and donation dropoff center for blankets, clothes, and supplies in Aqai-be, a seaside town just north of Beirut. Displaced women who found shelter in surrounding neighborhoods regularly visit, while some people involved in other initiatives help deliver the hot meals to shelters around dinnertime.

"We get lots of questions like, 'When you go to give the help, is there a member of Hezbollah waiting for you at the door?'" Sfeir said, citing blowback in the community from people who perceive the displaced as Hezbollah members, supporters and relatives.

"Some people ... would ask us 'Why are you helping them? They don't deserve it; this is because of them.'"

Anxiety rises far from the border

Though northern coastal cities such as Byblos and Batroun with pristine beaches and ancient ruins have not felt the direct pain of the conflict, anxiety is rising in surrounding areas.

On one coastal road — the busy Jounieh highway — an Israeli drone struck a car earlier this month, killing a man and his wife.

Such rare but increasing Israeli strikes have rattled residents in the north. Many feel torn: Should they risk their security by hosting displaced people, or compromise their morals and turn them away?

Zeinab Rihan fled north with family and relatives from the southern Nabatiyeh province when they couldn't bear the airstrikes approaching closer to their homes.

But, Rihan said, they found many landlords quoting outlandish rent figures in an apparent attempt to turn them away.

Some might have been acting out of personal prejudice, Rihan said, but it's likely most were simply afraid.

"They were scared that they might rent their place to someone who turns out to be targeted," Rihan said. "But this is our current reality, what can we do?"

For some, helping is a sense of duty

A resident of one northern town near the coast said the local government didn't want to welcome displaced people, but many residents pressured the municipality to change course.

He cited the town's common sympathy and sense of duty to help others, despite the security risks. He spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity for fear of stirring tension among residents.

Elsewhere, in the hilly village of Ebrine, a stone's throw away from Batroun, residents have been regularly visiting dozens of displaced families sheltering in two modest schools. This month, an Israeli strike hit a village a short drive away, but that hasn't stopped some residents from hiring the displaced — for some, to work in olive groves during the harvest season.

Back in Aqai-be, some displaced women from nearby areas have joined Sfeir and others volunteering at the kitchen: chopping vegetables, cooking rice in vats, packaging meals in plastic containers, and having coffee together on the balcony.

"Just because we're in an area that doesn't have direct conflict or direct war doesn't mean that we're not worried about Beirut or the south," said Flavia Bechara, who founded the center, as she took a break from chopping onions and potatoes. "We all used to eat the olives and olive oil of the south, and we used to go there to get fruits and vegetables."

Bechara and several women finished packing dozens of meals for the day, and a group of women came to pick up winter clothes for their kids. Bechara said she isn't phased by the criticism or questions she gets from some of her neighbors.

"There's always anxiety," said Bechara, who just recently could hear strikes a short drive away, in Maisra. "There's always (the fear) that what is happening there can happen here at any moment."

The first presidential election since the Jan. 6 attack will test new guardrails from Congress

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — This presidential election, the first since the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol, will be a stress test of the new systems and guardrails that Congress put in place to ensure America's long tradition of the peaceful transfer of presidential power.

As Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris race toward the finish, pro-democracy advocates and elected officials are preparing for a volatile period in the aftermath of Election Day, as legal challenges are filed, bad actors spread misinformation and voters wait for Congress to affirm the results.

"One of the unusual characteristics of this election is that so much of the potential danger and so many of the attacks on the election system are focused on the post-election period," said Wendy Weiser, vice president for democracy at the nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice.

After the Jan. 6 attack, Congress set out to shore up the process and prevent a repeat of that unprecedented period when Trump, joined by some GOP allies in Congress, refused to concede defeat to President Joe Biden. Trump spent months pushing dozens of failed legal cases before sending his supporters to the U.S. Capitol, where they disrupted the electoral count with a bloody riot. He faces a federal indictment for the scheme, which included slates of fake electors from states falsely claiming he won.

While the new Electoral Count Reform Act approved by Congress has clarified the post-election processes — to more speedily resolve legal challenges and reinforce that the vice president has no ability to change the election outcome on Jan. 6 — the new law is by no means ironclad.

Much depends on the people involved, from the presidential winners and losers to the elected leaders in Congress and the voters across America putting their trust in the democratic system that has stood for more than 200 years.

Voters are worried about post-election strife

A poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that American voters are approaching the election with deep unease about what could follow.

Dick Gephardt, the former House leader, now serves on the executive board of the nonpartisan Keep our Republic, which has been working to provide civic education about the process in the presidential battleground states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

"We are concerned about one thing and one thing only: Can Americans still have valid trust in elections and can we have consistently a peaceful transfer of power in all offices, including the presidency?" Gephardt said in a briefing earlier this month.

"January 6th in 2021 was really a wake-up call, I think, for all of us," he said.

It's not just the onslaught of legal challenges that worries democracy groups, as dozens of cases already have been filed by both Republicans and Democrats even before Election Day. They say the sheer volume of cases has the potential to sow doubt in the election tally and give rise to disinformation, both domestic and foreign, as happened in 2020 when Trump's legal team unfurled far-flung theories that proved to be wildly inaccurate.

As Trump runs to retake the White House, he is already setting the stage for challenges to the election he wants to be "too big to rig." The Republican National Committee has made legal strategy a cornerstone of its Election Integrity program.

Trump is backed by Republicans on Capitol Hill, including House Speaker Mike Johnson, who has adopted similar language, saying he would accept the results only if the election is free and fair.

"We're going to have the peaceful transition of power," said Johnson, who led one of Trump's 2020 legal challenges, on CBS. "I believe President Trump's going to win, and this will be taken care of."

One specific line of attack from House Republicans has been to suggest there will be illegal voting by noncitizens, even though it is a crime to do so, and state and federal reviews have found it to be ex-

tremely rare. Johnson has pointed to past House races, including one in Iowa in 2020 that was won by six votes, to bolster his concerns.

Rep. Joseph Morelle of New York, the top Democrat on the Committee on House Administration, said Johnson is "saying the quiet part out loud," signaling the way Republicans may challenge the outcome.

That "troubles me," he said.

What comes between election and inauguration?

At the Brennan Center, they've conducted war-game-like scenarios for what could happen after the election, at a time when state election officials are facing a resurgence in conspiracy theories and misinformation about voting.

A series of deadlines between Election Day on Nov. 5 and Inauguration Day on Jan. 20 are built into the process, once routine steps that are now important milestones that can be met — or missed.

States are required to certify their electors by Dec. 11 in advance of a meeting of the Electoral College, which is set this year on Dec. 17.

The new Congress convenes Jan. 3 to elect a House speaker and swear in lawmakers. Then, on Jan. 6, Congress holds a joint session to accept the electoral count from the states — a typically ceremonial session presided over by the vice president.

To fortify the process in the wake of the Jan. 6 attack, the Electoral Count Reform Act instituted several changes intended to shore up the process and make sure the disputes are resolved by the time the Congress meets. Legal challenges to the results are to be more quickly resolved, under an expedited timeline for judicial review, all the way to the Supreme Court, if necessary. If a county refuses to certify its results, as some did during the 2022 midterm elections, the governor has more authority to certify the state's tally.

On Jan. 6, the law now requires 20% of the House and Senate to challenge a state's electors to force a vote on rejecting them, rather than a single member threshold from each chamber.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., who had been a chief architect of the new law with Republican Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said they did "the best we could" to protect the process.

"You know people have a right, if they have a problem with the election, to go to court and be heard," Lofgren said. "The thing is, once that's over, it's over."

Election threats persist four years after far-right extremists stormed the US Capitol

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After the 2020 presidential election, thousands of Donald Trump's most fervent supporters heeded his call to join a "wild" protest of his defeat. Following Trump's lies about a stolen election, hundreds of them stormed the U.S. Capitol under the banners of the Proud Boys, Oath Keepers and other extremist groups and movements.

Many of those far-right networks have dissolved, splintered or receded from public view since the Jan. 6, 2021, attack. But the specter of election-related chaos hasn't vanished with them. Political violence remains a persistent threat heading into the Nov. 5 election, experts warn.

Election officials have been inundated with threats, misinformation and the prospect of "election denialist" organizations wreaking havoc. The FBI was investigating on Monday after fires destroyed hundreds of ballots inside drop boxes in Portland, Oregon, and in nearby Vancouver, Washington.

Trump has used social media to promote violent conspiracy theories that have become mainstream features of Republican politics. Many, including Trump himself, have tried to recast Capitol rioters as 1776-style patriots and political prisoners. Trump also has vowed to use the military to go after "enemies from within."

Four years ago, most of the Trump supporters in the mob had no criminal record or any group affiliations beyond their shared allegiance to a president who exhorted them to "fight like hell." That helps explain why it can be difficult for authorities to identify and ward off threats.

"It only takes one person to cause a lot of damage," said American University professor Kurt Braddock, who studies extremism.

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Heidi Beirich, co-founder of the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism, said the extremists she monitors don't seem to be fixated on this year's election — at least in their public chatter online. Many likely learned a lesson from the Capitol riot defendants who flooded social media with self-incriminating posts before, during and after the siege.

"We have no idea if there's something going on in encrypted chats," she added.

During this election cycle, Trump and his allies have stirred up anti-LGBTQ and anti-immigrant discourse in a way that galvanizes extremists, experts say. After Jan. 6, the Proud Boys staged protests at drag queen story hours. More recently, Springfield, Ohio, was overwhelmed with hoax bomb threats after Trump and running mate JD Vance amplified bogus, xenophobic rumors about Haitian immigrants in the city.

All manner of far-right conspiracy theories are spreading virtually unchecked on mainstream platforms, including a firehose of lies about the federal government's response to hurricane-ravaged North Carolina, a swing state.

Trump and his allies often use his rallies as a platform for spewing racism and xenophobia, including one Sunday at New York's Madison Square Garden that drew comparisons to a pro-Nazi rally in 1939. Vice President Kamala Harris said she believes Trump is a fascist after his former chief of staff, John Kelly, said the former president praised Adolf Hitler while in office.

Trump was struck in the ear by gunfire during one of two assassination attempts against him this year. He has accused Democrats of fostering a volatile political climate by accusing him of being a threat to democracy.

Beirich said it could be difficult for authorities to curb election-related threats "because it can happen all over the country." She and other experts fear extremists will try to disrupt ballot counting, possibly in battleground states.

"It feels a bit like a calm before the storm," she said.

Extremism experts are hardly alone in their fears: About 4 in 10 registered voters say they are "extremely" or "very" concerned about violent attempts to overturn the results of next month's election, according to a new poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Of the more than 1,500 defendants charged in the Jan. 6 attack, more than 200 have been linked to extremist groups or movements by federal authorities, according to an Associated Press review of court records.

That includes approximately 80 leaders, members or associates of the far-right Proud Boys and over 30 defendants linked to the anti-government Oath Keepers. Other groups, including the Groyper movement, have had smaller numbers of followers charged in federal court.

Four years ago, Trump told the Proud Boys to "stand back and stand by" during his first debate against Democrat Joe Biden. Group leaders celebrated Trump's shout-out and eagerly joined the fray when Trump invited supporters to Washington for his "Stop the Steal" rally.

Today, some of the top leaders of the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers are serving prison terms of up to 22 years for violent plots to stop the peaceful transfer of presidential power from Trump to Biden.

Imprisoning the groups' national leaders left a void. For the Proud Boys, it was partially filled by local chapters that consider themselves autonomous and tend to promote more extreme ideologies, said Jared Holt, a senior research analyst at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, which tracks online hate.

"Their organizational capabilities are greatly diminished from where they were in 2020," Holt said. "There's always the possibility that, in a post-election period, these groups will all of a sudden find the motivation to mobilize and start showing up at events. But they've been pretty docile this year."

The Oath Keepers, which the Yale Law School-educated Stewart Rhodes founded in 2009, has withered since his arrest and incarceration.

"It was his baby, and no one has really stepped up to fill his void," Holt said.

Dozens of Capitol rioters were followers of the anti-government Three Percenters movement or belonged to militia groups with names like the Gray Ghost Partisan Rangers, the Southern Indiana Patriots and the Patriot Boys of North Texas. The government's response to Jan. 6 seems to have placed a "huge damper"

on militias, Beirich said.

"They don't disappear," she said. "They might pop up somewhere else, but I have to say: Militias in the last year or so have been relatively inactive compared to earlier eras."

Many other Jan. 6 rioters were inspired by QAnon, which centered on the baseless belief that Trump was secretly fighting a Satan-worshipping, child sex trafficking cabal of prominent Democrats and Hollywood elites. The self-described "QAnon Shaman" remains one of the most recognizable figures from the riot.

Mike Rothschild, author of "The Storm Is Upon Us: How QAnon Became a Movement, Cult, and Conspiracy Theory of Everything," said the QAnon movement has evolved beyond its bizarre web of "riddles and codes."

Twitter, Facebook and YouTube cracked down on QAnon after Jan. 6, driving believers to platforms like Telegram or Trump's Truth Social. Rothschild said many of them flocked back to Twitter, now called X, after Elon Musk bought it. He believes QAnon adherents remain "extremely dangerous."

"They've had four years to build up their anger and grievance," he said.

Trump ally Steve Bannon to be released after serving 4 months in prison for contempt of Congress

DANBURY, Conn. (AP) — Longtime Donald Trump ally Steve Bannon is scheduled to be released from prison Tuesday after serving a four-month sentence for defying a subpoena in the congressional investigation into the U.S. Capitol attack on Jan. 6, 2021.

Bannon is set to leave the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury, Connecticut, in the predawn hours and hold a news conference later in the day in Manhattan, his representatives said. He's also expected to resume his podcast Tuesday.

Bannon, 70, reported to the prison July 1 after the Supreme Court rejected his bid to delay the prison sentence while he appeals his conviction.

A jury found Bannon guilty in 2022 of two counts of contempt of Congress: one for refusing to sit for a deposition with the Jan. 6 House Committee and a second for refusing to provide documents related to his involvement Trump's efforts to overturn his loss to Joe Biden in the 2020 presidential race.

When he began serving his sentence in July, Bannon called himself a "political prisoner."

"I am proud of going to prison," he said at the time, adding that he was standing up Attorney General Merrick Garland and a "corrupt" Justice Department.

Trump, a Republican, is seeking to regain the presidency in next week's election against Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris.

A federal appeals court panel upheld Bannon's convictions in May. Bannon is now asking the full appeals court to hear his case. His legal team had argued that the congressional subpoena was invalid because Trump had asserted executive privilege. Prosecutors, though, say Bannon had left the White House years before and Trump had never invoked executive privilege in front of the committee.

Bannon faces additional criminal charges in New York state court, alleging he duped donors who gave money to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Bannon has pleaded not guilty to money laundering, conspiracy, fraud and other charges. A trial in that case is scheduled to begin in December.

For the US election, the AP performs the world's single largest act of journalism

By JULIE PACE AP Executive Editor

Since long before the advent of the internet, smartphones or social media, The Associated Press has delivered the results of elections in the United States. Our fundamental role in the American democracy — the single largest act of journalism in the world -- dates back to 1848 when we called the White House for Zachary Taylor.

Today, nearly two centuries later, the AP remains the gold standard for trusted information on election

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night.

As a nonpartisan, independent global news organization, our job is to provide fact-based information that helps voters make decisions at the ballot box. We have no political agenda or rooting interest – we are focused solely on getting it right.

The AP stands ready once again on Nov. 5 to accurately call races up and down the ballot, from president to Congress to state and local contests in all 50 states. We will declare winners in 5,000 contested races across the country without fear or favor, just based on the facts. In 2020, the AP was correct in every race call for president, governor, U.S. Senate and U.S. House – and over 99.9% accurate overall. While we strive to report the results as quickly as possible, our primary focus is to get it right -- no matter how long it may take.

This important work is being done against the backdrop of an electorate that has become increasingly skeptical of election results. An AP-NORC poll from 2023 showed that just 44% of Americans say they are highly confident that votes in the 2024 presidential election will be counted accurately.

This tells us that we at the AP must do a better job of explaining and demystifying the process.

So, we are. In addition to providing factual election coverage before, on and after election night, the AP is doubling down on its efforts to explain elections. We know it's not enough to report the results. We need to show our work – be clear about the numbers we've crunched, where they came from, and how we've ensured their integrity. You have our commitment to being as transparent as possible about our race calling process.

This is, after all, something the AP has been doing for the better part of two centuries. Since the dawn of the republic, elections in the U.S. have been administered at the state and local levels; there is no federal body that counts the vote or shares results. This is why the AP stepped in to fill that void shortly after our founding in 1846 – to independently deliver election results to the world.

We play a crucial role in the American democratic process. We've carried out this responsibility through world wars and pandemics, political and social unrest. No organization has been calling elections longer than the AP.

We look forward to once again delivering results you can count on. You can trust The Associated Press to get it right just as we've done for more than 170 years.

Harris is speaking at the same spot where Trump fanned anger on Jan. 6, 2021. Here's what happened

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kamala Harris will deliver her campaign's "closing argument" Tuesday from the same spot in Washington where Republican Donald Trump helped incite a mob that attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

She chose the spot to draw a contrast between her vision for the country and Trump's continued lies about the 2020 election, and the risks she says his return to the White House would pose for the nation.

In 2021, thousands of his supporters stood on the grassy Ellipse just off Constitution Avenue, not far from the Washington Monument, as an angry Trump told his supporters the election had been stolen from him.

"We will not take it anymore and that's what this is all about," Trump told the crowd. "And to use a favorite term that all of you people really came up with: We will stop the steal. Today I will lay out just some of the evidence proving that we won this election and we won it by a landslide. This was not a close election."

"And we fight. We fight like hell. And if you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore."

Some details on what led to Trump's Jan. 6 appearance on the Ellipse and what transpired.

The backdrop: A failed effort to overturn the election

Trump's speech came after weeks of failed legal challenges in which Trump claimed widespread voter fraud. His attorneys put forward unsubstantiated conspiracy theories, including the idea that voting machines were created in Venezuela at the direction of Hugo Chavez. The challenges were roundly dismissed,

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including by judges who had been appointed by Trump himself or other Republicans.

Members of Trump's own Cabinet said there'd been no widespread fraud but the ideas were nonetheless embraced by supporters and persisted. Trump has since been criminally charged for his efforts to overturn the election.

Trump summons his supporters to DC on vote certification day

Congressional certification of the presidential vote results is normally a routine part of the electoral process. But Trump had been trying, through the failed lawsuits, and personal appeals to election officials, to overturn the results.

Trump tweeted on Dec. 19, 2020, "Big protest in D.C. on January 6th. Be there, will be wild!"

In his speech, Trump cataloged his failed court arguments and told the crowd he hoped that then-Vice President Mike Pence would refuse to certify the results of the election when he stood before the legislators at the Capitol.

"I hope Mike is going to do the right thing. I hope so. I hope so," Trump said.

"Because if Mike Pence does the right thing, we win the election ... He has the absolute right to do it. We're supposed to protect our country, support our country, support our Constitution, and protect our Constitution."

Trump went on to blame the "fake news media" and "radical-left Democrats" for stealing the election.

"All of us here today do not want to see our election victory stolen by emboldened radical-left Democrats, which is what they're doing. And stolen by the fake news media. That's what they've done and what they're doing. We will never give up, we will never concede. It doesn't happen. You don't concede when there's theft involved."

Trump instructs his supporters: 'We're going to the Capitol'

He told the crowd that day at the end of his speech it was time to walk down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the Capitol with a rambling directive to get involved.

"I love Pennsylvania Avenue. And we're going to the Capitol, and we're going to try and give ... the Democrats are hopeless — they never vote for anything. Not even one vote. But we're going to try and give our Republicans, the weak ones because the strong ones don't need any of our help. We're going to try and give them the kind of pride and boldness that they need to take back our country."

"So let's walk down Pennsylvania Avenue."

The crowd heads to the Capitol. Trump does not

During congressional hearings on the events of Jan. 6, 2021, former White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson recounted how Trump was dismissive when told that some in his crowd at the Ellipse were armed.

"I was in the vicinity of a conversation where I overheard the president say something to the effect of, 'I don't effing care that they have weapons,'" Hutchinson said. "They're not here to hurt me. ... Let my people in. They can march to the Capitol from here."

She also described Trump's anger after officials told him he couldn't accompany his supporters to the U.S. Capitol because of security concerns.

Trump went back to the White House instead. And as the violence at the Capitol unfolded, he sat at a table in a White House dining room watching the scene unfold on Fox News, according to congressional testimony.

Pat Cipollone, Trump's top White House lawyer, told congressional investigators that multiple aides — including the president's daughter, Ivanka Trump — advised the president to say something to stop the violence.

Trump made no effort to call for increased law enforcement assistance at the Capitol. He did not call the defense secretary, the homeland security secretary or the attorney general.

As the president declined to call for help, Pence was hiding in the Capitol, just feet away from rioters. A noose was brought to the Capitol lawn and some cheered that they were going to hang the vice president.

At about 4:15 p.m., around three hours after they reached the Capitol, Trump tweeted a video message: "We had an election that was stolen from us," he said. "But you have to go home now," he said. "We

have to have peace. We have to have law and order. We don't want anybody hurt."

Hours later, after the day had spiraled out of control, he tweeted: "These are the things and events that happen when a sacred landslide election victory is so unceremoniously & viciously stripped away from great patriots who have been badly & unfairly treated for so long."

"Go home with love & in peace. Remember this day forever!" he added.

Rioters stormed the Senate chamber and ransacked Capitol offices for hours. They beat and bloodied law enforcement, leaving roughly 140 injured. Seven people died in the wake of the attack, including a rioter shot by police, and officers who later killed themselves.

In 2024, a new campaign pinned on old grievances

More than 1,500 people have been charged in the Capitol siege in the years since.

Trump launched his general election campaign last March by not merely trying to rewrite the history of the Capitol attack, but positioning the violent siege and failed attempt to overturn the 2020 election as a cornerstone of his bid to return to the White House.

During a rally in Ohio, his first as the presumed Republican Party presidential nominee, Trump stood on stage, his hand raised in salute as a recorded chorus of prisoners in jail for their roles in the Jan. 6 attack sang the national anthem.

"They were unbelievable patriots," Trump said. Having previously vowed to pardon the rioters, he promised to help them "the first day we get into office."

Trump, during a Univision town hall just two weeks ago, claimed the day was peaceful.

"That was a day of love from the standpoint of the millions, it's like hundreds of thousands, it could have been the largest group I've ever spoken before," he claimed. "They asked me to speak, I went, and I spoke. And I used the term peacefully and patriotically."

Vinyl thrives at United Record Pressing as the nation's oldest record maker plays a familiar tune

By JONATHAN MATTISE Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — During the six decades since United Record Pressing stamped out the Beatles' first U.S. single, the country's oldest vinyl record maker has survived 8-tracks, cassettes, CDs, Napster, iPods and streaming services. Now, the Nashville-based company has rebounded so dramatically that some of its equipment and technology has been retrofitted to keep pace with an ever-growing demand for old-school vinyl.

The 75-year-old company has adjusted its business from filling jukeboxes to helping DJs spin and stocking shelves despite a pandemic. On shelves in its warehouse are master versions by Johnny Cash, Kanye West and The Black Crowes.

When Mark Michaels bought the company in 2007, vinyl was fading — its 38 employees mostly made singles for rap artists, often promos for clubs. Michaels wanted a hands-on chance to build a business and thought he could keep this one steady, but not grow it substantially. It also came with a rich history as the first record pressing plant in the South, including an apartment atop the factory that housed Black artists and music executives during segregation.

"You walked into this building and you just felt 50, 60 years of history and just the importance of what it stood for," said Michaels, the company's CEO and chair. "And yeah, you you get choked up, you get gooseflesh just experiencing that."

Today, United Record Pressing runs a newer factory six times bigger than what Michaels bought, with about 125 employees who make up to 80,000 records a day.

A variety of factors have boosted vinyl in recent years, from independent artists insisting on vinyl albums to big box retailers getting on board again.

In 2023, U.S. revenues from vinyl records grew 10% to \$1.4 billion, the 17th-straight year of growth, according to the Recording Industry Association of America. Records accounted for 71% of revenues from non-digital music formats, and for the second time since 1987, vinyl outpaced CDs in total sold.

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United Record Pressing underwent its own evolution. The initial pressing plant was formed in 1949 by Nashville label Bullet Records. In the 1950s, it changed to Southern Plastics Inc. and focused on 7-inch singles preferred by jukebox makers.

In the early 1960s, the company was pressing more than 1 million records per month. It signed a deal to produce singles for Motown Records and moved to a bigger facility that included the apartment that hosted The Supremes, Smokey Robinson and others — and which became known as the “Motown Suite.” In 1963, it pressed the Beatles’ first U.S. single, “Please Please Me.” Then in the 1970s, a restructuring turned the company into United Record Pressing.

During the 1980s, records dwindled to a niche market. DJs still needed records for their turntables. Rap and hip-hop artists used them for “scratching.” But CDs had overtaken them.

By the late 2000s, indie artists were insisting on releasing vinyl records. By 2015, records were broadly embraced again, but there were few manufacturers, and they were relying on presses from the 1960s and 1970s and a limited number of specialists who could operate them, Michaels said. Demand increased again during the coronavirus pandemic.

“It’s art,” Michaels said of vinyl records. “Artists and fans, they want something tactile to hold on to and engage with. It’s easy to stream music, and streaming music is a wonderful way to discover new music. But you know, at the end of the day, it’s kind of sonic wallpaper.”

Today, the factory mixes old and new.

There’s plenty of wood paneling on the throwback audio equipment used to test master versions of records before they are used to press copies. And the factory floor has its share of retrofitted pressing equipment that looks and sounds like it’s been around since the last time vinyl ruled the market.

Technology is improving the process, too. Beyond the older presses are sleek, newly made machines that pop out records more quietly and efficiently. And there are huge sacks of colorful pebbles from discarded material that can be pressed again into new records.

The machines that stamp master copies use technology that had been in place to produce CDs and DVDs, now retooled for vinyl.

In a room farther back in the factory, the whizzing of machinery gives way to music.

That’s where Tyler Bryant might listen to 10 records in a shift as the company’s quality control lead. Talking over the rhythms of harmonica from a Cash album, Bryant said he discovers many artists and records that wouldn’t be on his list, ranging from Harry Styles to Beyoncé’s “Cowboy Carter” to indie artists.

“A lot of variety, that’s what I appreciate,” Bryant said. “I don’t like being stuck to just one genre, you know?”

A few miles away, architects and a construction crew are at work to preserve the old 1962 plant and pave the way for its future. As for what that will look like, Michaels says stay tuned.

“My vision is not completely crystallized yet, but the mandate is, it’s some of the most important space in all of music,” Michaels said. “It needs to be celebrated. It needs to be something that people can engage with.”

Americans in Puerto Rico can’t vote for US president. Their anger at Trump is shaping the race

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A comic calling Puerto Rico garbage before a packed Donald Trump rally in New York was the latest humiliation for an island territory that has long suffered from mistreatment, residents said Monday in expressions of fury that could affect the presidential election.

Puerto Ricans cannot vote in general elections despite being U.S. citizens, but they can exert a powerful influence with relatives on the mainland. Phones across the island of 3.2 million people were ringing minutes after the speaker derided the U.S. territory Sunday night, and they still buzzed Monday.

Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris is competing with Trump to win over Puerto Rican communities in Pennsylvania and other swing states. Shortly after stand-up comic Tony Hinchcliffe said that, “I don’t

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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," Puerto Rican reggaeton superstar Bad Bunny announced he was backing Harris.

Hinchcliffe's set also included lewd and racist comments about Latinos, Jews and Black people, all key constituencies in the election.

Non-voters with big influence

Milagros Serrano, 81, has a son who lives in the swing state of Pennsylvania and said the entire family was outraged by the comedian's comments.

"He can't be talking about Puerto Rico like that," she said as she left for a medical appointment. "He's the one who's a piece of garbage."

The United States acquired Puerto Rico from Spain in 1898 after the Spanish-American War. The U.S. government bestowed American citizenship to the island's residents in 1917. Soon after World War II, the first large migration began to ease labor shortages on the U.S. mainland. There are now more Puerto Ricans in the U.S. than on the island.

Those who stayed behind say they often feel like second-class citizens because they can't vote in presidential elections and receive limited federal funding compared with U.S. states.

That festering resentment erupted when Trump visited Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria slammed into the island as a powerful Category 4 storm in 2017. He tossed paper towels into a crowd and denied the storm's official death toll, with experts estimating that nearly 3,000 people died in the sweltering aftermath.

After Sunday's rally, a senior adviser for the Trump campaign, Danielle Alvarez, said in a statement that Hinchcliffe's joke did "not reflect the views of President Trump or the campaign."

José Acevedo, a 48-year-old health worker from San Juan, shook his head as he recalled the feelings that coursed through him when he watched the rally.

"What humiliation, what discrimination!" he said early Monday as he waited to catch a public bus to work.

Acevedo said he immediately texted relatives in New York, including an uncle who is a Republican and had planned to vote for Trump.

"He told me that he was going to have to analyze his decision," Acevedo said, adding that his relatives were in shock. "They couldn't believe it."

Angry reaction at home

The comments dominated local news sites late into the night and prompted Jenniffer González, Puerto Rico's representative in Congress for the pro-statehood New Progressive Party and a Trump supporter, to call them "despicable, misguided and disgusting."

"They do not represent the values of the GOP," she said.

Politics in Puerto Rico are defined by the island's political status, so it's common to see Democrats and Republicans be members of the same local party.

Meanwhile, Gov. Pedro Pierluisi, a Democrat, wrote on Facebook: "Garbage is what came out of Tony Hinchcliffe's mouth, and everyone who applauded him should feel ashamed for disrespecting Puerto Rico."

González, who beat Pierluisi in their party's primary, is leading in the polls as the Nov. 5 election looms.

Sonia Pérez, a 58-year-old parking lot attendant, said she hasn't voted for a governor in years but is so angry about the comedian's comments and González's support for Trump that she plans to reject González and the other candidate representing the two main parties that have long dominated in Puerto Rico.

"It is outrageous that in the 21st century there is so much racism against Latinos when we have contributed so much to the country and it is not recognized," she said.

Disbelief and indignation

Hinchcliffe's comments also prompted reaction from Puerto Rican stars including Ricky Martin, who previously endorsed Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris. He posted a video of the crude joke and wrote, "This is what they think of us."

Outraged Puerto Ricans posted pictures of their island and its bright turquoise waters on social media with captions including: "I live where you vacation" and "Proud to be from the garbage island."

Michael Meléndez Ortiz, a 33-year-old unemployed janitor, said he and a friend thought the video was

fake at first because they were so taken aback by what the comedian said.

"We must be respected," he said. "We are good and upstanding people."

Democrats escalate attacks on Trump after comedian calls Puerto Rico 'floating island of garbage'

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON, MICHELLE L. PRICE and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats stepped up their attacks on Donald Trump on Monday, a day after a comedian opening a rally for the former president called Puerto Rico a "floating island of garbage," a comment that drew wide condemnation and highlighted the rising power of a key Latino group in the swing state of Pennsylvania.

Vice President Kamala Harris described Trump's rally Sunday at Madison Square Garden as "more vivid than usual" and said he "fans the fuel of hate" before she flew to Michigan for a campaign event. President Joe Biden called the rally "simply embarrassing." In a rare move late Sunday, the Trump campaign distanced itself from the remarks on Puerto Rico made by comedian Tony Hinchcliffe.

"The garbage he spoke about is polluting our elections and confirming just how little Donald Trump cares about Latinos specifically, about our Puerto Rican community," Eddie Moran, mayor of Reading, said at a news conference with other Puerto Rican officials.

With just over a week before Election Day, the fallout underscores the importance of Pennsylvania's 19 electoral votes and the last-minute efforts to court growing numbers of Hispanic voters, mostly from Puerto Rico, who have settled in cities west and north of Philadelphia.

Fernando Tormos-Aponte, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Pittsburgh who specializes in Puerto Rican politics and electoral organizing, said the timing of the comments may spell trouble for the Trump campaign.

"When you combine the events that took place yesterday with other grievances that Puerto Ricans have, you really are not engaging in sound political strategy," Tormos-Aponte said.

Trump did not directly mention the controversy during his appearances in Georgia Monday, instead choosing to parry another critique of him — that his former White House chief of staff reports that Trump as president said he wished he had "German generals." The Harris campaign has seized on the comment and the vice president, in a radio interview last week, agreed that Trump was "a fascist."

During a Monday night rally at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Trump instead called Harris a "fascist" and said: "I'm not a Nazi. I'm the opposite of a Nazi."

Trump also warned that Michelle Obama made a "big mistake" by being "nasty" to him in a recent speech.

During his first appearance of the day, a National Faith Summit in Powder Springs, Georgia, conservative activist Gary Bauer asked a question that included offhand praise for Trump turning Madison Square Garden "into MAGA Square Garden."

"Great night," Trump replied.

Trump's vice presidential pick, Sen. JD Vance, was asked about the insult during an appearance in Wausau, Wisconsin.

"Maybe it's a stupid racist joke, as you said. Maybe it's not. I haven't seen it. I'm not going to comment on the specifics of the joke," Vance said. "But I think that we have to stop getting so offended at every little thing."

The Harris campaign released an ad that will run online in battleground states targeting Puerto Rican voters and highlighting the comedian's remarks. The comments landed Harris a show of support from Puerto Rican music star Bad Bunny and prompted reactions from Republicans in Florida and in Puerto Rico.

Hinchcliffe also made demeaning jokes about Black people, other Latinos, Palestinians and Jews in his routine before Trump's appearance. On Monday in Pittsburgh, Harris' husband, Doug Emhoff, who is Jewish, delivered remarks on antisemitism in America, a day after the anniversary of the Tree of Life synagogue massacre.

"There is a fire in this country, and we either pour water on it or we pour gasoline on it," Emhoff said.

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Still, it was Hinchliffe's quip about Puerto Rico that drew the most attention, partly due to the geography of the election.

From Labor Day to this past weekend, both campaigns have made more visits to Pennsylvania than to Georgia, Arizona and Nevada combined, according to Associated Press tracking of the campaigns' public events. The state has some of the fastest-growing Hispanic communities, including in Reading and Allentown, where more than half of the population is Hispanic.

Pennsylvania's Latino eligible voter population has more than doubled since 2000, from 206,000 to 620,000 in 2023, according to Census Bureau figures. More than half of those are Puerto Rican eligible voters.

The comedian's remarks were played early Monday on Spanish-language radio in Pennsylvania by one of Harris' surrogates based in Allentown, Pennsylvania, who called out Trump for not issuing an apology beyond a statement from the campaign saying "this joke does not reflect the views of President Trump or the campaign."

In central Florida, U.S. Rep. Darren Soto, a Democrat whose district covers neighborhoods with large numbers of Puerto Ricans recently moved from the island, noted Monday that there are "huge numbers" of Puerto Ricans in swing states.

"We remember, and you know what, we are going to vote," Soto said at a news conference called by Puerto Rican leaders. "That's the only thing we can do right now."

Harris said Monday that none of the vitriol at the Madison Square Garden rally will support the dreams and aspirations of the American people but instead fans "the fuel of trying to divide our country."

She said Trump's event Sunday, in which speakers hurled cruel and racist insults, "highlighted the point that I've been making throughout this campaign."

"He is focused and actually fixated on his grievances, on himself and on dividing our country, and it is not in any way something that will strengthen the American family, the American worker," the Democratic presidential nominee told reporters.

Harris also said: "What he did last night is not a discovery. It is just more of the same and may be more vivid than usual. Donald Trump spends full time trying to have Americans point their finger at each other, fans the fuel of hate and division, and that's why people are exhausted with him."

Harris also spoke about her proposals for Puerto Rico, such as creating a task force to bring in private companies to upgrade the island's electrical grid.

Trump planned to return to Pennsylvania on Tuesday with a visit to Allentown after delivering remarks to reporters at his Mar-a-Lago resort in South Florida.

Harris brings in Maggie Rogers as she tries to fire up college-age voters in battleground Michigan

By JOSH BOAK and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris worked to fire up college-age supporters at a rally and concert in battleground Michigan on Monday featuring singer-songwriter Maggie Rogers, who told the crowd that doing something like voting is "greater than fear" at a time when "the future feels so uncertain."

Michigan had the highest youth voter turnout rate nationwide in 2022, with long lines stretching outside polling locations on college campuses. Democrats hope they can recreate that enthusiasm this year, with rallies such as the one Harris held in Ann Arbor, home of the University of Michigan, featuring Rogers.

"You can vote early now through Sunday, Nov. 3, and we need you to vote early, Michigan, because we have just eight days to go," the Democratic presidential nominee said at an outdoor rally in 50-degree weather. "Eight days left in one of the most consequential elections of our lifetime."

"And we will win," she said. "We have an opportunity to turn the page and chart a new and joyful way forward."

Thousands packed into Burns Park for the event featuring Rogers, who sang "Love You for a Long Time" and some of her other hits. The event also reunited Harris with her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim

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Walz. The two had not appeared together since a campaign bus tour of Georgia in August.

In between sets, Rogers said the headlines she's been seeing on her phone are "terrifying."

"The future feels so uncertain and I don't always know what to do with that feeling," she said. Rogers said taking action is greater than fear. "Voting is the key to the future."

Early in her remarks, Harris was interrupted by over a dozen pro-Palestinian protesters. Hearing the chants of "Israel bombs, Kamala pays, how many kids have you killed today?" she said, "Hey, guys, I hear you."

"On the subject of Gaza, we all want this war to end as soon as possible and to get the hostages out and I will do everything in my power to make it so," Harris said. The group was escorted out of the event shortly after their chants were drowned out by counter-chants of "Kamala."

Michigan, because of its sizable Arab American population and progressive cities like Ann Arbor, has become the epicenter of activism against Harris and Democrats because of the war between Israel and Hamas.

Throughout her speech, Harris sought to draw contrasts between herself and Republican nominee Donald Trump, describing him as unstable and unhinged, and criticizing him on women's reproductive rights and other issues.

During earlier stops in the Michigan cities of Saginaw and Warren, Harris courted working-class voters, highlighting the administration's efforts to bring more factory jobs to the state and her support for labor unions.

"I'm here, I'm here for you," she told workers after touring an International Union of Painters and Allied Trades training facility in Warren. She said Trump isn't concerned about working and middle-class people and specifically called out the way he filled the National Labor Relations Board, the federal agency that enforces labor laws in the United States, with anti-union figures, a frequent criticism levied against Trump by union members. She also hit Trump for lauding Elon Musk, the businessman and owner of the social media platform X, for discussing firing striking workers.

In Saginaw, she toured a semiconductor factory to emphasize how government funding for computer chip manufacturers could create factory jobs in Michigan. She visited days after Trump criticized the bipartisan 2022 law that provides the federal money and said he would rather just charge tariffs.

Last week, the Commerce Department said Hemlock Semiconductor would receive up to \$325 million in direct support to build a new factory making hyper-pure polysilicon, a building block for electronics and solar panels, among other technologies. The new facility would add 180 factory jobs in Michigan.

As of August, the CHIPS and Science Act had provided \$30 billion in support for 23 projects in 15 states that would add 115,000 manufacturing and construction jobs, according to the Commerce Department. That funding helped to draw in private capital and would enable the United States to produce 30% of the world's most advanced computer chips, up from 0% when the Biden-Harris administration succeeded Trump's presidency.

Still, Trump attacked the policy in a Friday night interview recorded for "The Joe Rogan Experience," a popular podcast.

"We put up billions of dollars for rich companies to come in and borrow the money and build chip companies here, and they're not going to give us the good companies anyway," the Republican nominee told the podcast. In fact, the money has gone to industry leaders such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Samsung, Micron, Intel and GlobalFoundries to open factories in the U.S.

Owner Jeff Bezos defends Washington Post's decision not to endorse as the right, 'principled' one

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Billionaire Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos on Monday defended the newspaper's decision not to endorse a presidential candidate as "right" and "principled" and pushed back against any notion that he ordered it up to protect his business interests.

That decision, announced Friday, has reportedly led to tens of thousands of people canceling their sub-

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scriptions and protests from journalists with a deep history at the newspaper. The Post's editorial staff was prepared to endorse Democrat Kamala Harris before publisher Will Lewis wrote instead that it would be better for readers to make up their own minds.

Bezos, in "a note from our owner" published Monday evening, said that editorial endorsements create a perception of bias at a time many Americans don't believe the media, and do nothing to tip the scales of an election.

"Ending them is a principled decision, and it's the right one," Bezos said.

Bezos wrote that he wished the decision to end presidential endorsements had been done earlier, "in a moment further from the election and the emotions around it. That was inadequate planning, and not some intentional strategy."

The decision has caused ripples for days

Bezos' decision caused an unprecedented spasm of anger both within journalism and outside it.

NPR reported on Monday that more than 200,000 people have canceled their subscriptions to the newspaper, citing "two people at the paper with knowledge of internal matters." A Post spokeswoman, Olivia Petersen, would not comment on the NPR report.

A loss of subscriptions of that magnitude would be a blow to a storied news outlet that is already facing financial headwinds. The Post had more than 2.5 million subscribers last year, the bulk of them digital, making it third behind The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal in circulation.

In the decision's wake, two of the newspaper's columnists quit, and three of the nine members of the editorial board resigned their posts. The Post's retired former editor, Martin Baron, who was editor when Bezos bought the paper, had denounced the decision on social media as "cowardice, with democracy as its casualty."

The Post's decision came only days after the Los Angeles Times also said it would not endorse a presidential candidate, which the newspaper has acknowledged has cost them thousands of subscribers.

Bezos insists fear of business retaliation wasn't a factor

Some critics suggested Bezos, also owner of Amazon, ordered the non-endorsement to protect his business interests, acting out of fear of retaliation if Donald Trump were elected. The Post endorsed Trump's Democratic rivals in 2016 and 2020, and Trump has often denounced critical coverage by the paper.

In his column, Bezos said people can see his wealth and business interests as one of two things — a bulwark against intimidation or a web of conflicting interests. He insisted that his views are principled and that his track record as Post owner since 2013 backs that up.

"I challenge you to find one instance in those 11 years where I have prevailed upon anyone at the Post in favor of my own interests," he wrote. "It hasn't happened."

He acknowledged that the chief executive of one of his companies, the space-exploration outfit Blue Origin, met with Trump last week on the same day the non-endorsement was announced.

"I sighed when I found out, because I knew it would provide ammunition to those who would like to frame this as anything other than a principled decision," Bezos wrote. "But the fact is, I didn't know about the meeting beforehand."

He said that while he doesn't and won't push his own personal interests, he wouldn't allow the Post to "stay on autopilot and fade into irrelevance."

"Many of the finest journalists you'll find anywhere work at The Washington Post, and they work painstakingly every day to get to the truth," he said. "They deserve to be believed."

North Korea has sent about 10,000 troops to Russia to likely fight against Ukraine, Pentagon says

By LORNE COOK and TARA COPP Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — North Korea has sent about 10,000 troops to Russia to train and likely fight against Ukraine within "the next several weeks," the Pentagon said Monday, in a move that Western leaders say

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will intensify the almost three-year war and jolt relations in the Indo-Pacific region.

Some of the North Korean soldiers have already moved closer to Ukraine, Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said, and were believed to be heading for the Kursk border region, where Russia has been struggling to push back a Ukrainian incursion.

Earlier Monday, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte confirmed recent Ukrainian intelligence reports that some North Korean military units were already in the Kursk region.

Adding thousands of North Korean soldiers to Europe's biggest conflict since World War II will pile more pressure on Ukraine's weary and overstretched army. It will also stoke geopolitical tensions in the Korean Peninsula and the wider Indo-Pacific region, including Japan and Australia, Western officials say.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is keen to reshape global power dynamics. He sought to build a counterbalance to Western influence with a summit of BRICS countries, including the leaders of China and India, in Russia last week. He has sought direct help for the war from Iran, which has supplied drones, and North Korea, which has shipped large amounts of ammunition, according to Western governments.

Rutte told reporters in Brussels that the North Korean deployment represents "a significant escalation" in Pyongyang's involvement in the conflict and "a dangerous expansion of Russia's war."

U.S. President Joe Biden also called the deployment "dangerous. Very dangerous."

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken will meet with their South Korean counterparts later this week in Washington.

Singh said Austin and Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun will discuss the deployment of North Korean soldiers in Ukraine. There will be no limitations on the use of U.S.-provided weapons on those forces, Singh said.

"If we see DPRK troops moving in towards the front lines, they are co-belligerents in the war," Singh said, using the acronym for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or North Korea. "This is a calculation that North Korea has to make."

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov shrugged off Rutte's comments and noted that Pyongyang and Moscow signed a joint security pact last June. He stopped short of confirming North Korean soldiers were in Russia.

Lavrov claimed that Western military instructors long have been covertly deployed to Ukraine to help its military use long-range weapons provided by Western partners.

Ukraine, whose defenses are under severe Russian pressure in its eastern Donetsk region, could get more bleak news from next week's U.S. presidential election. A Donald Trump victory could see key U.S. military help dwindle.

In Moscow, the Defense Ministry announced Monday that Russian troops have captured the Donetsk village of Tsukuryne — the latest settlement to succumb to the slow-moving Russian onslaught.

Rutte spoke in Brussels after a high-level South Korean delegation, including top intelligence and military officials as well as senior diplomats, briefed the alliance's 32 national ambassadors at NATO headquarters.

Rutte said NATO is "actively consulting within the alliance, with Ukraine, and with our Indo-Pacific partners," on developments. He said he was due to talk soon with South Korea's president and Ukraine's defense minister.

"We continue to monitor the situation closely," he said. He did not take questions after the statement.

The South Koreans showed no evidence of North Korean troops in Kursk, according to European officials who were present for the 90-minute exchange and spoke to The Associated Press about the security briefing on condition of anonymity.

It's unclear how or when NATO allies might respond to the North Korean involvement. They could, for example, lift restrictions that prevent Ukraine from using Western-supplied weapons for long-range strikes on Russian soil.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, citing intelligence reports, claimed last Friday that North Korean troops would be on the battlefield within days.

He previously said his government had information that some 10,000 troops from North Korea were being readied to join Russian forces fighting against his country.

Days before Zelenskyy spoke, American and South Korean officials said there was evidence North Korea had dispatched troops to Russia.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs accused in new lawsuits of sexually assaulting 10- and 17-year-old boys

NEW YORK (AP) — Sean "Diddy" Combs is accused in one of two lawsuits filed Monday of drugging and sexually assaulting a 10-year-old boy in a New York City hotel room in 2005.

The second lawsuit accuses the jailed hip-hop mogul of similarly assaulting a 17-year-old would-be contestant on the reality television series "Making the Band" in 2008.

The lawsuits filed in state Supreme Court in New York are the latest in a wave of lawsuits in which accusers allege they were sexually assaulted by Combs at parties and meetings over the last two decades.

Combs' lawyers denied the two new claims Monday and accused the plaintiffs' lawyer, Anthony Buzbee, who also represents accusers in earlier lawsuits, of seeking publicity.

"Mr. Combs and his legal team have full confidence in the facts and the integrity of the judicial process," an emailed statement said. "In court, the truth will prevail: that Mr. Combs never sexually assaulted or trafficked anyone—man or woman, adult or minor."

Combs, 54, is incarcerated in a New York City jail after pleading not guilty to federal sex trafficking charges contained in an indictment unsealed the day after his Sept. 16 arrest. Charges include allegations he coerced and abused women and silenced victims through blackmail and violence.

The 10-year-old boy who was not identified in the lawsuit was an aspiring actor and rapper who had traveled with his parents from California for meetings with music industry representatives. During what was supposed to be an audition for Combs, he was given a drug-laced soda by a Combs' associate and sexually assaulted by the Bad Boy Records founder, according to the lawsuit.

The boy eventually lost consciousness. When he awoke, Combs threatened to badly hurt the child's parents if he told anyone what happened, the filing said.

In a second lawsuit, a 17-year-old unidentified male said Combs forced him into sexual acts with Combs and a bodyguard during a three-day audition for the "Making the Band" television show, which Combs produced.

When the aspiring contestant expressed reservations, he was eliminated from the competition and unable to return to the music industry for seven years, according to the filing.

Both lawsuits were brought under New York City's Victims of Gender-Motivated Violence Protection Act, which allows survivors to bring lawsuits even if the statute of limitations has passed.

Catholic bishops call for authorities to step up against violence in southern Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Four Roman Catholic bishops in the southern Mexican state of Guerrero called Monday for civilian and military authorities to take steps to protect residents of a region rocked by violence that has left more than a dozen dead in recent days.

The violence around Tecpan de Galeana, about 65 miles (104 kilometers) up the Pacific coast from Acapulco, led authorities to suspend classes at schools there and in two neighboring municipalities on Monday.

In a statement circulated by the Catholic bishops conference of Mexico, bishops Jesús González, Leopoldo González, Joel Ocampo Gorostieta and Dagoberto Sosa said the power struggles among criminal organizations are growing stronger "because they have the complicity, tolerance or indifference of many of those who must promote and ensure justice, legality and security."

The same four bishops drew attention earlier this year when they acknowledged meeting with Mexican drug cartel bosses in a bid to negotiate a possible peace accord. The truce did not come to fruition because one of the parties allegedly did not agree.

Then-President Andrés Manuel López Obrador had said at the time that he approved of such talks.

The first month of his successor President Claudia Sheinbaum's administration has been roiled by violence. Not only in Guerrero, where the newly elected mayor of the state capital was killed and decapitated days after taking office, but also in the western state of Sinaloa and the southern state of Chiapas, where gunmen last week killed a well-known Catholic priest and Indigenous activist.

On Monday, Sheinbaum responded to a reporter's question by saying that her security policies – largely a continuation of her predecessor's – “are going to be seen little by little.”

Sheinbaum said she would not negotiate with criminals, but rather battle impunity and address the root causes of violence through social problems.

Election 2024 Latest: Trump and Harris present dueling visions of America in final campaign stretch

By The Associated Press undefined

Uncertainty reigns entering the final full week of the 2024 campaign with Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump locked in a fiercely competitive presidential contest. What happens in the coming days will be pivotal in deciding the winner of next week's election.

Trump on Sunday held a rally at Madison Square Garden where several speakers made racist and crude remarks, including comedian Tony Hinchcliffe, who described Puerto Rico as “a floating island of garbage.” Shortly after those remarks, Puerto Rican reggaeton artist Bad Bunny endorsed Harris.

Trump is holding a rally in Atlanta on Monday evening while Harris is making several campaign stops in Michigan, including a rally with singer-songwriter Maggie Rogers.

Follow the AP's Election 2024 coverage at: <https://apnews.com/hub/election-2024>.

Here's the latest:

Trump wraps his Atlanta rally with a call to vote

Trump concluded his rally at Georgia Tech in midtown Atlanta by urging his supporters to turn out to the polls however possible. He promised to defend the “hardworking patriots who built this country,” who he said could “save” the nation if they turned out for him at the ballot box.

“We will never give up, we will never back down, we will never surrender,” Trump said to the crowd. “November 5 will be the most important day in the history of our country.”

Trump spoke for just over an hour. The raucous crowd had begun thinning out just before the former president finished his remarks.

Harris to young voters: ‘You are rightly impatient for change’

Harris urged young voters Monday in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to take the baton from “generations of Americans” who preserved freedom and back her over Trump.

The pitch urged young voters, many of whom were in the audience from the nearby University of Michigan, to seize the power they want and protect a series of rights. Harris specifically called out abortion rights, a key issue for younger voters.

“Generations of Americans before us fought for freedom and now the baton is in our hands,” Harris said. “The baton is in our hands.”

“I love your generation,” Harris told the young audience. “You are rightly impatient for change.”

Trump: US towns are being ‘invaded and conquered’ by ‘blood-thirsty criminals’

Trump described the U.S. as an occupied nation due to illegal immigration, claiming undocumented migrants were more invasive and dangerous than a hostile occupying military.

“I will rescue every city and town that has been invaded and conquered,” Trump said. “You know, they have been invaded,” Trump said of towns across the country, “just as though a foreign enemy was invading, a military was invading, and probably just as vicious or more vicious,” the former president said.

“And we will put these blood-thirsty criminals in jail or kick them out of our country,” Trump said.

He once again promised to seek the death penalty for any unlawful migrant who has killed an American, drawing cheers from the crowd.

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Pro-Palestinian protestors interrupt Harris rally

Harris was confronted by roughly 30 pro-Palestinian protestors at her event in Ann Arbor. The Democratic nominee, hearing the chants, told the protestors, "Hey, guys, I hear you."

The group was chanting, "Israel bombs, Kamala pays, how many kids have you killed today?"

After Harris acknowledged the group, the vice president said, "On the subject of Gaza, we all want this war to end as soon as possible and to get the hostages out and I will do everything in my power to make it so."

The group was escorted out of the event shortly after their chants were drowned out by chants of "Kamala."

Michigan, because of its sizable Arab American population and progressive cities like Ann Arbor, has become the epicenter of activism against Harris and Democrats because of U.S. weapons sales to Israel.

Walz: 'Our team is running like everything's on the line'

Harris' running mate, Gov. Tim Walz, sought to comfort Democrats on Monday in Michigan by highlighting how hard the party's presidential campaign is working a few days before Election Day.

The event is a rare rally featuring both Harris and Walz, who often headline separate events.

"Eight days til the election and our team is running like everything's on the line," Walz said.

Walz directed part of his speech directly at men. "All of you who have that woman in your life that you love ... Their lives are at stake in this election," the Democratic governor said. "Be very clear about that."

Walz, a former high school football coach, quoted famed University of Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler, telling the crowd, "The team, the team, the team." The quote comes from a speech Schembechler gave in 1983 about his approach to coaching.

"Boy," said Walz, "do we have the right team."

Arab American official rallies for Harris in Ann Arbor

Wayne County's highest-ranking Arab American official, Assad Turfe, spoke at a rally for Kamala Harris in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Turfe endorsed Harris in August and has been working since to ease tensions in Michigan's large metro Detroit community.

"The past year has been unimaginable for so many people in my community. We are mourning loved ones who have died in Gaza and Lebanon," said Turfe, who is from Dearborn, where nearly half of the city's 110,000 residents are Muslim.

"We are desperate for a president who sees us, who understands us and who will give voice to our pain," Turfe said. "And Ann Arbor, I'm here tonight because I know without a doubt that Kamala Harris is that leader."

Turfe's appearance comes days after Trump had Michigan Muslim leaders onstage at a campaign rally in Novi, Michigan.

Trump rebukes Nazi comparisons and calls Harris 'a fascist'

Trump dismissed claims that he or his supporters were comparable to Nazis.

"I'm not a Nazi. I'm the opposite of a Nazi," Trump told the crowd assembled at Georgia Tech. "Now the way they talk is so disgusting and just horrible."

After his Sunday evening rally at Madison Square Garden drew widespread criticism from opponents for crude and racist remarks from several speakers, the event drew comparisons to a 1939 Nazi rally in the same venue.

"My father — I had a great father, tough guy. He used to always say, never use the word Nazi. Never use that word."

He criticized Harris for "using the f-word." Following comments from Trump's former chief of staff John Kelly saying the former president met the definition of a fascist, Harris said she agreed with the assessment.

Trump said of Harris: "She's a fascist, okay? She's a fascist."

Maggie Rogers: 'In these next 8 days, you can fight back against the fear of Donald Trump'

Rogers performed five songs, including "Love You For A Long Time," "Back In My Body" and "Don't Forget

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Me" at Harris' rally in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"As I'm standing here with you today, I can't ignore the headlines I have been seeing on my phone any longer," Rogers said. "It is terrifying. ... I don't always know what to do with that feeling but there is something to me that is greater than fear, and that is action. ... Voting is the key to the future."

"In these next eight days, you can fight back against the fear of Donald Trump and everything he creates. You can take action against his darkness, you can choose the light," she added.

Rogers is an ardent abortion rights supporter. After the Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade, she wrote online that "abortion is healthcare." She also invited a series of nonprofits, including Planned Parenthood, to organize outside her most recent tour.

Trump lashes out at Michelle Obama

Taking the stage at his Atlanta rally, the former president quickly took aim at the former first lady.

"You know who's nasty? Michelle Obama," Trump says at his Atlanta rally. "That was a big mistake that she made."

"I always tried to be so nice and respectful," Trump said, claiming that she had "opened a little bit of something," without further explanation.

Obama spoke at a political rally with Harris over the weekend. She will headline an Atlanta rally for her nonpartisan voter engagement group on Tuesday.

Maggie Rogers takes the stage at Harris rally in Ann Arbor

The singer opened with her song "Love You for a Long Time."

Between songs, Rogers said that she took a break from her tour to perform at the rally "because nothing is more important than this election right now."

Rogers is the latest musical guest to appear with Harris, who welcomed Beyoncé to a rally in Houston on Friday.

The theme of Trump's Atlanta rally: protecting women

The Trump campaign zeroes in on supporting and protecting women with its own spin, focusing on the threats potentially facing American women — and how Trump would defend them. The message stands in contrast to how Democrats discuss women's issues, which often first highlight topics like abortion.

Two close aides to the former president, attorney Alina Habba and the campaign's national press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, spoke at the start of the rally. Stephen Miller, a longtime Trump confidante, rallied the crowd by promising how Trump would protect American women from violent criminals and illegal immigration.

The Trump campaign also released an ad featuring an endorsement from the mother of Jocelyn Nungaray, a 12-year-old girl who was killed by two suspected gang members who were in the country illegally.

Voter Voice: Musical appearances at Harris rally are 'cherry on top'

University of Michigan graduate student Haley Boylan said that while she is attending Kamala Harris' rally in Ann Arbor to support the vice president, musical guest Maggie Rogers' appearance is a "cherry on top."

"How cool is it to see hopefully the future president of the United States and a great music guest at once?" said Boylan.

Boylan said that having special guests like Rogers is "a great way to get young people to come out, especially in these college towns."

"It's more drive for people to come out and hopefully just for politics in general, but it's exciting to have that additional bonus as well," said Boylan.

Stephen Miller stirs crowd with nativist rhetoric

Trump adviser Stephen Miller, one of the architects of the former president's immigration policies, is stirring a Trump rally crowd in Atlanta by blasting Harris as solely responsible for an "open border" that he says led directly to murders of U.S. citizens.

Under Harris, he says, "It is a certainty that American wives, American daughters ... that American blood will be spilled ... that American children will have their whole future ripped away from them."

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Vance calls Madison Square Garden rally 'a celebration of America'

Sen. JD Vance defended the Trump campaign's Madison Square Garden rally on Monday after critics condemned the racist remarks of some speakers and equated the event to the 1939 neo-Nazi rally that took place in the same venue.

"It was a celebration of America," Vance said during a political rally in Wausau, WI. He dismissed claims that the event was racist or featured discriminatory language.

"They decided to compare us to literal Nazis for gathering in Madison Square Garden and celebrating the United States of America. These are the same people, of course, who call us racists for wanting to secure the southern border," Vance told a crowd.

"They're the same people who have no plans, no ideas and no solutions," Vance said, urging the crowd to vote for Trump and himself and "reject ... ridiculous name-calling over actual governance."

The White House could have a mezuzah on its doorpost

When Harris was sworn into office as vice president, she and Emhoff placed a mezuzah on the VP's residence in Washington. Emhoff says if Harris is elected, he would look to see if one could be placed in the White House.

"Three months from now, the White House residence could – I have to check first — could have a mezuzah on its doorpost," Emhoff said.

Emhoff says he and Harris are committed to battling antisemitism

Second gentleman Doug Emhoff says voters have a choice of whether to empower the voices fighting antisemitism or those fomenting it — declaring that he and Kamala are committed to "extinguishing this epidemic of hate."

Delivering remarks on antisemitism in America Monday in Pittsburgh, a day after the anniversary of the Tree of Life synagogue massacre, Emhoff says, "There is a fire in this country, and we either pour water on it or we pour gasoline on it."

"One thing we know about antisemitism is that whenever chaos and cruelty are given a green light, Jew-hatred has historically not far behind," Emhoff says. "And that matters so much today because Donald Trump is nothing if not an agent of chaos and cruelty."

Emhoff credits his wife for urging him to "use my voice" on the issue and says she has an "unwavering" commitment to support Israel. "Kamala feels it in her kishkes." He contrasted her commitment with Trump, who according to former aides has praised Nazis.

Harris says Trump 'doesn't understand the importance of unions, at all'

Harris made the comment while standing before a few union members at a training facility in the key Michigan county. "He gives a lot of talk about what he cares about, but on the issues, specifically for what is good for unions and union labor, he has been awful."

Harris specifically called out the way Trump filled the National Labor Relations Board, the federal agency that enforced labor laws in the United States, with anti-union figures, a frequent attack levied against Trump by union members. She also hit Trump for lauding ally Elon Musk, the businessman and owner of the social media platform X, for discussing firing striking workers.

"You're here, he's not," a worker said to Harris after her critiques of Trump.

Union workers are important in a series of key swing states. While Democrats have long enjoyed the support of union leadership, Trump has improved Republican's standing with rank-and-file union workers in both 2016 and 2020.

Trump returns to a defining location on the 2024 campaign trail

Trump's Atlanta rally this evening is being held at McCamish Pavilion, across the street from the CNN studios where Trump and President Biden had their campaign-defining debate just four months ago.

McCamish housed thousands of credentialed media that night, along with the "spin room" floor where surrogates come to insist their candidate won. The spin room turned out to be no contest that night, though, after Biden's whispering, disjointed performance highlighted the 81-year-old president's age and led ultimately to him dropping out of the race.

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Trump's top aides were on McCamish floor that night crowing about what happened on the debate stage and predicting a romp over Biden, only to have Democrats opt instead for nominating Vice President Harris.

Trump praises Christians but negs them as not 'very solid voters'

Trump talked about his experience with faith and fatherhood at the National Faith Advisory Board summit. Trump recounted his upbringing in New York, saying that he at times enjoyed religious ceremonies but broadly sidestepped questions of his own faith.

Trump praised conservative Christians as a key part of his administration and said that a revamped office of faith would have a direct line into the Oval Office. He also promised to repeal the Johnson Amendment, which bars 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations from supporting or opposing political candidates.

"I shouldn't scold anyone, but Christians aren't known for being very solid voters," Trump said to the crowd.

"We have to save religion in this country. No, honestly religion is under threat," he warned.

Greene mangles New York City history to brag on Trump

Marjorie Taylor Greene, the Georgia congresswoman and Trump loyalist, employed quite the exaggeration to brag on Trump at the Georgia Tech rally.

Having returned from Trump's rally in New York City, she described Trump as "the man who built that city."

Trump's first real estate development projects, with his father's company, came in the 1970s. He opened Trump Tower in 1983. Many of New York City's signature skyscrapers predate this era, including the Woolworth Building (1913), the Empire State Building (1931) and the World Trade Center (dedicated in 1973).

Marjorie Taylor Greene pushes back on 'fascist' and 'Nazi' labels

Conspiracy theorist and U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene is pushing back at Donald Trump's harshest critics.

"We are fed up being called Nazis and fascists," Greene, R-Ga., said at Trump's rally on the Georgia Tech campus in Atlanta. "Those are absolute lies, and we're not going to take it any more." Greene suggested Trump supporters file a class-action lawsuit against media and others that have circulated those labels about the former president and his supporters in the 2024 election.

She did not mention that Trump has many times referred to Harris as a "communist" and "fascist."

She blasted Harris and all Democrats as incompetent, arguing their policies don't work "and neither did their stupid vaccine" to combat COVID-19. Greene is among the loudest anti-vaccine conspiracy theorists.

Democrats hope to dissuade Puerto Ricans from backing Trump

Democrats are sharing and condemning the racist comment made by a comedian at Trump's New York rally. They're hoping to dissuade Puerto Ricans nationwide from voting for the former president, but the impact could be particularly potent in Pennsylvania.

The Census Bureau has found Puerto Ricans are the largest detailed Hispanic group in the commonwealth. A study by the University of California-Los Angeles put the figure above 470,000 as of 2018.

Harris' new ad centers on racist Trump rally remark

Harris' campaign will begin running a new ad condemning the racist joke calling Puerto Rico "a floating island of garbage" told yesterday at Trump's rally by a comedian.

The Harris ad opens with audio of the joke, before Harris says, "I will never forget what Donald Trump did. He abandoned the island and offered nothing more than paper towels and insults," referring to the then-president's response to Hurricane Maria in 2017. When Trump visited the island after the deadly hurricane, he threw rolls of paper towels into a crowd of people.

"Puerto Ricans deserve better," Harris says on camera. "As president, I will always fight for you and your families and together we can chart a new way forward," she adds.

The Harris campaign says the ad will run on digital platforms in all battleground states, but will specifically target zip codes with high concentrations of Latino voters.

Trump takes the stage at the National Faith Advisory Board

"That is a lot of religion out there. That's pretty. That's pretty good. We like that," the former president said after applause. The National Faith Advisory Board summit is being held in Powder Springs, Georgia.

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Republicans ask US Supreme Court to block some provisional ballots in Pennsylvania

Republicans on Monday asked the U.S. Supreme Court for an emergency order in Pennsylvania that could result in thousands of votes not being counted in this year's election in the battleground state.

Just over a week before the election, the court is being asked to step into a dispute over provisional ballots cast by Pennsylvania voters whose mail ballots are rejected for not following technical procedures in state law.

The state's high court ruled 4-3 that elections officials must count provisional ballots cast by voters whose mail-in ballots were voided because they arrived without mandatory secrecy envelopes.

The election fight arrived at the Supreme Court the same day Virginia sought the justices' intervention in a dispute over purging voter registrations.

In their high-court filing, state and national Republicans asked for an order putting the state court ruling on hold or, barring that, requiring the provisional ballots be segregated and not included in the official vote count while the legal fight plays out.

Walz slams rhetoric used at Trump rally: 'It's about hate, it's about division'

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz told a Wisconsin audience Tuesday that the rhetoric used during former President Donald Trump's rally at New York's Madison Square Garden on Sunday highlighted the antagonistic tone of the Republican campaign's closing message.

"Their closing argument last night was clear to the rest of the world: It's about hate, it's about division," said the Democratic nominee for vice president, speaking at Copilot Coffee Co. in downtown Waukesha, Wisconsin.

The rally, which saw thousands of Trump supporters at one of the most iconic arenas in the country, was filled with crude and racist insults.

Democrats have lambasted the remarks, particularly one comment where a speaker called Puerto Rico a "floating island of garbage."

Walz said he and Harris offer "a new way forward" and lamented that Trump's version of the Republican Party is "fundamentally different" from former Republican presidents like Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan.

Police say fires set at ballot boxes in Oregon and Washington are connected; 'suspect vehicle' ID'd

SEATTLE — Police say they have identified a "suspect vehicle" connected to incendiary devices that set fires in ballot drop boxes in Oregon and Washington state early Monday.

Surveillance images captured a Volvo stopping at a drop box in Portland, Oregon, just before security personnel nearby discovered a fire inside the box.

That fire damaged three ballots inside, while officials say a fire at a drop box in nearby Vancouver, Washington, early Monday destroyed hundreds of ballots.

Authorities said at a news conference in Portland that enough material from the incendiary devices was recovered to show that the two fires Monday were connected — and that they were also connected to an Oct. 8 incident, when an incendiary device was placed at a different ballot drop box in Vancouver.

Speaker Johnson appears to confirm Trump's 'secret' plan

House Speaker Mike Johnson appears to be confirming Trump's claim that Republicans have a "secret" plan to win the election.

"By definition, a secret is not to be shared — and I don't intend to share this one," House Speaker Mike Johnson said in a statement.

The Republican speaker, who led a key legal challenge to the 2020 election, has worked to stay close to Trump and has been hesitant to contradict him. At his rally in New York on Sunday Trump said they have a "little secret" in the House that will have a "big impact."

The statement was first reported by the New York Times.

Harris says her administration will 'reassess' federal jobs requiring a college degree

Kamala Harris, campaigning in Michigan on Monday, told an audience at a semiconductor facility in

Saginaw County that on "day one" of her possible presidency she will reassess which federal jobs require a college degree.

The comment is both a policy proposal and a political bridge.

One of the clearest political divides in the nation over the past few presidential cycles has been between college-educated and non-college-educated voters, with Democrats acknowledging they need to cut into Donald Trump's support among the latter group.

"One of the things immediately is to reassess federal jobs, and I have already started looking at it, to look at which ones don't require a college degree," she said. "Because here is the thing: That's not the only qualification for a qualified worker."

Earlier in her speech, Harris said, "We need to get in front of this idea that only high-skilled jobs require college degrees."

Fires set in drop boxes destroy hundreds of ballots in Washington and damage 3 in Oregon

SEATTLE — Authorities — including the FBI — are investigating after early morning fires were set in ballot drop boxes in Portland, Oregon, and in nearby Vancouver, Washington.

Hundreds of ballots were destroyed in the Vancouver fire. In Portland, only three ballots were damaged after an incendiary device triggered a fire suppression system inside a drop box. The drop box that was targeted across the Columbia River in Vancouver also had a fire suppression system, but Clark County Auditor Greg Kimsey says that for unknown reasons it failed work effectively.

Vancouver is in Washington's 3rd Congressional District, the site of what is expected to be one of the closest U.S. House races in the country, between first-term Democratic Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez and Republican challenger Joe Kent.

Read more about the ballots that were destroyed

'We cannot rest on tradition'

Vice President Kamala Harris told an audience at a semiconductor facility in Saginaw County, Michigan, on Monday that their work represents "the best of who we are as a country," balancing the traditions of the nation and the desire to push technology forward.

"When we understand who we are as a nation, we take great pride in being a leader on so many things. And we have a tradition of that," she said at the Hemlock Semiconductor facility in central Michigan. "But I think that what we know as Americans is that we cannot rest on tradition."

Harris added: "We have to constantly be on top of what is happening, what is current, and investing in the industries of the future, as well as honoring the traditions and the industries that have built up America's economy."

Hemlock Semiconductor recently received a \$325 million federal grant for a new factory.

Trump will speak to reporters at Mar-A-Lago on Tuesday

The Republican nominee for president will deliver what his campaign is calling "remarks to the press" at 10 a.m. at his private club and residence in Palm Beach, Florida. It is unclear whether the former president will take questions.

Americans in Puerto Rico can't vote for US president. Their anger at Trump is shaping the race

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A comic calling Puerto Rico garbage before a packed Donald Trump rally in New York was the latest humiliation for an island territory that has long suffered from mistreatment, residents said Monday in expressions of fury that could affect the presidential election.

Puerto Ricans cannot vote in general elections despite being U.S. citizens, but they can exert a powerful influence with relatives on the mainland. Phones across the island of 3.2 million people were ringing minutes after the speaker derided the U.S. territory Sunday night, and they still buzzed Monday.

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Biden criticizes Musk's \$1M giveaway as 'inappropriate'

President Joe Biden said it was "totally inappropriate" for Elon Musk to pledge to give away \$1 million a day to voters for signing his political action committee's petition. The billionaire and owner of the social platform X has gone all-in on Republican Donald Trump.

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

"I think it's totally inappropriate," he said in Delaware where he just voted.

Since Labor Day, the campaigns have made more visits to Pennsylvania than to other states

The Democratic and Republican presidential tickets are heading into the final week of campaigning with a familiar strategy: Rally supporters in the handful of states that will decide the race.

Pennsylvania, Michigan, North Carolina and Wisconsin have received the most attention from Kamala Harris, Donald Trump and their running mates since the Labor Day weekend — the point when campaigning traditionally intensifies.

The Democratic ticket has been more active over the past two weeks, according to Associated Press tracking of the campaigns' public events.

From Oct. 14 through this past weekend, Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, held 42 campaign events over the seven swing states while Trump and his running mate, Sen. JD Vance, held 25.

There has been a stark contrast in Wisconsin: Harris and Walz visited the state eight times between Oct. 14 and Sunday, compared to just one visit by Trump and Vance during that span. The Republicans are headed back to Wisconsin this week, including a rally in Milwaukee.

The AP tracker shows that from Labor Day through this past weekend both campaigns have made more visits to Pennsylvania (43) than to Georgia, Arizona and Nevada combined (40). See where the campaigns have been traveling with this AP interactive map.

Biden calls Trump's New York rally 'simply embarrassing'

In response to Donald Trump's New York rally where speakers made crude and racist insults, President Joe Biden said: "It's simply embarrassing. That's why this election is so important."

Biden was speaking after he voted Monday in Delaware.

"Most of the presidential scholars I've spoken to talk about the single most consequential thing about a president is character. Character," Biden said. "And he puts that in question every time he opens his mouth."

Biden has voted in the 2024 election

President Joe Biden waited in line for about 40 minutes Monday before he cast his ballot.

He handed his identification to the election worker, who had him sign and then announced: "Joseph Biden now voting."

As Biden voted behind a black drape, some first-time voters were announced and the room erupted in cheers for them.

Alaska Sen. Murkowski says neither Trump nor Harris will get her vote

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, an Alaska Republican and outspoken critic of former President Donald Trump, says she won't vote for him or Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, in the general election.

"I want to vote for somebody and not against someone," she told the Anchorage Daily News. She added she was disappointed with the choices from both major parties.

Murkowski voted to impeach Trump after the Jan. 6 insurrection and also called for him to resign. She said she didn't vote for him in 2016 or 2020.

"I am going to be voting for someone and hopefully I will feel good about that, even knowing that that individual probably is not going to be in the winner column," Murkowski said.

Murkowski declined to say who would get her vote.

There are six other candidates on the Alaska ballot for president, including Robert F. Kennedy Jr. even though he dropped out of the race in August.

Biden is waiting in line to cast his ballot

When President Joe Biden arrived at the polling place at the Delaware Department of Elections on Mon-

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day, there was a long line of people lined up waiting to vote.

He chatted with some and was pushing an older woman in a wheelchair who was ahead of him in line. They were all casting ballots early for the Nov. 5 election.

Harris: Trump is 'fixated on his grievances, on himself, and on dividing our country'

Kamala Harris said Donald Trump's rally at Madison Square helped prove her point about the stakes of the election.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Harris said the Sunday event "really highlighted the point that I've been making throughout this campaign," which is that Trump is "fixated on his grievances, on himself, and on dividing our country, and it is not in any way something that will strengthen the American family, the American worker."

Harris plans to deliver her closing argument on Tuesday in Washington.

"There's a big difference between he and I," she said.

President Joe Biden is heading to cast his ballot

"Let's go vote," he told reporters Monday after breakfast with Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester, who has served as Delaware's lone House member since 2017 and is running for U.S. Senate.

Trump to hold his election night party at Palm Beach Convention Center

Donald Trump will be holding his election night party in Florida at the Palm Beach Convention Center.

The venue, announced by his campaign on Monday, is not far from his Mar-a-Lago club and residence.

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

Biden breakfasts in Wilmington with Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester

President Joe Biden swung by a breakfast spot near his home outside Wilmington, Delaware, with a longtime ally who is vying to represent Delaware in the U.S. Senate.

The president and Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester headed to The Legend Restaurant & Bakery in New Castle. Blunt Rochester, who has served as Delaware's lone House member since 2017, is trying to become the first Black woman elected to represent Delaware in the U.S. Senate.

Biden formally endorsed Blunt Rochester in a video released on Sunday evening by the lawmaker's campaign. He is set to cast his early-vote ballot later Monday before heading back to Washington.

Harris says she'd take a cognitive test if asked to

As former President Donald Trump continues to attack Vice President Kamala Harris with deeply personal insults, he has also suggested she should take a cognitive test.

In an interview with CBS News, Harris said "sure" when asked whether she'd take such a test.

"I would challenge him to take the same one," Harris said. "I think he actually is increasingly unstable and unhinged and has resorted to name-calling because he actually has no plan for the American people."

It's the same line Trump used when President Joe Biden was still running for president as questions swirled about the 81-year-old's age and mental acuity following his disastrous debate performance in June.

Trump is 78 and is now the oldest candidate to run for office.

Biden plans to cast an early ballot on Monday

President Joe Biden plans to cast an early ballot on Monday near his home outside Wilmington, Delaware,

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according to the White House.

For all but a few years since 1970, Biden has held office or has been running for one during election season. But this year, his hopes lie with a newer generation of Democrats, including three on the Delaware ballot looking to make history.

Vice President Kamala Harris, who Biden endorsed after dropping out of the presidential race in July, is vying to become the first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to serve as president.

Meanwhile, state Sen. Sarah McBride is looking to become the first openly transgender candidate to be elected to the U.S. House.

McBride is aiming to succeed Democrat Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester, who is looking to become Delaware's first Black woman to win the U.S. Senate seat. She has served as Delaware's lone representative in the House since 2017.

Biden on Sunday evening formally endorsed Blunt Rochester, cutting a video for her campaign in which he called her "Delaware through and through."

Harris highlights costs of living, abortion rights and border security as 3 immediate priorities

Kamala Harris says she has three immediate legislative priorities when she takes office, should she be elected president.

In an interview with CBS News, Harris said her first priority will be reducing costs for Americans with an expanded child tax credit and efforts to reduce the cost of groceries and make homes more affordable. The second is to work to restore abortion rights protections and the third will be to work on passage of a border security bill.

Harris and Republican Donald Trump are in a tight race for the White House.

Harris heads to Michigan

Kamala Harris will focus on manufacturing jobs Monday as she heads back to Michigan.

She's set to visit Corning's Hemlock Semiconductor Next Gen Facility. The Saginaw company received a \$325 million investment from the CHIPS and Science Act, legislation passed by the Biden administration.

She's then touring a labor training facility in Macomb County. The election is in a week and one day, and Harris is hoping to appeal to many different voting blocs in the battleground states, in a dead-heat race with Donald Trump. On Tuesday she'll give a closing speech in Washington.

Here's what to watch in the final full week of the presidential campaign

Uncertainty reigns entering the final full week of the 2024 campaign with Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump locked in a fiercely competitive presidential contest. What happens in the coming days will be pivotal in deciding the winner.

Fires set in drop boxes destroy hundreds of ballots in Washington and damage 3 in Oregon

By GENE JOHNSON and CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Incendiary devices were set off Monday at two ballot drop boxes — one in Portland and another in nearby Vancouver, Washington — destroying hundreds of ballots in what one official called a "direct attack on democracy" about a week before a heated Election Day.

The early morning fire at the drop box in Portland was extinguished quickly thanks to a suppression system inside the box as well as a nearby security guard, police said, and just three ballots were damaged there.

But within a few hours, another fire was discovered at a transit center drop box across the Columbia River in Vancouver. Vancouver is the biggest city in Washington's 3rd Congressional District, the site of what is expected to be one of the closest U.S. House races in the country, between first-term Democratic Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez and Republican challenger Joe Kent.

The ballot box in Vancouver also had a fire suppression system inside, but that failed to prevent hundreds of ballots from burning, said Greg Kimsey, the longtime elected auditor in Clark County, Washington,

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which includes Vancouver. He urged voters who dropped their ballots in the transit center box after 11 a.m. Saturday to contact his office for a replacement ballot.

"Heartbreaking," Kimsey said. "It's a direct attack on democracy."

The office will be increasing how frequently it collects ballots and changing collection times to the evening, Kimsey said, to keep the ballot boxes from remaining full of ballots overnight when similar crimes are considered more likely to occur.

The county also decided late Monday to hire workers through a staffing agency to monitor all of its drop boxes 24 hours a day until the election is over, Kimsey said. The workers will have instructions to simply observe the ballot boxes and not confront anyone. Instead, they will call 911 if they see anything suspicious, he said.

Ballot drop boxes have faced increasing criticism from Republicans and have been the focus of baseless right-wing conspiracy theories in recent years, tied to former President Donald Trump's lie that the 2020 election was stolen from him. An Associated Press survey of state election officials across the U.S. found that there were no widespread issues with drop boxes in 2020, and none that could have affected the results.

Six states have banned ballot drop boxes since 2020: Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina and South Dakota, according to research by the Voting Rights Lab, which advocates for expanded voting access. Other states have restricted their use, including Ohio and Iowa, which now permits only one drop box per county, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

Washington and Oregon, which are both vote-by-mail states, have long used ballot drop boxes.

Authorities said at a news conference in Portland that enough material from the incendiary devices was recovered to show that the two fires Monday were connected — and that they were also connected to an Oct. 8 incident, when an incendiary device was placed at a different ballot drop box in Vancouver. No ballots were damaged in that incident.

Surveillance images captured a Volvo pulling up to a drop box in Portland, Oregon, just before security personnel nearby discovered a fire inside the box on Monday, Portland Police Bureau spokesman Mike Benner told a news conference. The incendiary devices were attached to the outside of the boxes.

The FBI was also investigating.

The fire suppression systems inside the ballot drop boxes in Washington and Oregon were designed to activate when the temperature inside reaches a certain point, coating ballots with a fire-suppressing powder.

The system appeared to have worked in the Portland drop box, and security staffers were nearby to help put out the fire. Multnomah County Elections Director Tim Scott said the county has contracted with private security officers to have "roving patrols" that drive around the county 24 hours a day and "put eyes" on all drop boxes.

He said one of the guards was at the county elections office, heard what sounded like a blast — likely the activation of the fire suppression system — and called police.

For unknown reasons, the system failed to prevent the destruction of hundreds of ballots in Vancouver.

Gluesenkamp Perez said in a statement that she is requesting an overnight law enforcement presence posted at all ballot drop boxes in Clark County through Election Day.

"Southwest Washington cannot risk a single vote being lost to arson and political violence," her statement said.

In a video posted on the social platform X, Kent also condemned the "cowardly act of terrorism." He said he trusted law enforcement to find out who was responsible, urged voters to make sure their ballots are counted and said he continues to have faith in the ballot drop box system in Washington.

"No one should be intimidated," Kent said.

Voters were encouraged to check their ballot status online at www.votewa.gov to track its return status. If a returned ballot is not marked as "received," voters can print a replacement ballot or visit their local elections department for a replacement, the Secretary of State's office said.

John Burnside, 68, said he and his wife dropped off their ballots at the Vancouver box Sunday afternoon and learned about the fire the next morning on the news. He checked the status of their ballots, did not

see that they had been received by elections officials, and requested new ones.

They now plan to either mail their ballots or deliver them in person, he said.

"I'm certainly in favor of in-person voting simply because you know your ballot goes through right then," he said. "It may be extra work but it does add a level of security."

Officials in Portland were able to identify the three voters whose ballots were damaged and planned to contact them and provide replacement ballots. The Multnomah County sheriff's office said it would be increasing uniformed and plainclothes patrols around the drop boxes.

Monday afternoon, voters dropped off their ballots at the new drop box that replaced the one that had been set on fire in Portland. Pam Parnell said the incident shocked her.

"It just seems so wrong," said Parnell, who was dropping off her ballot. "We've worked for over 200 years to have a country and have voting."

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek said in a statement: "Voter intimidation or any criminal act to undermine the upcoming election is un-American and will not be tolerated."

Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs said the state would not tolerate threats or acts of violence meant to derail voting.

"I strongly denounce any acts of terror that aim to disrupt lawful and fair elections in Washington state," he said.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said state and local elections officials were fully dedicated to ensuring every vote is counted accurately.

"This was a violent attack on democracy, and we will do everything to keep our election system strong and secure in Washington," Inslee said in a statement. "There will be 24-hour enhanced security around ballot drop-off locations."

In Phoenix last week, officials said roughly five ballots were destroyed and others damaged when a fire was set in a drop box at a U.S. Postal Service station there.

Biden looks to maintain relevance in political conversation in final sprint to Election Day

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

NEW CASTLE, Del. (AP) — As President Joe Biden's 50 years in elected office near an end, he doesn't appear content to quietly exit the political stage.

With a week to go before Election Day, Biden is intent on promoting his administration's record and making the case for Americans to support Vice President Kamala Harris and other Democrats on the ballot — whether they want him or not.

He's determined to keep up a busy schedule during the final sprint to Nov. 5 even as many in his party appear to be keeping their distance from him.

Biden, in an exchange with reporters Monday, played down the fact that he hasn't campaigned side-by-side with Harris since their joint Labor Day campaign appearance in Pittsburgh and that he's held few public campaign appearances with Democrats in competitive races.

"I've done a lot of surrogate stuff, and the fact of the matter is that I've also had to continue to be president at the same time," Biden told reporters after casting his early vote on Monday in his home state of Delaware.

Biden said that he and Harris still "talk all the time." He added that he has also made several visits to battleground states in his official capacity in recent months, and he plans to do more campaigning in the days ahead in Pennsylvania, including his childhood hometown of Scranton.

Officials say Biden also plans to attend a campaign-related event in Maryland on Tuesday with U.S. Senate candidate Angela Alsobrooks, conduct a series of campaign calls on Thursday, and return to battleground Pennsylvania on Friday to spotlight Democratic support for unions.

Biden said the Harris campaign is asking him to go "where they think I should be to help them the most."

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He had pledged to campaign hard for Democrats after dropping out. Yet few Democrats have invited him to campaign by their side since he ended his reelection bid.

The dynamic has meant the outgoing president has had to pick his spots carefully as he tries to remain a relevant voice in a chaotic political season.

Trump on Monday took to his social media platform to mock Harris and Democrats for keeping Biden at arm's length.

"The Democrats have not only greatly demeaned and embarrassed Crooked Joe Biden, but now they're demanding that he be nowhere near Lyin' Kamala's Campaign," Trump said on Truth Social. "It's not good enough that they took the Presidency away from him, just like you take candy away from a baby, but now they have to further embarrass him by telling him to, 'GET LOST.'"

To be certain, not all Democrats are avoiding Biden.

Two Democratic Senate candidates, Pennsylvania incumbent Sen. Bob Casey and Delaware Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester, campaigned with Biden this month. Both have deep ties to the president.

Biden on Monday stopped at a breakfast spot near his home outside Wilmington with Rochester, a longtime ally who is vying to become the first Black woman to represent Delaware in the U.S. Senate.

The night before their breakfast, he formally endorsed Blunt Rochester in a short video that her campaign released on social media. Biden, in his endorsement, praised Blunt Rochester for being "Delaware through and through."

The four-term House lawmaker has known Biden for about 30 years and is heavily favored to win the seat in the Democratic-dominated Delaware.

At several moments over the last few weeks, Biden has used campaign trips in friendly settings to troll Trump.

At a Pittsburgh union hall on Saturday, Biden wound through a mostly standard campaign speech before veering into a sharp attack on Trump backer Elon Musk. He accused the billionaire tech mogul of working illegally when he first came to the United States to attend college.

The "wealthiest man in the world is now his ally, right?" Biden said, referring to a recent Washington Post report questioning Musk's status when he was a student at Stanford University. "Well, that wealthiest man in the world turned out to be illegal worker here when he was here" as a student.

Musk, who was born in South Africa, denies the allegation.

Last week, during a stop at a New Hampshire campaign office to meet Democratic volunteers, Biden borrowed some of Trump's sharp rhetoric.

"We've got to lock him up," Biden told the volunteers, before quickly amending his comments to note he meant that Democrats need to "politically lock him up."

Blunt Rochester joined Biden on Monday as he waited in line for about 40 minutes at a busy early voting location not far from his home.

Biden thought he had one more election in him before deciding to end his campaign in July because of Democrats' growing worries about his chances of defeating Trump.

He chatted with voters as he waited in line to cast his ballot, and helped push an older woman in a wheelchair who was ahead of him. He handed his identification to an election worker, who had him sign a form and announced: "Joseph Biden now voting."

Outside the polling place, Biden told reporters that the moment was more "sweet" than bitter. He expressed confidence when asked if he thought Democrats — including Harris -- would win.

"I think we will," he said.

GOP works to turn out pro-Trump Jewish voters in swing states to trim Democrats' edge

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

WEST BLOOMFIELD, Mich. (AP) — Rachel Weinberg calls herself a religious Jew first, then a proud American. She said she has only one choice for president: Donald Trump.

"I don't like everything he says," the 72-year-old retired preschool teacher from Michigan said after volunteer canvassers for the Republican Jewish Coalition knocked on her door Sunday. "But I vote for Israel. It is our life. I support Israel. Trump supports Israel with his mouth and his actions."

Weinberg's home in West Bloomfield, in vote-rich Oakland County, was among more than 20 that the Republican Jewish Coalition was visiting that morning. She has voted for Trump in previous elections as well.

The door-to-door outreach to Jewish voters with a history of backing Republicans is part of a new effort the group is undertaking this year in five presidential battleground states in hopes of boosting Trump over Democrat Kamala Harris in the Nov. 5 election. Although surveys show that Jews vote decidedly Democratic, the Republican Jewish Coalition is hoping that the door-knocking will peel off enough votes to make a difference in an election year when the war between Israel and Hamas has stoked debate and provoked division.

About 7 in 10 Jewish voters nationally backed Democrat Joe Biden in 2020, while about 3 in 10 backed Trump that year, according to AP VoteCast, a sweeping survey of the electorate. A Pew Research Center poll released last month found that about two-thirds of Jewish voters back Harris.

Biden carried Michigan in 2020 by fewer than 155,000 votes out of roughly 5.5 million cast. Although Jewish voters account for only 2% of the state's voters, the 15,000 new Jewish Republican voters the coalition has identified since the 2020 election — out of roughly 120,000 Jewish voters in the state — could make an impact in what is shaping up to be a very close race, said Sam Markstein, an RJC spokesperson.

The Republican Jewish Coalition's targeting is very specific in Michigan, as it is in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and Pennsylvania. Here, its work is centered in Oakland County, the state's second most-populous county, with 1.3 million people just northwest of Detroit.

It's particularly focusing on the upper middle-class suburbs of Farmington Hills, Oak Park, Southfield and West Bloomfield — the township with the state's largest Jewish population, where Israeli flags hang in some front windows.

Biden defeated Trump in 2020, 66% to 33%, in the West Bloomfield Township precinct where 82-year-old David Cuttner and 22-year-old Noam Nedivi were canvassing for the coalition on Sunday. The margin was not far off the national trend.

The coalition's robust effort is aimed at chipping away at Democrats' advantages among this voting bloc. "This includes direct mail, social, digital, all hyper-targeted to the Jewish community. And it's going to be a full thrust, the largest investment ever to turn out Jewish voters for Republicans," Markstein said.

The Republican Jewish Coalition has purchased \$15 million in advertising in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada and Pennsylvania. But it's the \$5 million it has committed to door-to-door outreach that is new for this election, chiefly its investment in voter data aimed at more efficiently identifying potential Trump supporters.

Halie Soifer, the CEO of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, said in a statement that Jewish voters are a key part of a winning Democratic coalition.

"Kamala Harris shares the views and values of the majority of American Jews, while Donald Trump threatens and denigrates us, trafficks in antisemitic rhetoric, aligns with dangerous extremists, and aspires to be a dictator on day one," Soifer said.

Tensions have been high since the war began on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants killed 1,200 people in Israel and took 250 people hostage. More than 42,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza in the subsequent fighting, according to Gaza health officials.

Republicans were more likely than Democrats to be supportive of Israel, while Democrats were more likely to be critical, a survey by the Pearson Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public

Affairs Research found in September.

The fighting has intensified the focus on the relationship between Israel and the U.S., which has provided at least \$17.9 billion in military aid since the war began. And many Jews say rising acts of antisemitism in the United States and anti-Israel protests in cities and college campuses have made them feel unsafe. Nedivi, who was canvassing Sunday, said he had been a victim of antisemitism at the Michigan college he attends.

Zeke Aharonov had an alternative message for his fellow observant Jews after standing in a line of more than 200 people to cast his early vote at the West Bloomfield library Sunday.

"As Jews, it is our duty to be attentive to fascism and to fight it," the 26-year-old cybersecurity tech said as he left the library. "And our way of fighting fascism is to vote against Donald Trump."

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.

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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.

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.

Authorities launch ‘interagency operation’ at federal jail in New York housing Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Investigators from multiple federal agencies launched an “interagency operation” on Monday at the troubled New York City jail where Sean “Diddy” Combs is being held.

The investigators from the Bureau of Prisons, the Justice Department’s inspector general’s office and

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other law enforcement agencies descended on the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, the Bureau of Prisons said in a statement to The Associated Press.

The law enforcement operation was "designed to achieve our shared goal of maintaining a safe environment for both our employees and the incarcerated individuals housed at MDC Brooklyn," the agency said. Prison officials declined to provide specific details about the operation Monday morning.

Combs' lawyers have highlighted a litany of horrors at the jail — including deplorable conditions, rampant violence and multiple deaths — as they've made repeated attempts to get him released on bail while he awaits trial next May on sex trafficking charges.

The hip-hop mogul's detention and a rash of crimes connected to the jail in recent months have further galvanized public interest, leading to increased scrutiny and a push by the Justice Department and Bureau of Prisons to fix problems and hold perpetrators accountable.

Last month, federal prosecutors charged nine inmates in a spate of attacks from April to August at the Metropolitan Detention Center, the only federal jail in New York City. The allegations detailed serious safety and security issues at the jail, including charges after two inmates were stabbed to death and another was speared in the spine with a makeshift icepick. A correctional officer was also charged with shooting at a car during an unauthorized high-speed chase.

Earlier this month, an inmate was charged in a murder-for-hire plot that led to the death of a 28-year-old woman last December outside a New York City nightclub. According to prosecutors, the inmate used a contraband cellphone to orchestrate the plot from behind bars while awaiting sentencing for directing a different shooting years earlier.

The criminal charges offered a window into the violence and dysfunction that have plagued the jail, which houses about 1,200 people, including Combs and Sam Bankman-Fried, the founder of the collapsed FTX cryptocurrency exchange. The total is down from more than 1,600 in January.

In a statement on Monday, the Bureau of Prisons said its operation in Brooklyn had been planned in advance and there was "no active threat."

The agency said it wouldn't provide additional details about what investigators were doing until the operation was complete "in an effort to maintain the safety and security of all personnel inside the facility and the integrity of this operation."

The facility, in an industrial area on the Brooklyn waterfront, is used mainly for post-arrest detention for people awaiting trial in federal courts in Manhattan or Brooklyn. Other inmates are there to serve short sentences following convictions.

Those held at the Brooklyn jail have long complained about violence, dreadful conditions, severe staffing shortages and the widespread smuggling of drugs and other contraband, some of it facilitated by employees. At the same time, they say they've been subject to frequent lockdowns and have been barred from leaving their cells for visits, calls, showers or exercise.

Twice denied bail, Combs is now asking the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to grant his release. Arguments are scheduled for Nov. 4.

Combs lawyer Mark Agnifilo, who had previously sought to have him moved to a jail in New Jersey, said at an Oct. 10 hearing: "We're making a go of the MDC. The MDC has been very responsive for us."

Another Combs lawyer, Anthony Ricco, told reporters outside the courthouse afterward: "He's doing fine. It's a difficult circumstance. He's making the best of the situation."

But, Ricco added: "Nobody's OK with staying in jail for now."

US presses ahead with modest Mideast plans despite election uncertainty

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the U.S. presidential election just a week away, the Biden administration is not giving up hope for short-term deals for cease-fires between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and Israel and

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Hezbollah in Lebanon.

But U.S. officials are mindful that political uncertainty in the United States has made the sides reluctant to commit to any significant agreements before it is clear who has won the White House.

In the meantime, the Middle East is uneasy about what happens next after Israel struck Iranian military targets over the weekend in retaliation for Iran's barrage of ballistic missile attacks on Oct. 1.

U.S. officials said they believe Israel's attack — whose targets were coordinated with Washington — will not draw an escalatory reaction from Iran. But the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to share sensitive diplomatic discussions, caution that nothing is certain.

The Biden administration was able to persuade Israel to keep its response limited — gaining assurances it wouldn't hit nuclear or oil sites in Iran that would have escalated the conflict — despite limited U.S. influence as Biden's term wraps up. As Israel's closest ally and a key mediator in the Middle East, the U.S. still is pressing for any movement on a truce despite letdowns in the past and little expectation of immediate breakthroughs.

"I don't sense that the Israelis are feeling a huge amount of urgency," said Jon Alterman, director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "I feel like they are feeling much less urgency now than a few months ago."

U.S. efforts in Gaza

As conditions, particularly in Gaza, continue to deteriorate, the administration is backing an Egyptian proposal for a two-day Gaza cease-fire that would see Hamas release a limited number of hostages and potentially open more routes for badly needed humanitarian assistance to reach the enclave, the U.S. officials say.

President Joe Biden said Monday that he would join his staff in discussing the proposal.

"We need a cease-fire. We should end this war. It should end. It should end. It should end," Biden said.

One of the officials said the administration would support virtually any suggestion that leads to a reduction in suffering for Palestinian civilians and the release of hostages but stressed that "we're not holding our breath."

Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Qatar last week was aimed at gauging the region's willingness for such a deal. Officials said Blinken came away from his meetings cautiously optimistic but acknowledged that previous similar hopes have been dashed.

"What we really have to determine is whether Hamas is prepared to engage," Blinken said last week. He said the killing of Hamas military chief Yahya Sinwar helped open a window for new talks on a cease-fire proposal that has been languishing for months.

To underscore U.S. support for a deal, CIA Director William Burns participated in weekend talks in Doha with senior Israeli and Qatari officials on a potential path forward. There was no immediate result, but lower-level talks are expected to continue this week.

The prospects for the success of even such a modest proposal — which would fall well short of previous plans for three-phase cease-fire deal — are uncertain as Hamas, despite heavy losses on the ground, has rejected calls for anything less than a full-on truce and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza.

Hamas has yet to formally respond to the Egyptian plan, though Israel has signaled a willingness to consider the idea.

Longer-term ideas for the post-conflict future of Gaza are a work in progress, according to the U.S. officials, who say that Israel's battlefield assessments will play a major role in determining what Israel might agree to.

Until now, Israel has adamantly rejected any governance or security role for the Palestinian Authority in Gaza, something that is a deal-breaker for both the authority and for Arab nations whose support will be critical for any plan to succeed.

While the U.S. election may be a factor, even if there wasn't the Nov. 5 vote, Israel is showing few signs it is motivated to pursue a cease-fire, said Alterman, the analyst.

"From what I know, it doesn't feel like we are on a brink of a breakthrough," Alterman said.

U.S. push in Lebanon

In Lebanon, where Israel has been intensifying military operations against Hezbollah for the past month, U.S. officials allow that a short-term fix is probably unrealistic.

That's because Lebanon's fractured political leadership is distrusted by Israeli officials and because the Lebanese Armed Forces have yet to move convincingly to keep Hezbollah fighters from attacking Israel from southern Lebanon.

Biden aide Amos Hochstein — who has been a point man on administration efforts to keep Israel and Hezbollah from entering a full-scale war — is expected in the region this week to get a sense from Israeli officials on what they would be willing to support.

Depending on what he hears, he may then travel to Lebanon to explore what officials there would be willing to do to prevent further Hezbollah rocket strikes on northern and central Israel, officials said.

Complicating matters in both Gaza and Lebanon is that neither Hamas nor Hezbollah have announced replacements after Israel killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Sinwar of Hamas in recent weeks.

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 other 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

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fighters, the COVID closures and the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol.

"All of the things that you could not expect have happened, 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 "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."

"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 month, 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.

A decade of racial justice activism transformed politics, but landmark reforms remain elusive

By MATT BROWN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cori Bush went from helping to lead an informal movement for racial justice to winning two terms as a congresswoman from Missouri, with an office decorated with photographs of families who lost loved ones to police violence. One is of Michael Brown.

Brown's death 10 years ago in Ferguson, Missouri, was a defining moment for America's racial justice movement. It cast a global spotlight on longtime demands for reforms to systems subjecting millions of people to everything from economic discrimination to murder.

Activists like Bush went from proclaiming "Black Lives Matter" to running for seats in statehouses, city halls, prosecutors' offices and Congress — and winning. Local legislation has been passed to do everything from dismantling prisons and jails and reforming schools to eliminating hair discrimination.

At least 30 states and Washington, D.C., have enacted laws meant to curb abusive conduct since 2020, according to the Brennan Center for Justice. While the last decade of racial justice activism transformed

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politics, landmark reforms remain elusive, more than three dozen activists, elected officials and political operatives told The Associated Press.

"As we look at the strides we've made, it ebbs and flows," said Bush, a longtime community organizer and pastor before becoming a Democratic representative. "We're still dealing with militarized policing in communities. We're still dealing with the police shootings."

A decade of achievements

As the new generation of Black activists wielding cellphones rewrote the national conversation on policing, questions of public safety and racial justice pushed into the center of American politics. Police body cameras are widespread. Tactics including chokeholds have been outlawed.

Ferguson prompted a change in how communities tackle police reform and misconduct, said Svante Myrick, who was the youngest-ever mayor of Ithaca, New York, from 2011 to 2021 before becoming president for People for the American Way, a progressive advocacy group.

At least 150 reforms passed in localities and states.

"I know that someone's life was saved, that there was an officer, that there was an encounter where a police officer could have made a different decision had there not been 400 days of protest during the Ferguson uprising," Bush said. "Maybe the world was waking up to the fact that it can't just be an outside strategy, there has to be an inside strategy as well."

An example is Tishaura Jones, the first Black woman to lead St. Louis, who's worked to end the city's "arrest and incarcerate" model of policing and emphasize social service programs to help neighborhoods with high crime rates.

A new generation of leaders is putting that pattern into play nationwide.

"I'm someone that entered politics through the Black Lives Matter movement after years of witnessing unfair killings against Black and brown people," said Chi Ossé, a 26-year-old member of the New York City Council.

He used social media to organize protests after white Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin murdered George Floyd, who was Black, in 2020, sparking a new and massive wave of protests. "It's resulted in me having a different type of leadership style within my own community than prior City Council members who have represented this district."

There's work to be done

Lawmakers in Washington were wary of the Black Lives Matter movement at first.

In 2015, then-presidential candidate Hillary Clinton told three Black Lives Matter activists they should focus on changing laws instead of hearts. A 2016 memo from the Democratic Party's House campaign arm told politicians to limit the number of Black Lives Matter activists at public events, or meet privately.

Ferguson marked a new phase. For perhaps the first time, a visible mass protest movement for justice for a single victim was born organically — not convened by clergy members or centered in the church — and often linked by mobile phones and sustained by hip-hop.

Brown's death and the treatment of Black Lives Matter protesters also led many Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders to an internal reckoning. Organizations and individuals of all ages were galvanized to get off the sidelines.

"We've had gains," Bush said. "I wanted to bring the movement into the House of Representatives, and I feel that I've been able to do that."

A movement meets a national political shift

By 2015, Ferguson activists were welcomed into the White House to work on the Obama administration's Task Force for 21st Century Policing.

While Donald Trump embraced some criminal justice reforms like the First Step Act, he remained opposed to racial justice activists throughout his administration. The movement was met with scorn on the right. In 2016, the then-Republican presidential nominee called Black Lives Matter "divisive" and blamed President Barack Obama for worsening race relations nationwide.

Trump was president during the racial justice protests that emerged in the summer of 2020 following

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Floyd's killing. During protests, he posted, "When the looting starts, the shooting starts." He signed an executive order encouraging better police practices but that was criticized for failing to acknowledge what some consider systemic racial bias in policing.

During a 2017 speech in New York, Trump appeared to advocate rougher treatment of people in custody, speaking dismissively of the police practice of shielding handcuffed suspects' heads as they're placed in patrol cars.

Trump's election caused many racial justice activists to shift focus from individual police departments to how federal policies fund and protect police misconduct.

George Floyd's murder

The movement was again thrust into politics when Chauvin murdered Floyd in May 2020.

The protests upended American politics and shocked even many who'd spent years advocating for policies that were suddenly in the mainstream — community response teams, restrictions on police tactics, redirecting police funding.

Floyd's relatives appeared at the 2020 Democratic National Convention; the following year, Democrats introduced a bill that would've enacted sweeping reforms.

The George Floyd Justice In Policing Act would have banned chokeholds and no-knock warrants, like the one that led to Louisville police killing Breonna Taylor in her home. It also would have created a database listing officers disciplined for gross misconduct.

The House passed it in 2021. The Senate failed to reach a consensus.

Stand outside or be at the table

Ella Jones didn't see herself running for office before the Ferguson protests. A minister and entrepreneur, Jones felt called to protest Brown's killing but said local Democratic leaders told her to run for Ferguson mayor. She won a City Council seat, and was eventually elected mayor.

"You can stand outside and scream at the system. However, you must be at the table where policy is made," Jones said. "Some people may go into politics. Some people may go into establishing nonprofits, but it's going to take all of us working together to make the change.

"You have to be at the table, where policy is made."

Ferguson's prosecuting attorney, Wesley Bell, was on a promise to tackle police misconduct.

Bell said in 2020 that legislators need to look hard at laws that offer police officers protection against prosecution that regular citizens aren't afforded.

"It is something that handcuffs prosecutors in numerous ways when you are going about prosecuting officers who have committed unlawful use of force or police shootings," Bell said.

In August he defeated Bush in a bitter Democratic U.S. House primary.

Bush said she doesn't know what she'll do after leaving Congress.

"But the fight is still here, and my boots aren't far from me," she said. "So people probably should have wondered, is she more dangerous in Congress or outside of it?"

Here's what to watch in the final full week of the presidential campaign

By STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Uncertainty reigns entering the final full week of the 2024 campaign with Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump locked in a fiercely competitive presidential contest. What happens in the coming days will be pivotal in deciding the winner.

Here's what we're watching this week:

Can Trump stay on message (relatively speaking)?

Even before the week began, Trump's campaign risked being knocked off course by controversy. A rally at New York City's Madison Square Garden late Sunday that was meant to serve as a closing message was instead overshadowed by racist insults, including a comedian who called Puerto Rico a "floating island of

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garbage.”

And with eight days to go until Election Day, history suggests Trump is virtually guaranteed to say or do something else controversial in the final stretch. The only question is whether it will break through.

If there's one thing we know, it's that Trump cannot help himself. He's been using authoritarian-style rhetoric in recent days to suggest that his Democratic opponents, whom he calls “the enemy within,” are more dangerous to the nation than the threat posed by Russia and China.

Democrats will be combing through every Trump interview and public appearance for something similar to exploit. There are also multiple ongoing criminal investigations into Trump, who has already been convicted of 34 felony charges, that could reveal new information.

Yet Democrats are the first to admit that voter opinions of Trump is so hardened that it would take something truly stunning to change the course of the election.

There is precedent for a final-week stunner, however. Remember, it was Oct. 28, 2016, when former FBI Director James Comey sent a letter to Congress indicating that federal investigators learned of new emails pertinent to the investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server.

Will Harris' closing message harness Democrats' anxiety?

It would be an understatement to describe Democrats as anxious as Election Day looms. But there was a deliberate effort by Harris' senior team over the weekend to project optimism to help temper the fear.

Harris senior adviser Jen O'Malley Dillon predicted victory on MSNBC on Sunday: “We are confident we're going to win this thing,” she said. “We're seeing extraordinary enthusiasm. This is going to be a close race, and our campaign is exactly where we want to be.”

Harris will try to alleviate Democratic anxiety further on Tuesday when she delivers her “closing argument” at the Ellipse, the same spot near the White House where Trump spoke on Jan. 6, 2021 shortly before his supporters attacked the Capitol.

Harris is expected to focus her remarks on the danger Trump poses to U.S. democracy. She has called her Republican rival “a fascist” in recent days. And she's been joined by an unlikely ally, Trump's former chief of staff John Kelly, who has also described Trump as a fascist recently.

But she's expected to hit broader themes as well, encouraging voters to look behind her at the White House and imagine who will be sitting at the Resolute Desk at a moment of great consequence. She's aiming to drive home the stakes of the Nov. 5 election for undecided voters — especially moderate Republicans who may be uncomfortable with Trump's divisive leadership and extreme rhetoric. And while Harris' team is betting that there is a significant number of moderates who can still be persuaded, progressive Democrats are worried she's not focused enough on economic issues in the campaign's closing days.

Democratic anxiety, we have learned, may be a fact of life.

Where will they go?

The candidates' evolving travel schedules will tell us much about the battlegrounds that will matter most on Election Day.

Here's what we know for sure: Harris and Trump are aggressively competing in just seven swing states that will ultimately decide the election. They are the three so-called “Blue Wall” states — Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — in addition to Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and North Carolina.

For a political perspective, however, not every one of the seven is created equal.

Harris spent Sunday in Pennsylvania, which may be the election's biggest prize. Harris is next scheduled to go to Michigan. And after Tuesday's closing argument in Washington, she plans to visit North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin on Wednesday alone. She heads to Nevada and Arizona on Thursday.

What do we know about Trump's schedule? He's booked to host at least one rally every day next week: Monday in Georgia, Tuesday in Pennsylvania, Wednesday in Wisconsin, Thursday in Nevada, Friday in Wisconsin again and Saturday in Virginia.

But as a reminder, these schedules are likely to change based on the campaigns' intelligence on the ground.

Will the early voting surge continue?

More than 41 million votes have already been cast in the election nationwide. Democrats generally have

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an advantage in early voting, but so far, at least, Republicans are participating at a much higher rate than they have in the past.

The question: Will it last?

Trump, of course, has for years encouraged his supporters to cast only in-person ballots on Election Day. The practice put the GOP at a significant disadvantage. He largely reversed course in recent months as he and his party acknowledged the obvious benefit of being able to bank their votes as early as possible.

Because of the Republican participation, the early turnout was breaking records last week in swing states such as Georgia and North Carolina.

But with the GOP more focused on "election integrity" rather than a traditional get-out-the-vote operation, it's unclear whether the uptick in Republican early voting will continue. Democrats hope it won't.

How hard will Trump work to undermine election results?

History may one day decide that the most significant thing Trump said in the closing days of the 2024 election is the thing that many voters barely notice anymore: his persistent warnings that this election is rigged against him.

Indeed, as Election Day approaches, Trump is increasingly warning his supporters that he will lose on Nov. 5 only if his political opponents cheat. Such statements have no basis in fact. There was no evidence of significant voter fraud in the 2020 election, which Trump lost, and there is no evidence that Trump's adversaries can or will rig this election against him either.

Still, Trump's unfounded warnings make an already tense and violent election season even more fraught. And there are real threats that foreign adversaries — especially Russia, China and Iran — will meddle in the election.

At the same time, the Republican National Committee has invested tens of millions of dollars into an operation to mobilize thousands of polling place monitors, poll workers and attorneys to serve as "election integrity" watchdogs. Democrats are worried that the effort could lead to harassment of election workers and undermine trust in the vote.

Both parties are aggressively preparing for long legal battles no matter who wins.

Will wars in the Middle East shift the focus?

U.S. presidential elections are rarely shaped by foreign affairs, but the wars in the Middle East have been escalating at the very moment that millions of voters are preparing to cast ballots.

It's still unclear how Iran will respond to Israel's unusually public airstrikes across Iran on Friday but Israel did not target oil or nuclear sites, a sign that a much more serious escalation may have been avoided. In another indication that this conflict may not spiral out of control, the Islamic Republic insisted the strikes caused only "limited damage" and the messaging from Iranian state-run media downplayed the attacks.

If the region spirals further toward all-out regional war or holds steady at an already devastating and destabilizing level of violence could also determine the extent to which the Middle East conflict shapes the U.S. election.

The issue has been especially difficult for Harris to navigate as she simultaneously vows to support Israel and offers empathy for those tens of thousands of Palestinians killed by Israel's response to Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attacks. The Democratic vice president continues to face intense pressure from her party's progressive base, which has been extremely critical of Israel.

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."

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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."

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

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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?”

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.

Today in History: October 29

‘Black Tuesday’ signals start of Great Depression

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 29, the 303rd day of 2024. There are 63 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 29, 1929, ‘Black Tuesday’ descended on the New York Stock Exchange. Prices collapsed amid panicked selling and thousands of investors were wiped out as America’s Great Depression began.

Also on this date:

In 1618, Sir Walter Raleigh, the English courtier, military adventurer and poet, was executed in London for treason.

In 1940, a blindfolded Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson drew the first number — 158 — from a glass bowl in America’s first peacetime military draft.

In 1960, a chartered plane carrying the California Polytechnic State University football team crashed on takeoff from Toledo, Ohio, killing 22 of the 48 people on board.

In 1987, following the confirmation defeat of Robert H. Bork to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, President Ronald Reagan announced his next choice of Douglas H. Ginsburg, a nomination that fell apart over revelations of Ginsburg’s previous marijuana use.

In 1998, Sen. John Glenn, at age 77, returned to space aboard the shuttle Discovery, retracing the trail he had blazed as the first American to orbit the Earth 36 years earlier.

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy slammed ashore in New Jersey and slowly marched inland, devastating coastal communities and causing widespread power outages; the storm and its aftermath were blamed for at least 182 deaths in the U.S.

In 2015, China announced plans to abolish its one-child policy, allowing all families to have two children for the first time in more than 35 years.

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In 2017, all but 10 members of the Houston Texans took a knee during the national anthem, reacting to a remark from team owner Bob McNair to other NFL owners that "we can't have the inmates running the prison."

In 2018, a Boeing jet operated by the Indonesian airline Lion Air crashed in the Java Sea minutes after takeoff from Jakarta, killing all 189 people on board.

In 2022, more than 150 people were killed and dozens more injured in South Korea after being crushed by a large crowd pushing forward on a narrow street during Halloween festivities in Seoul.

Today's Birthdays: Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is 86. Actor Richard Dreyfuss is 77. Actor Kate Jackson is 76. Hockey Hall of Famer Denis Potvin is 71. Actor Dan Castellaneta (TV: "The Simpsons") is 67. Actor Joely Fisher is 57. Actor Rufus Sewell is 57. Actor Winona Ryder is 53. Actor Tracee Ellis Ross is 52. Actor Gabrielle Union is 52. Olympic gold medal bobsledder Vonetta Flowers is 51. Actor Ben Foster is 44. Olympic gold medal swimmer Amanda Beard is 43.