

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 1 of 79

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [4- All State Choir and Orchestra](#)
- [5- We the People Column](#)
- [6- Apartments for Rent](#)
- [7- Notice of Sale](#)
- [8- Name Released in Lawrence County Fatal Motorcycle Crash](#)
- [8- Queen of Hearts](#)
- [9- Dog License Ad](#)
- [10- SD News Watch: Political friction adds stress to South Dakota election process](#)
- [16- Manhart Ad](#)
- [17- Downtown Halloween](#)
- [18- SD SearchLight: Group opposing abortion-rights measure receives \\$500,000 from out-of-state nonprofit](#)
- [19- SD SearchLight: Marijuana industry is major funder of legalization ballot question](#)
- [20- SD SearchLight: 'Twilight Zone' could await if South Dakotans approve marijuana measure](#)
- [22- Weather Pages](#)
- [26- Daily Devotional](#)
- [27- Subscription Form](#)
- [28- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [29- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [30- News from the Associated Press](#)

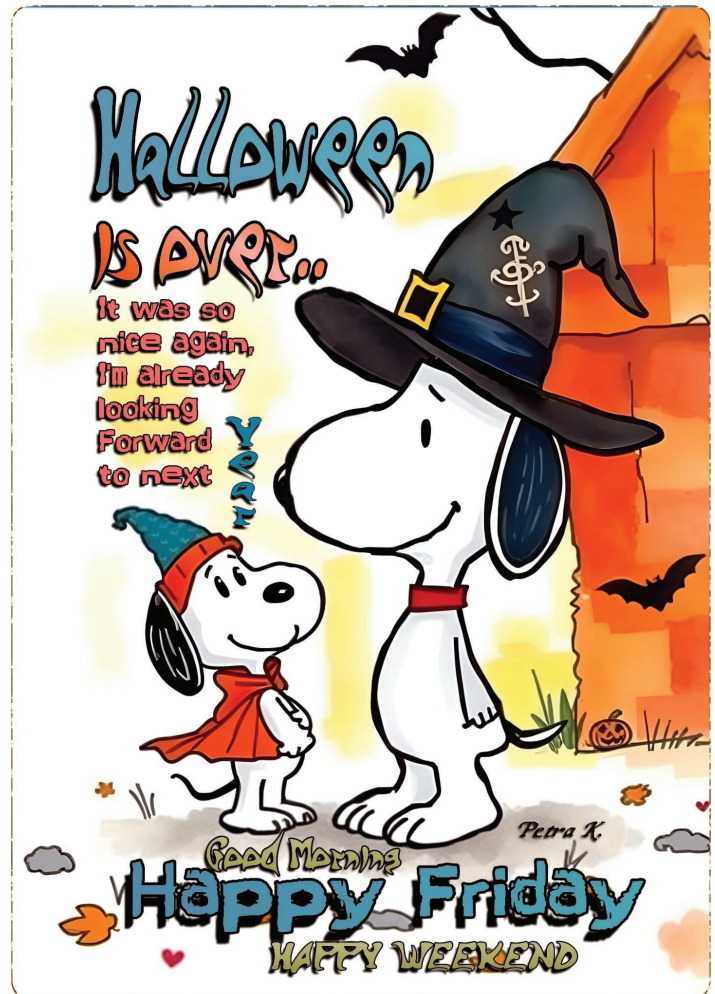
Friday, Nov. 1

Senior Menu: Pork cutlet, creamy noodles, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Egg wraps.
School Lunch: Sweet and sour chicken, rice.

Saturday, Nov. 2

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 209 N Main

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



Sunday, Nov. 3

Standard Time: Turn clocks back one hour
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Milestones 2nd and 3rd graders, Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m., and at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship with communion at Conde, 8:30 a.m., and at Groton, 10:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.
SEAS Fall Dinner, 5 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 2 of 79

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.

Halloween, by the Numbers

Last night, an estimated 72 million Americans, most of them ages 5 to 14, hit the pavement for trick-or-treating, including for the first time since 1938 in Des Moines, Iowa, where heavy rains Wednesday pushed back the city's traditional Beggar's Night—a Halloween alternative designed to cut down on "hooliganism."

The age-old tradition of trick-or-treating has become increasingly expensive in recent years, with Americans spending close to \$12B annually on costumes, decorations, and candy. Each household spent an average of \$51 on sweets this year, a jump in costs due to a nearly 50% rise in cocoa prices since February. Over half of Americans decorated their homes or lawns for the occasion, including roughly 30 million pumpkins and thousands of Home Depot's popular 12-foot skeletons, dubbed Skelly.

New Hampshire takes the crown for the state with the most Halloween spirit in 2024 as it hosts the highest number of haunted houses per capita in the US (for an 8.1 on the jack-o'-lantern scale).

Germany Shuttters Iran Consulates

Germany ordered the closure of all three Iranian consulates there yesterday, expelling 32 Iranian diplomats and leaving only Iran's embassy in Berlin. The move followed Iran's execution of German-Iranian citizen Jamshid Sharmahd.

Sharmahd, 69, was executed Monday after being sentenced to death last year on terrorism charges. Following his 2020 capture by Iranian forces in Dubai, Sharmahd was accused of leading a US-based Iranian opposition group and planning a 2008 mosque attack in Shiraz, killing 14 people and wounding more than 200 others. The US and human rights groups criticized the trial, alleging Sharmahd was not given proper representation.

The news escalates tensions between the two countries, with relations previously strained by Iran's nuclear program and human rights abuses and Germany's support for Israel. Germany halted trade incentives with Iran in 2022, reducing exports to approximately \$1.3B in 2023, a 24% decrease from the previous year. Germany is now calling for EU-wide sanctions against those involved in Sharmahd's execution.

EU Takes on Temu

The European Union has launched an investigation into Temu, a Chinese e-commerce platform selling cheap clothes, home goods, and other products.

The EU this year added Temu to its list of especially large online platforms meriting scrutiny under its Digital Services Act. The law, which went into effect last summer, enables the bloc to hold online platforms accountable to EU privacy and safety laws under the threat of hefty fines. In this case, the EU is investigating Temu for three potential violations: failing to block "rogue traders" and noncompliant goods, using an addictive app design to gamify usage, and failing to disclose recommendation algorithms to researchers.

Temu entered Western markets in 2022, quickly amassing 92 million users in the EU and more than 100 million users in the US; its rise in popularity has, in part, prompted Amazon to develop a US-based competitor; a launch date for the platform has not been set.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 3 of 79

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Rapper Young Thug changes his plea to guilty on trial related to involvement in a street gang; plea could end Georgia's longest-ever criminal trial.

Hall of Fame broadcaster Bob Costas to retire from calling play-by-play on MLB games after 44-year career.

Comcast sees 36.5% year-over-year revenue growth for Q3, fueled by NBCUniversal's coverage of the Paris Olympics; NBC's streamer Peacock tops 36 million subscribers.

"Wicked" film adaptation projected for \$85M box office opening weekend.

NFL star Patrick Mahomes among ownership group looking to bring new WNBA franchise to Kansas City in 2028; Mahomes currently owns stakes in Kansas City's NWSL, MLS, and MLB franchises.

Science & Technology

OpenAI releases SearchGPT for paid users, providing a search engine powered by its ChatGPT chatbot; product is viewed as a direct competitor to Google.

Researchers discover defense mechanisms behind the bacteria known as MRSA, which causes antibiotic-resistant staph infection; may lead to new treatments for the bug, which kills 120,000 people worldwide each year.

New weight-loss drugs including Ozempic, Wegovy shown to significantly reduce arthritis; trial showed pain reduction on par with opioid treatments.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower (S&P 500 -1.9%, Dow -0.9%, Nasdaq -2.8%), dragged by Microsoft and Meta; Microsoft's stock falls in worst day in two years after lower-than-expected forecast.

Amazon rises 6% in after-hours trading after beating revenue and earnings expectations.

Peloton shares close up 28% after company names Apple Fitness+ cofounder and Ford executive Peter Stern as new CEO; Stern will be third CEO to lead Peloton since its founding in 2012.

Uber shares close down 9% after company posts weaker-than-expected gross bookings for Q.

Personal consumption expenditures price index rises 2.1% year-over-year in September, down from 2.2% in August.

US average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rises to 6.7%, up from 6.5% in the previous week.

Politics & World Affairs

Death toll from historic flash flooding in Spain surpasses 150 people as rescuers continue to search for bodies.

At least two people killed after Typhoon Kong-rey strikes Taiwan's east coast.

North Korea fires new intercontinental ballistic missile in test launch, the first such launch in nearly a year; missile—reportedly designed to reach the US—flew for 86 minutes in longest flight recorded before falling into waters east of North Korea.

More than 60 million ballots cast so far in the US election.



All State Choir and Orchestra

All State Choir and Orchestra will be held this weekend in Sioux Falls. Groton Area students participating are Carlee Johnson (French Horn) and choir members Axel Warrington, Corbin Weismantel, Rebecca Poor, Kira Clocksene, Gentry Pigors, Mya Feser, Natalia Warrington and Ashlyn Feser for being selected to the 2024 SD HS All State Chorus.

Two GHS seniors, Axel Warrington and Rebecca Poor, will be recognized for being 4 year All State Chorus participants.

The Concert is 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 2nd at the Denny Premier Center in Sioux Falls.



We the People

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



By David Adler

Remembering the First Presidential Election: The Constitution on Trial

The presidential election of 1788, the first under the newly minted Constitution, was unusual and even unique in ways that 21st Century Americans can scarcely imagine. For one, there was no campaigning. In the 18th Century, it was an unwritten rule that any display of ambition would be unseemly. For another, George Washington, widely viewed as Father of His Country was, for all practical purposes, anointed by his fellow citizens. As it happened, he was elected unanimously by the Electoral College, a feat that he would achieve, again, in the election of 1792.

Washington's election to the presidency was no surprise, to anyone. It was a foregone conclusion, as soon as the Constitution was ratified, that Washington would be the nation's first president. America needed its first chief executive to be a man of unimpeachable integrity, someone perceived to be above partisan politics while practicing politics, with an unvarnished reputation, who embodied the premise and promise of the American Revolution and could unite the nation while leading the embryonic republic. Washington enjoyed the unreserved trust of his countryman, a point emphasized by Alexander Hamilton, who said the first administration—and the Constitution itself—would be on trial.

After the Constitutional Convention adjourned on September 17, 1787, Hamilton made it his mission to persuade Washington to stand for election. He appealed to Washington's sense of duty, in an exchange of letters. He warned Washington of the perils facing the nation if the first administration were headed by mediocre men unable to set the constitutional machinery in motion. The Framers of the Constitution, he explained, would be blamed for "bringing about a revolution in government without substituting anything that was worthy of the effort."

Washington was little interested in further public service and looked forward to retirement and peace at Mount Vernon, adding that he feared the citizenry might have expectations that he could not meet, given his lack of experience in government. But Hamilton was unrelenting and said that Washington, by signing the Constitution and promoting its ratification, had essentially promised to do everything in his power to give it life. "It is to little purpose to have introduced a system," he wrote, "if the weightiest influence is not given to its firm establishment, in the outset."

Washington answered the call. There was no mystery surrounding his election, but a defect in the Electoral College, Hamilton emphasized, might prove awkward and self-defeating. The Federalists had agreed to vote for Washington for president and John Adams for vice-president. However, the presidential electors under the Constitution cast two votes apiece, but did not vote separately for president and vice-president. Whoever garnered the most votes became president and the runner up vice-president. The problem was obvious. A tie vote would send the election to the House of Representatives and potential mischief. Worse, the vice-presidential candidate might become president.

Hamilton, an astute strategist, told James Wilson, second in importance to James Madison as an architect of the Constitution, of his plan to approach several of the electors with the request that they "waste"

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 6 of 79

their votes by supporting various candidates other than Adams to prevent him from sneaking past Washington and becoming president. Hamilton's strategy proved successful. When the sixty-nine electors met on February 4, 1789, they voted unanimously for Washington to be president and cast only 34 votes for Adams, who came in second and became vice-president.

While Hamilton and the Federalists were pleased, Adams was not. The relatively weak showing was a blow to his vanity, and he wondered aloud whether this "stain" on his character should lead him to decline the office. Hamilton's plan was designed to help Washington, not harm Adams, but the first vice-president never forgave him for being unforgivably duplicitous.

Years later, Hamilton expressed surprise when he learned of Adams's resentment toward him for what he truly believed was a sincere effort to engineer Washington's election. Hamilton described Adams's reaction as proof of his "extreme egotism" and vanity. "Great was my astonishment and equally great my regret when afterwards I learned that Mr. Adams had complained of unfair treatment in not having been permitted to take an equal chance with General Washington."

In 1788, Hamilton was unaware of Adams's desire to be president, but in the election of 1800, Hamilton deliberately thwarted Adams's pursuit of the presidency. We discuss that strategy next week.

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



**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**

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.

Name Released in 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: Jess Harold Dean Pinkerton, 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.

Preliminary crash information indicates Jess H. D. Pinkerton, 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. Pinkerton became separated from his motorcycle and sustained 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.

Queen of Hearts

The fifth week of the Queen of Hearts was held Thursday. The name of Jackie Krueger was drawn. She picked card 52 which was the nine of spades. She won 10 percent of the ticket sales. Ticket sales were \$780 so Krueger won \$78. The jackpot was \$4,546.

In last week's drawing, the name of Kelly Abeln was drawn. She picked card 13 which was the eight of clubs. She won 10 percent of the ticket sales. Ticket sales were \$455 so Krueger won \$45. The jackpot was \$3,801.

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

Political friction adds stress to South Dakota election process

By **STU WHITNEY**

South Dakota News Watch

The runup to a major election can be a hectic time for election officials, whose tasks include training poll workers, testing tabulators, processing absentee ballots and providing voter information.

This year, in the final days before South Dakotans head to the polls Nov. 5, the stress level is higher than usual.

"Things are more contentious," said Pennington County Auditor Cindy Mohler, who supervises elections in the state's second-largest county in Rapid City. "I feel like at every turn we don't know what's going to be thrown at us, and so you're a little apprehensive to let your guard down."

Recent trends in South Dakota election law have broadened access for poll watchers and observers – who are allowed to monitor voting and counting activity – without increasing protections for poll workers and election officials, raising concerns about potential harassment, intimidation or interference.

Nationally, the U.S. Department of Justice's Election Threats Task Force has arrested and prosecuted about 20 individuals for threatening election workers since its inception in 2021, a small fraction of cases reported by local officials.

There are several reasons for election angst in South Dakota, starting with the political climate. The state has seen a rise in electoral activism sparked by unfounded claims of voting irregularities in the last presidential election, predominantly from populist Republicans lamenting Donald Trump's 2020 defeat.

Seeds of doubt from Trump and his followers spawned activist organizations such as South Dakota Canvassing Group, whose founders were inspired by My Pillow founder and conspiracy theorist Mike Lindell's 2021 Cyber Symposium in Sioux Falls.

The grassroots appeal of these efforts had enough sway in South Dakota to motivate state legislators to pass election security measures such as mandatory post-election audits and the banning of unmonitored drop boxes.

"There's a lot to celebrate in South Dakota," said Rick Weible, a computer analyst and Canvassing Group adviser who is among the state's most influential electoral activists. "Transparency is the inoculation to all conspiracy theories, and having more public and bipartisan oversight of elections is always a good thing."

Poll shows confidence in local elections

Though national rhetoric about election integrity has impacted South Dakota politically, it has not



Signs outside the Instructional Planning Center in Sioux Falls, S.D., direct voters to the correct precinct for South Dakota's primary elections on June 4, 2024. The state's general election will be held Nov. 5. (Photo:

Stu Whitney / South Dakota News Watch)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 11 of 79



Poll workers wait for the next South Dakota primary voter at the Instructional Planning Center in Sioux Falls, S.D., on Tuesday, June 4, 2024. (Photo: Stu Whitney / South Dakota

News Watch)

eroded confidence in the accuracy of local elections, according to a poll of 500 registered voters co-sponsored by News Watch.

The statewide survey, also sponsored by the Chiesman Center for Democracy at the University of South Dakota, was conducted Oct. 12-16 by Mason-Dixon Polling and Strategy.

It showed that 71% of respondents were "very confident" that votes will be counted accurately in the 2024 election in South Dakota, while 23% said they were "somewhat confident," for a total of 94%.

Weible, who testifies frequently in Pierre and has guest-hosted Lindell's podcast, called the results encouraging but stressed the need for more testing and transparency of vote tabulation systems in the public realm.

"We should be looking for continuous improvement, and we need county auditors and state election officials to be open to that," he said.

When the same group of registered voters were polled about the 2024 presidential election, just 41% said they were very confident that the results would be accurate, while 25% said they were somewhat confident, for a total of 66%.

Broken down by party registration, just 21% of Republicans said they were "very confident" that the race between Trump and Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris will be counted accurately, compared to 75% of Democrats.

Jen Easterly, director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), a division of U.S. Department of Homeland Security that oversees election security, told News Watch that the poll results did not surprise her.

"There is an unfortunate issue around confidence in national elections because of the fire hose of disinformation that Americans have been subjected to over the last four years," said Easterly, an Army veteran who also served in the National Security Agency. "This disinformation has been amplified by foreign adversaries. When they see that Americans lack confidence in the integrity of our most important democratic institution, our elections, that's exactly what they want."

'Human error' causes voter roll issues

The reputability of South Dakota voter rolls has been undermined at times by instances of miscommunication and human error involving the South Dakota Secretary of State's office and the Department of Public Safety in Pierre.

In January, DPS confirmed to News Watch that more than 10,000 registrations weren't properly transferred to voter rolls due to a computer coding error dating back to 2022. Voters affected received a letter informing them that the problem was fixed and their ability to cast a ballot in an election "was not impacted by this error."

More recently, the Secretary of State's office announced the removal of 273 noncitizens from voter rolls on Oct. 7, the result of "human error by DPS employees where the citizenship status was incorrectly marked," according to Division of Elections Director Rachel Soulek.

The American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota accused the state of violating the National Voting Rights Act, which prohibits mass voter roll purges within 90 days of an election, known as the "quiet period."

A similar controversy occurred in Virginia, where 1,600 noncitizens were removed from the voter rolls due to a systematic review ordered by the state's Republican governor that fell within the 90-day period before the election.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 12 of 79

A federal judge on Oct. 25 ordered that the voters be restored to the Virginia rolls, a decision that was reversed by the conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court on Oct. 30, six days before the election.

Tom Deadrick, South Dakota's deputy secretary of state, said the state's purge of noncitizen voters was legal because it came as a result of the DPS being made aware of a noncitizen being inadvertently registered, which led to a review of voter registration records through driver licensing applications.

"Our careful approach underscores our commitment to maintaining the integrity of the voter rolls while ensuring that eligible citizens are not inadvertently removed," Deadrick wrote in a letter to the ACLU. "Each step taken in this process reflects our dedication to conducting individualized assessments rather than relying on systematic removals."

Contacted for this story by News Watch, Secretary of State Monae Johnson requested that questions be sent via email, which she received on Oct. 25 and said she would "get back to you as soon as I can." As of publication on Oct. 31, no responses had been received.

Minnehaha County auditor stirs controversy

Some of the most brazen challenges to the status quo of South Dakota election systems have come from the state's largest county, Minnehaha.

Republican Leah Anderson, the county auditor elected in 2022, has spoken at South Dakota Canvassing events and embraced some of the group's core initiatives while raising doubts about the accuracy of past election results.

Anderson directed that Minnehaha County conduct a full post-election audit of more than 13,000 ballots from the June 25 primary by hand count, despite state law only requiring 5% percent of precincts be audited.

The process took about 11 hours, more than double what Anderson had estimated. Most races were within a single vote difference between the tabulation count and hand recount.

In the aftermath of that primary, Anderson appeared in a video with Canvassing Group president Jessica Pollema and third-place District 11 House finisher John Kunnari, in which Pollema said they had proof that 132 ballots had been cast fraudulently due to shared addresses from Sioux Falls post office boxes.

The South Dakota Supreme Court in August denied a request to invalidate the votes, siding with the Secretary of State's office and Minnehaha County State's Attorney Daniel Haggar that the challenge fell outside of the state law governing election disputes.

Anderson also said in a press release and on Lindell's podcast that roughly 24,500 ballots were potentially unaccounted for from the 2020 election in Minnehaha County. She later conceded that the number was closer to 283 and that she was "comfortable with the number of ballots cast" based on boxes of records she found.

At a June 10 public meeting, Minnehaha County Commissioner Joe Kippley, a Republican, cited the im-



Minnehaha County Auditor Leah Anderson (with microphone) speaks at a South Dakota Canvassing Group event at the Military Heritage Alliance in Sioux Falls, S.D., on Oct. 19, 2023. On the far left is Canvassing Group co-founder Jessica Pollema. (Photo: Stu Whitney / South Dakota News Watch)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 13 of 79

portance of the upcoming 2024 election and criticized Anderson for providing "useful idiocy for election conspiracy grifters" with her claims, which included open questions about CIA involvement.

"You are the auditor who cried wolf, so you have no credibility, and I, as one commissioner, would ask you to resign," Kippley said at the meeting, to which Anderson responded that she had no intention of stepping down.

Debate over wearing political apparel to polls

For the Nov. 5 election, Anderson has amended Minnehaha County regulations to allow political campaign apparel to be worn to the polls, a position that runs counter to South Dakota Secretary of State election policy.

Supporters of the move point to a 2018 U.S. Supreme Court decision in which the court struck down a Minnesota law that prohibited voters from wearing politically themed apparel such as T-shirts, buttons or hats to the polls. The case stemmed from 2010, when a man was temporarily prevented from voting because he was wearing a T-shirt with a Tea Party logo and a "Please I.D. Me" button.

The court's 7-2 ruling stated that Minnesota's law violated the First Amendment because it was overly broad, recommending that the state put forth a "more discernible approach" to what is forbidden and what is not.

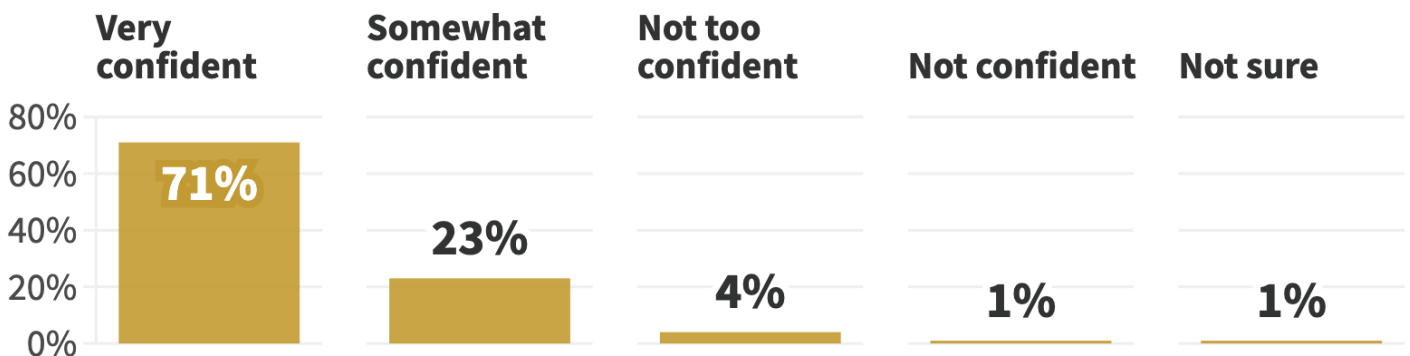
The Minnesota Secretary of State's policy, based on the new law, is more detailed in disallowing "campaign T-shirts, buttons or literature which relate to specific candidates, official political parties, or ballot questions on the ballot that day."

Asked by News Watch if Minnehaha County's policy will allow political apparel connected to 2024 candidates or ballot measures, Anderson deferred to Haggar, the state's attorney, who indicated that such items would be allowed under the revised rules.

"As long as individuals are not actively campaigning or actively attempting to solicit votes for or against a candidate or ballot measure, our priority is to protect every registered voter's right to vote," Haggar told News Watch via email. "Any person who is actively campaigning or disrupting the polling place will be asked to cease or to leave."

Minnehaha County's directive runs counter to state election officials' interpretation of South Dakota Codified Law 12-18-3, which prohibits a person from displaying "campaign posters, signs, or other campaign materials" at a polling place or within 100 feet of the entrance to the site.

Poll: How confident are you with the count in SD?



Source South Dakota News Watch and the Chiesman Center for Democracy at USD / Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy (Margin of error: +/-4.5%) conducted Oct. 12-16 • Graphic: Michael Klinski / South Dakota News Watch

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 14 of 79

In an email to county auditors addressing Minnehaha County's decision, Christine Lehrkamp, deputy elections director, said that "this office has advised for many, many years that there may be no campaign material within 100 feet of any entrance to a polling location and also no voter may wear campaign material into the polling location. The Secretary of State's office will continue to follow state law and continue to advise you all to follow state law unless we have a court opinion specific to South Dakota that our law is unconstitutional."

Asked by News Watch about the conflict, Kippley said that reasonable people could disagree on whether wearing political apparel to a polling site violates the law.

"Regardless, we should be doing what we can to lower the temperature of civil discourse while also respecting the First Amendment," he said. "I wouldn't want people to think that non-enforcement of apparel restrictions gives complete license to actively campaign in a polling place or worse yet lead to physical confrontations while trying to vote. This is a topic that needs tactful messaging that (Anderson) is unlikely to be capable of."

SD law expands access for poll watchers

Several of South Dakota's election-based legislative efforts have been in response to calls for more citizen oversight and observation of the vote counting process.

One of those measures was House Bill 1182, passed in 2024 to mandate that polling places be arranged "in such a manner that permits each poll watcher and observer to be positioned in a location where (they) may plainly see and hear what is done within the polling place."

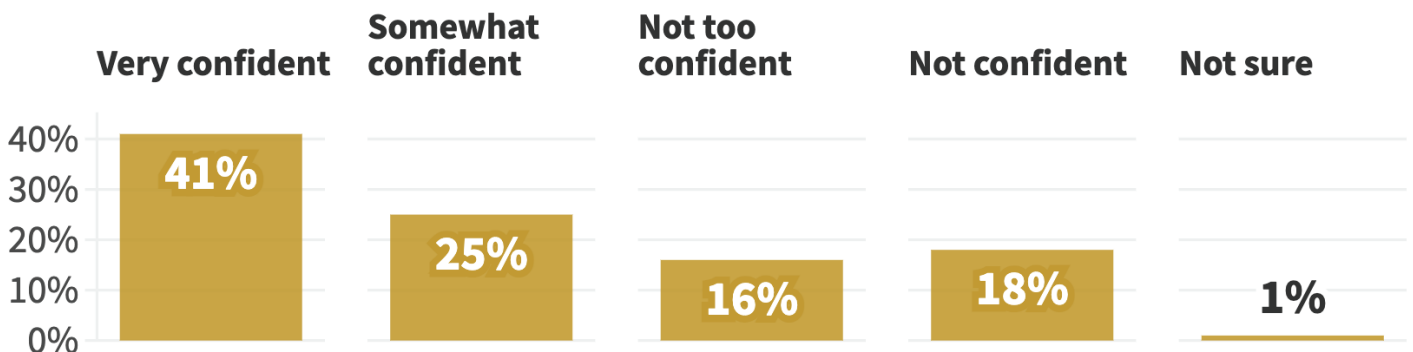
State guidelines allow for at least one poll watcher for each political party or independent candidate, and at least one for each slate of presidential electors and any ballot measure to be voted on.

In addition, the new law ensures access for citizen observers who do not fit any of the poll watcher categories, provided that they don't interfere with the duties of election officials.

Violations of the law, which could be transgressions by poll watchers/observers or election workers, are a Class 2 misdemeanor.

The Brennan Center of Justice, a progressive public policy institute focused on democracy and voting rights issues, included HB 1182 in its roundup of 2024 legislation that "impose criminal or civil penalties on election workers for routine election administration or inadvertent errors."

Poll: How confident are you in the presidential vote count?



Source South Dakota News Watch and the Chiesman Center for Democracy at USD / Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy (Margin of error: +/-4.5%) conducted Oct. 12-16 • Graphic: Michael Klinski / South Dakota News Watch

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 15 of 79

Another bill, proposed by the South Dakota Secretary of State's office, would have made it a Class 1 misdemeanor for someone to directly or indirectly intimidate or threaten a poll worker "with the intent to improperly influence an election."

That bill passed the Senate but was rejected in the House, despite several county auditors stating that it's difficult to find people to serve as poll workers in the current political environment.

"We need to remember that election officials across the country are not faceless bureaucrats," said Easterling, the CISA director. "They're our friends, they're our neighbors, they're our family members. We see them in our community. They're not doing this for pay or for glory. They're doing this because they believe in our democracy, and they deserve to be safe."

In Pennington County, Mohler has told election workers to call her immediately if someone disregards the rules or disrupts the process and to call 911 if the situation becomes threatening or dangerous.

It's all part of the current era in election administration, where routine stress levels have been ramped up and become more of an around-the-clock sensation.

"It used to be that we had a little bit of downtime between the primary and general elections where you felt like you could breathe a little bit," Mohler said. "I don't feel that way anymore."

The Associated Press contributed to this story that was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a nonpartisan, 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 Stu Whitney at stu.whitney@sdnewswatch.org

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 16 of 79

Working to Protect & Promote Traditional American Values

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



Visit the Campaign Site
ManhartForHouse.com



Paid for by Manhart for State House

MANHART

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 1

facebook.com/ManhartLogan | ManhartForHouse.com

General Election - Nov. 5
Absentee Voting has begun

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 17 of 79



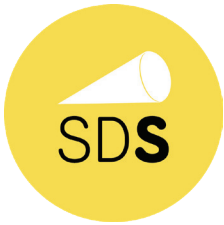
Cecelia Siefkes was busy handing out bags of chips at the Groton American Legion. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kari Bartling and Meagan Baumgarn were all decked out for Halloween trick and treaters at Kolker Law Office. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Groups of trick and treaters went down Main Street on Thursday for the annual Halloween event. Approximately 422 children flooded the downtown district. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Group opposing abortion-rights measure receives \$500,000 from out-of-state nonprofit

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - OCTOBER 31, 2024 6:10 PM

The campaign opposing a South Dakota abortion-rights ballot measure received \$500,000 from an out-of-state nonprofit and \$100,000 from a Sioux Falls church, among other contributions still streaming in less than a week before Election Day.

Those contributions follow a \$500,000 infusion to the abortion-rights side by another out-of-state group last week.

Michael Card, University of South Dakota associate professor emeritus in political science, said the last-minute fundraising reflects the high stakes and the unpredictable outcome. Polls indicate a close contest, but Card said many people are private about their feelings on abortion, so gauging public sentiment is difficult.

"Nobody knows what will happen, so these groups are likely willing to donate more than they might otherwise," Card said. "And because of the national interest in the issue, more outside money will be coming in to influence this election."

There are no limits on contributions to ballot question committees.

The latest \$500,000 contribution came Wednesday to the No G for SD ballot question committee from The Concord Fund, in Virginia. It operates as a 501(c)(4), which is a type of nonprofit sometimes called a "dark money" organization, because it can participate in political campaigns without disclosing its donors. The fund's 2023 public IRS filing said the group had \$53 million in revenue.

According to Open Secrets, an organization that tracks money in politics, The Concord Fund is closely tied to Leonard Leo. He's a one-time Trump adviser who served as an executive of the Federalist Society, a conservative legal group that counts at least five U.S. Supreme Court justices as current or former members.

Another \$100,000 came to No G for SD on Tuesday from Celebrate Wesleyan Church of Sioux Falls. Other recent donations to the committee have included \$25,000 from Republican South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem's political action committee, Keeping Republican Ideas Strong Timely & Inventive, and \$10,000 from Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden's campaign committee.

The recent fundraising brings the total amount raised against the ballot measure to more than \$2 million since last spring, based on reports from several active ballot question committees.

It's difficult to say how much has been raised in support of the measure, because the committee backing it, Dakotans for Health, is also supporting a measure that would repeal state sales taxes on groceries and is combining all of its campaign finance information. But the group's latest reports say it's raised more than \$850,000 since its last report in May.

Abortion is currently banned in South Dakota, with one exception for abortions necessary to save the life of the mother. Amendment G would legalize abortion while allowing for restrictions in the second trimester of pregnancy and a ban in the third trimester, with mandatory exceptions to protect the life or health of the pregnant woman. The amendment is one of seven Nov. 5 ballot questions under consideration by South Dakota voters.

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.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 19 of 79

Marijuana industry is major funder of legalization ballot question

Both sides take in big checks from individuals, businesses

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - OCTOBER 31, 2024 2:44 PM

Representatives of the cannabis industry contributed over \$300,000 since last spring toward the Nov. 5 South Dakota ballot measure that would legalize a limited form of adult marijuana use, according to campaign finance reports.

Meanwhile, on the anti-marijuana side, more than 100 people gave individual donations totaling more than \$370,000.

The largest of those was \$61,400 from Brad Wheeler, who owns Wheeler Manufacturing in Lemmon. The next biggest contribution against the measure was \$50,000 from South Dakota Hall of Famer Robert Mudge, co-founder of RPM and Associates in Rapid City.

There are no limits on contributions to ballot question committees.

Initiated Measure 29 would legalize the possession, use and free distribution of up to 2 ounces of marijuana for adults 21 and older. It's one of seven statewide ballot questions under consideration by South Dakotans.

In all, about \$915,000 was raised for and against the marijuana measure, with \$458,000 on the pro side and \$457,000 on the con side.

Supporting donations and spending

The Yes on 29 Ballot Committee took in \$436,000 and spent \$217,000 since May, according to its most recent campaign finance report.

About \$300,000 of the contributions came from the marijuana industry. The largest contribution was \$100,000 from GL Partners Inc. in Rapid City, a medical marijuana dispensary business (South Dakota voters approved medical marijuana in 2020). Ahead of the June primary election, GL Partners gave another \$100,000 to the committee.

Trevor, Sydney and Gib Moyle of Rapid City gave a combined \$100,100. The family owns the Moyle Petroleum Company.

Committee chair Brad Jurgensen's HomeSlice Media company donated \$50,000 in marketing work and \$5,000 cash.

The Marijuana Policy Project, a national nonprofit that supports pot legalization, gave \$37,000, and a California company that makes maps showing where to buy weed legally gave \$30,000.

The group also took in \$15,000 from South Dakotans for Better Marijuana Laws, a ballot question committee that was organized to support a failed 2022 ballot question to legalize recreational cannabis.

A similarly named committee supporting IM 29, South Dakotans for Better Marijuana Laws Inc., spent \$64,570 of the \$82,000 it took in since May. Its largest single contribution of \$60,000 came from the Yes on 29 Ballot Committee. The group also received \$10,000 from a dispensary business, High Hills LLC.

Opposition donations and spending

An anti-marijuana group, the Protecting SD Kids Ballot Question Committee, pulled in over \$457,000 and spent \$371,000. Besides the more than \$370,000 in individual contributions, \$71,000 came from eight South Dakota companies and organizations, including \$25,000 apiece from First PREMIER Bank in Sioux Falls and Prestige Auto Sales in Spearfish.

The group issued a press release Wednesday announcing it had raised a total of \$550,000, including more recent fundraising that wasn't included in the group's Oct. 21 report. Committee Treasurer Marli Wiese said the additional funds are all individual contributions under \$10,000.

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.

COMMENTARY

'Twilight Zone' could await if South Dakotans approve marijuana measure

Ballot question would legalize adult use, but sales would be up to lawmakers

by Dana Hess

It's like something out of the "Twilight Zone": Imagine a world where marijuana is legal, but there's no one who can sell it to you. You've entered a place where the will of the people bumps up against the ideals of the Legislature. You've entered ... South Dakota.

This state may be headed to the Twilight Zone if Initiated Measure 29 is approved by voters. The measure allows the possession of up to 2 ounces of marijuana and six marijuana plants. There are also provisions that allow the possession of marijuana edibles and cannabis concentrates.

The measure calls for the transfer of marijuana "without consideration." That means someone has to give it to you for free. Maybe your friend with six marijuana plants will be nice enough to give you a little. There will be no legal marijuana sales — except through the existing medical marijuana program — until the Legislature takes action to authorize retail sales.

Advocates for legalizing the sale of recreational marijuana learned a harsh lesson in 2020 with the passage of Amendment A. That marijuana omnibus amendment contained everything you'd ever want to know about recreational marijuana and medical marijuana — how to sell it, how to tax it and how to regulate it. (Voters that same year also approved IM 26 which legalized medical marijuana.)

The South Dakota Supreme Court found that Amendment A ran afoul of the state law requiring that ballot issues must have only one subject. While voters liked the measure, the Supreme Court was right; Amendment A was overflowing with subjects.

That's why IM 29 is such a scaled-back version of the ballot measure approved in 2020. If voters approve of it, regulation and taxation will be left up to the Legislature. And that's where IM 29 could be quickly snuffed out.

South Dakota's Legislature is skewed heavily toward the Republican Party. After November's election, it may tip even more precariously to the right.

After the last legislative session, a group of veteran lawmakers said they weren't running for office again. In the primary, a group of incumbents who had the bad luck to vote for a bill regulating but not banning carbon dioxide pipelines were defeated. The victors tend toward membership in a wing of the Republican Party that puts the ultra in ultra-conservative.

It's easy to imagine that some of these newbies will be elected by virtue of calling themselves Republicans. Others will just glide into the Capitol unopposed because the state's Democratic Party has once again failed to field enough legislative candidates.

The action, or likely inaction, of the 2025 Legislature on IM 29 was broached in a recent South Dakota Searchlight story. "You have a conservative Legislature," said Rhonda Milstead of Protecting South Dakota Kids, which opposes IM 29. "Why would they set up a retail market for something they didn't want in the first place?"

Why, indeed, unless driven by the will of the people.

If the will of the people isn't enough to spur them to action, maybe legislators would be persuaded by money. A fiscal note on 2020's Amendment A said licensing fees, sales taxes and a 15% excise tax would generate \$29.3 million in 2024. Lawmakers will face another dip in state revenue if IM 28, which would eliminate the state sales tax on groceries, is approved by voters. South Dakota teacher salaries are ranked 49th in the nation, again. A new source of revenue might look pretty good to legislators who take balancing the state budget seriously.

One of the things being taken seriously in the run up to the election is the opposition to IM 29. Milstead laid it out at a debate about recreational marijuana: "This drug brings more poverty, more crime, more mental health issues, more youth at risk, more violence, more addiction."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 21 of 79

Make no mistake, Milstead's comments sound familiar. They reflect what opponents of the state's lottery have been saying since 1986. In that year, the state's voters backed an amendment that created the lottery. Even with those continual cautions about the evils of gambling, legislative appropriators have no problem plugging the lottery's \$178 million into the state budget each year. If they can sleep at night after helping to unleash the hell of gaming addiction on South Dakota for the past 38 years, they should have no problem helping the state make some money off the sale of pot, if that's what the people want.

Of course, lawmakers may not be faced with that decision. An October South Dakota News Watch/Chiesman Center for Democracy poll found 51% of voters opposed, 44% of voters supportive and 5% undecided on IM 29.

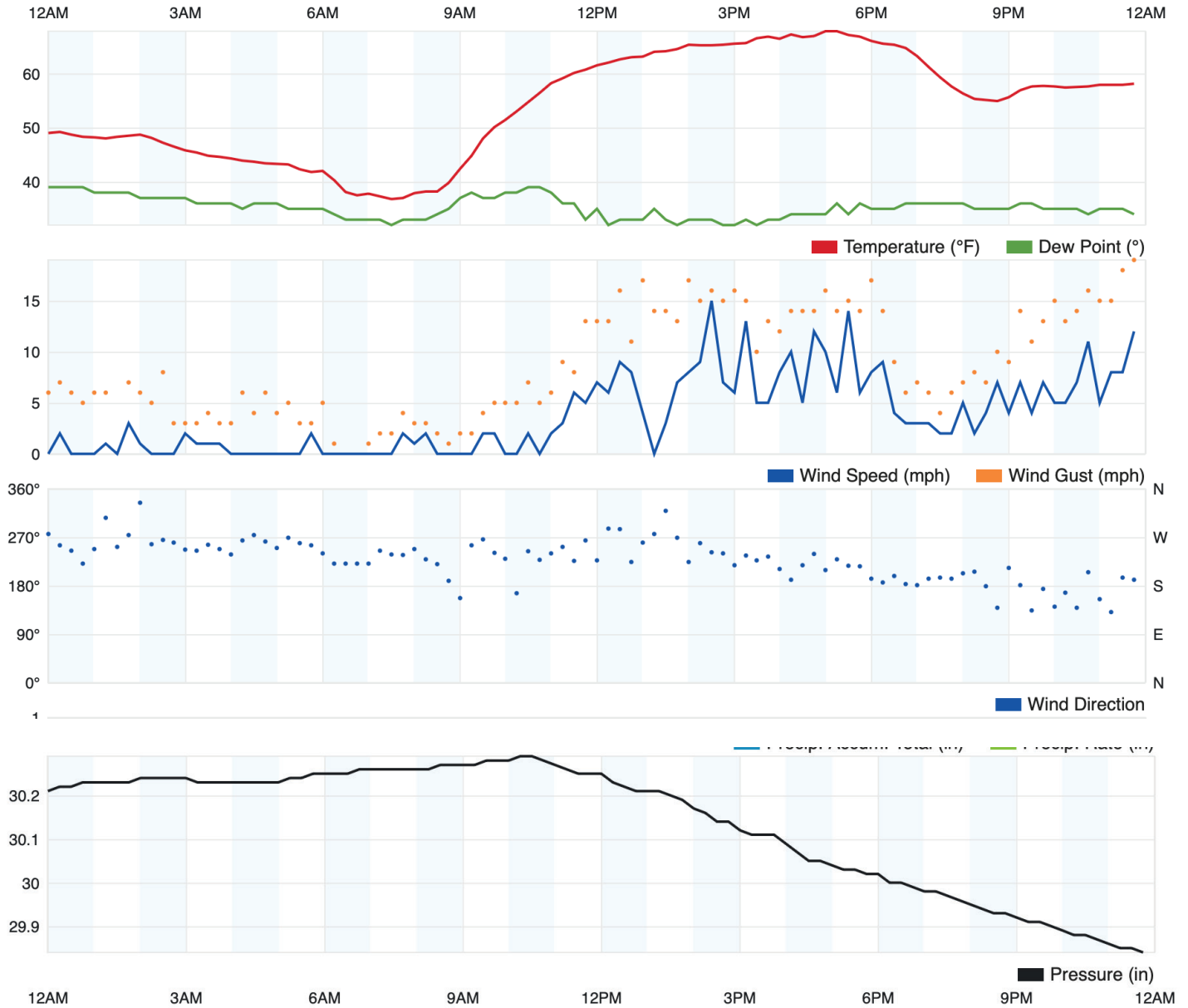
Given those poll numbers, it's hard hard to imagine a world where South Dakota voters endorse recreational marijuana, though it has happened before. It's also hard to imagine South Dakota's Legislature, top-heavy with Republicans — some of whom think Donald Trump is too liberal — following the will of the people and setting up rules for the lawful sale of marijuana.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 22 of 79

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 23 of 79

Today



High: 50 °F

Rain/Freezing
Rain Likely
then Chance
Rain

Tonight



Low: 24 °F

Increasing
Clouds

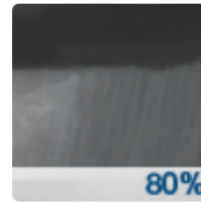
Saturday



High: 57 °F

Mostly Cloudy
then Chance
Rain

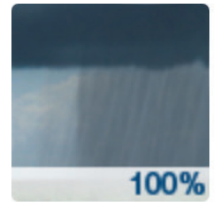
Saturday Night



Low: 45 °F


Showers


Sunday





High: 56 °F


Showers


Friday Highs: 46-55°
30-50% for Rain
in the morning 

Lows: 24-30° 

Saturday Highs: 53-60°
20-40% for Rain
mostly over eastern SD 

Lows: 41-46°
30-70% for Rain 

Sunday Highs: 53-59°
60-85% for Rain 

 National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD
November 1, 2024 4:39 AM

Temperatures will be warming up slightly into this weekend, with the chances for rain over eastern South Dakota increasing Saturday into widespread rain over central and eastern South Dakota on Sunday.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 24 of 79

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 44 °F at 4:27 PM

Low Temp: 30 °F at 2:21 AM

Wind: 17 mph at 1:35 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 10 hours, 9 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 75 in 2022

Record Low: -3 in 1935

Average High: 50

Average Low: 26

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.03

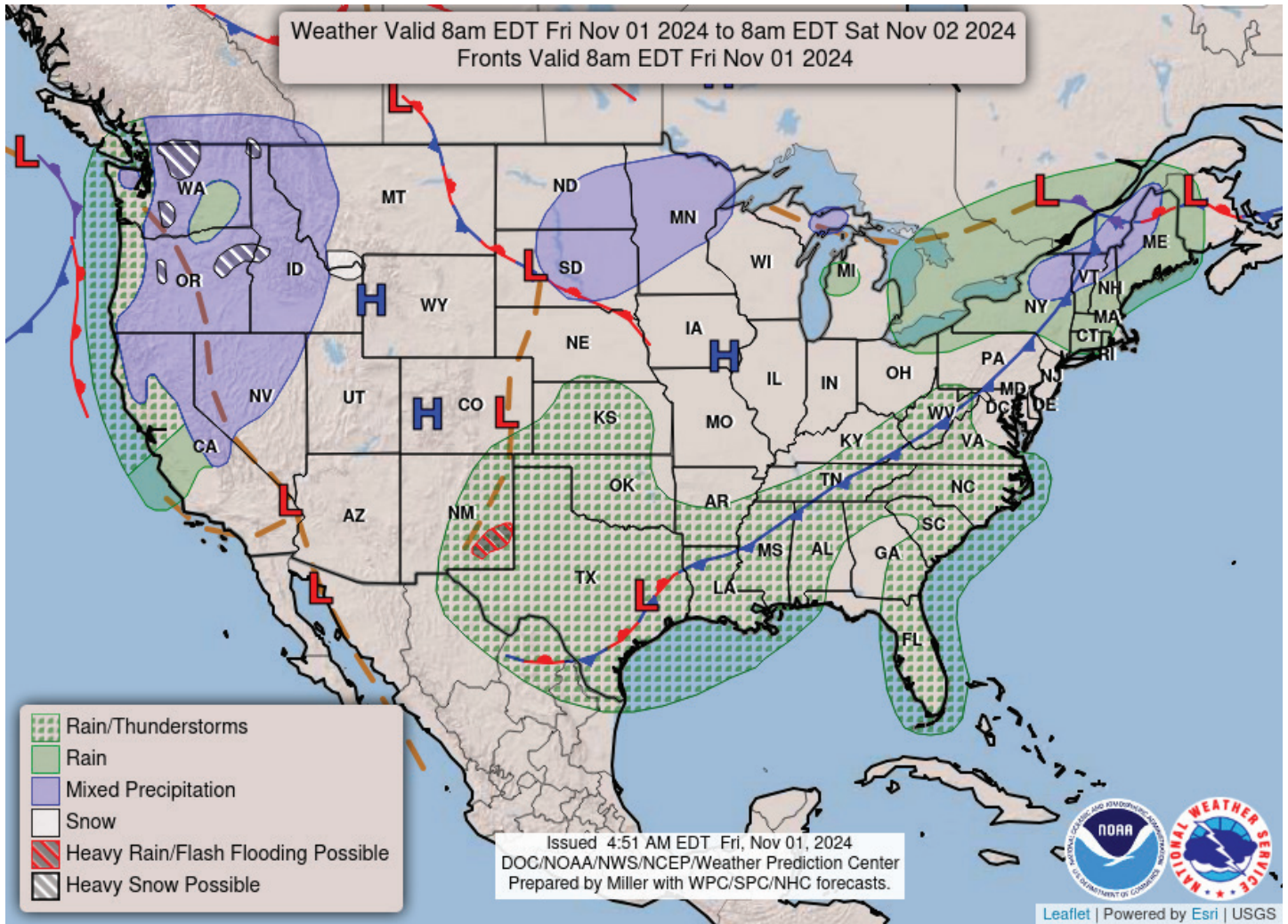
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.50

Precip Year to Date: 19.88

Sunset Tonight: 6:20:34 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:12:43 am



Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 25 of 79

Today in Weather History

November 1st, 1999: High winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts to around 55 mph caused some tree and building damage throughout Big Stone and Traverse counties. On Highway 10 west of Browns Valley, the high winds blew a semi-tractor trailer full of 12,000 pounds of meat off the road and into a ditch. High winds from 30 to 50 mph, gusting to near 65 mph, also caused building and tree damage throughout central, north-central, and northeast South Dakota. In Eureka, the high winds blew down a large part of the ballpark fence. In Mellette, a 250-foot diameter grain bin under construction also received some damage from the winds.

November 1st, 2000: A rare and unusual tornado event occurred as five tornadoes hit south-central North Dakota, causing property damage and injuries. The majority of the damage and injuries occurred in the Bismarck area. Forty-two homes suffered minor to moderate damage. The tornadoes were rated F0 and F1, packing winds up to 90 mph. Another unusual phenomenon, these tornadoes traveled from east to west due to close proximity to a low-pressure system. Simultaneously, as these tornadoes were occurring, snow began to fall in the far western area of North Dakota. As a result, winter storm watches and warnings were posted across northwest and central North Dakota that afternoon. Before this, the last recorded tornado in the state was October 11th, 1979, in Sargent County in southeast North Dakota.

1755: A magnitude 8.7 earthquake devastated Lisbon, Portugal, on this day, killing as many as 50,000 people. The epicenter was located 120 miles west-southwest of Cape St. Vincent. In addition, many individuals who sought safety on the Tagus River were killed by an estimated 20-foot tall tsunami that struck 40 minutes after the earthquake.

1848: When Joseph Henry came to the Smithsonian, one of his priorities was to set up a meteorological program. In 1847, while outlining his plan for the new institution, Henry called for "a system of extended meteorological observations for solving American storms." On November 1st, 1848, Joseph Henry and Navy meteorologist James Espy wrote a letter urging anyone interested in becoming a weather observer to signify their willingness to do so. By 1849, he had budgeted \$1,000 for the Smithsonian meteorological project and established a network of some 150 volunteer weather observers. A decade later, the project had more than 600 volunteer observers, including people in Canada, Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Its cost in 1860 was \$4,400, or thirty percent of the Smithsonian's research and publication budget.

1861: A tropical storm raced across Florida, becoming a hurricane off the coast of South Carolina. The storm-battered a Union fleet of ships attacking the Carolina ports.

1870: United States Army Signal Corps observers at 24 sites around the country simultaneously made weather reports and transmitted them to Washington, where a national weather map would be drawn. These simultaneous reports also started the process of sending out weather reports by telegraph to metropolitan newspapers. This would be the beginning of our present-day National Weather Service.

1966 - Santa Anna winds fanned fires, and brought record November heat to parts of coastal California. November records included 86 degrees at San Francisco, 97 degrees at San Diego, and 101 degrees at the International airport in Los Angeles. Fires claimed the lives of at least sixteen firefighters. (The Weather Channel)

1968 - A tornado touched down west of Winslow, AZ, but did little damage in an uninhabited area. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Early morning thunderstorms in central Arizona produced hail an inch in diameter at Williams and Gila Bend, and drenched Payson with 1.86 inches of rain. Hannagan Meadows AZ, meanwhile, was blanketed with three inches of snow. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the Ohio Valley. Afternoon highs of 76 degrees at Beckley WV, 77 degrees at Bluefield WV, and 83 degrees at Lexington KY were records for the month of November. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure brought gales and locally heavy rain to the northeastern U.S. The rainfall total of 1.46 inches at Newark NJ was a record for the date. New York City was soaked with more than two inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2014: Up to 6 inches of snow fell in Gilbert, South Carolina.



WHERE IS YOUR FOCUS?

Karl Wallenda was one of the world's greatest tightrope performers. In 1978 he fell to his death.

Sometime later his wife was speaking of the tragedy. "All Karl thought about," she recalled, "for three straight months prior to his death was falling. It was the first time he had ever thought about that, and it seemed to me that he put all of his energies into not falling rather than in walking the tightrope."

Paul warned us about focusing on the wrong things. In his letter to the Philippians he advised them to "look forward to what lies ahead. I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God through Christ Jesus is calling us to heaven."

The future is in front of all of us. And often it is not the future that causes us problems, but the past. We can't feel sorry about problems that may happen in the future, we can't become discouraged about mistakes that might occur in the future, and we can't regret sins we will commit in the future. But we can become overwhelmed with problems and mistakes and sins that occurred in the past.

And when we allow the past to interfere with our future, we will take our eyes off the "prize" that God has waiting for us. We must never relax our efforts or lower our standards if we want to be all that we can be through Christ our Savior. If we do, we lose the prize.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to keep our eyes upon You and the prize that we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. May we allow no one or no thing to distract us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. Philippians 3:13-14

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

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 27 of 79

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

- Black & White.....\$48.99/year
- Colored.....\$79.88/year
- Colored.....\$42.60/6 months
- E-Weekly*.....\$31.95/year

* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent www.397news.com Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

- 1 Month.....\$15.98
- 3 Months.....\$26.63
- 6 Months.....\$31.95
- 9 Months.....\$42.60
- 12 Months.....\$53.25

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail _____

Password _____

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

paypal.me/paperpaul

Pay with Venmo: [@paperpaul](https://venmo.com/paperpaul) Phone Number to Confirm: 7460

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 28 of 79



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.29.24

16 22 26 36 56 1

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$281,000,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 54 Mins
DRAW: 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.30.24

27 30 37 41 50 7

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$13,320,000

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 9
DRAW: Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.31.24

29 30 31 33 36 4

TOP PRIZE:
\$7,000/week

NEXT 16 Hrs 24 Mins
DRAW: 19 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.30.24

14 15 21 25 26

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$81,000

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 24
DRAW: Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.30.24

18 36 39 49 62 12

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 53
DRAW: Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.30.24

13 22 29 43 58 22

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$54,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 53
DRAW: Mins 19 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 29 of 79

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
12/14/2024 Santa Day at Professional Management Services, downtown Groton
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

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 30 of 79

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Thursday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

SDHSAA State Playoffs=

Class11AAA Quarterfinal=

Brandon Valley 35, Sioux Falls Washington 6

Harrisburg 63, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 6

Sioux Falls Jefferson 31, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 21

Sioux Falls Lincoln 44, Rapid City Central 0

Class11AA Quarterfinal=

Brookings 23, Tea 13

T F Riggs High School 40, Spearfish 20

Watertown 35, Huron 0

Yankton 28, Aberdeen Central High School 6

Class11A Quarterfinal=

Dell Rapids 17, Dakota Valley 6

Lennox 50, Canton 0

Sioux Falls Christian 58, Rapid City Christian 23

West Central 14, Madison 6

Class 11B Quarterfinal=

Elk Point-Jefferson 41, Clark-Willow Lake 8

Sioux Valley 41, Mobridge-Pollock 7

St Thomas More 38, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 34

Winner 44, WWSSC 0

Class 9AA Quarterfinal=

Elkton-Lake Benton 46, Hanson 21

Freeman-Marion-FA 36, Hill City 20

Hamlin 56, Viborg-Hurley 20

Parkston 40, Leola-Frederick High School 6

Class 9A Quarterfinal=

Howard 54, Ipswich 0

Wall 62, Castlewood 12

Warner 37, Philip 8

Wolsey-Wessington 56, Dupree 28

Class 9B Quarterfinal=

Canistota 16, Avon 8

Dell Rapids St Mary 36, Kadoka 0

Faulkton 28, Colman-Egan 20

Sully Buttes 36, Corsica/Stickney 6

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

'Dances with Wolves' actor is again indicted on sexual abuse charges in Nevada

By RIO YAMAT Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A grand jury in Nevada has again indicted Nathan Chasing Horse on charges that he sexually abused Indigenous women and girls, reviving a sweeping criminal case against the former "Dances with Wolves" actor.

The 21-count indictment unsealed Thursday in Clark County District Court, which includes Las Vegas, expands on his previous charges of sexual assault, lewdness and kidnapping to include charges of producing and possessing child sexual abuse materials.

It comes after more than a year of delayed court proceedings that culminated last month in the Nevada Supreme Court ordering the dismissal of Chasing Horse's original 18-count indictment. The court sided with Chasing Horse, saying in its scathing order that prosecutors had abused the grand jury process. But the court left open the possibility for charges to be refiled.

Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson quickly vowed to seek another indictment. Neither Wolfson nor a spokesperson for his office immediately responded Thursday to phone or emailed requests for comment.

Best known for portraying the character Smiles A Lot in the 1990 movie "Dances with Wolves," Chasing Horse was born on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, which is home to the Sicangu Sioux, one of the seven tribes of the Lakota nation.

After starring in the Oscar-winning film, according to prosecutors, Chasing Horse began propping himself up as a self-proclaimed Lakota medicine man while traveling around North America to perform healing ceremonies.

Prosecutors said his position in the community granted him access to vulnerable women and girls for decades until his arrest last January near Las Vegas. He has been jailed ever since.

Chasing Horse's arrest reverberated around Indian Country. Law enforcement in the U.S. and Canada quickly followed up with more criminal charges, saying that his arrest helped corroborate long-standing allegations against him, including on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana where tribal leaders had banished Chasing Horse in 2015 amid allegations of human trafficking.

Authorities in Alberta, Canada, have acknowledged that their case is largely symbolic. Chasing Horse — who faces decades in a Nevada prison if convicted — might not ever return to Canada.

"At the end of the day," Sgt. Nancy Farmer of the Tsuut'ina Nation Police Service has said, "it is important for us to have these warrants in the system so our victims know they've been heard. It's extremely important that we continue to support them that way."

In Las Vegas, Chasing Horse had pleaded not guilty to the original charges. His new lawyer didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment, and his former public defender, Kristy Holston, said she had no comment on the new indictment.

The latest indictment also accuses Chasing Horse of filming himself having sex with one of his accusers when she was younger than 14. Prosecutors say the footage, taken in 2010 or 2011, was found on cell-phones in a locked safe inside the North Las Vegas home that Chasing Horse is said to have shared with five wives, including the girl in the videos.

When the Nevada Supreme Court ordered the dismissal of Chasing Horse's initial indictment, the judges said they were not weighing in on his guilt or innocence, calling the allegations against him serious. But the court said that prosecutors improperly provided the grand jury with a definition of grooming without expert testimony, and faulted them for withholding from the grand jury inconsistent statements made by one of his accusers.

Chasing Horse's legal issues have been unfolding at the same time lawmakers and prosecutors around the U.S. are funneling more resources into cases involving Native women, including human trafficking and murders.

Abortion-rights groups outspend opponents by more than 6 to 1 in ballot measure campaigns

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

The groups promoting ballot measures to add amendments to the constitutions in nine states that would enshrine a right to abortion have raised more than \$160 million.

That's nearly six times what their opponents have brought in, The Associated Press found in an analysis of campaign finance data compiled by the watchdog group Open Secrets and state governments.

The campaign spending reports are a snapshot in time, especially this late in the campaigns, when contributions are rolling in for many.

The cash advantage is showing up in ad spending, where data from the media tracking firm AdImpact shows campaigns have spent more than three times as much as opponents in ads on TV, streaming services, radio and websites.

Abortion-rights supporters have prevailed on all seven ballot measures that have gone before voters since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, which ended a nationwide right to abortion and opened the door for the bans and restrictions that are now being enforced in most Republican-controlled states.

Most of the money is going to Florida

Florida is the behemoth in this year's abortion ballot-measure campaigns.

Proponents of the measure have raised more than \$75 million and opponents \$10 million. Combined, that's nearly half the national total.

The state Republican Party is using additional funds, including from corporations across the country, to urge voters to reject the measure. Including that, supporters still lead in ad-buying: \$60 million to \$27 million.

The total spent as of Tuesday is about the same amount spent on the state's U.S. Senate race.

The amendment would overturn a ban on most abortions after the first six weeks of pregnancy — when women often don't know they're pregnant — that was signed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis and took effect in May. DeSantis' administration has taken steps to thwart the campaign for the amendment.

Florida's ballot measure rules give opponents a boost: Passage requires approval from 60% of voters instead of a simple majority.

An influx of funding arrives in South Dakota

South Dakota is an outlier, with a significant funding advantage for anti-abortion groups.

According to an Associated Press analysis of state campaign disclosures, they've raised about \$2 million compared with abortion-rights supporters' \$1 million.

There was a big change last week when the abortion-rights group Dakotans for Health reported that it had received \$540,000 from Think Big America, a fund launched by Illinois Gov. Jay Pritzker, a Democrat. The fund's director, Mike Ollen, said that's helping ads get seen more widely in what could be a close race.

Before that, national abortion-rights groups, including the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, had mostly ignored South Dakota because, they said, the ballot measure doesn't go far enough. It would allow regulations of abortions after the first 12 weeks of pregnancy if they relate to the health of the woman.

"We find ourselves being caught between being way too extreme on the right end of the spectrum and not extreme enough on the left end of the spectrum," said Rick Weiland, co-founder of Dakotans for Health. "We think we're right in the middle."

The anti-abortion campaign in South Dakota, like those elsewhere, is focused largely on portraying the amendment as too extreme. The Think Big money provided a new chance to do that.

"South Dakotans don't want extreme Chicago, San Francisco, and New York views tainting our great state," Life Defense Fund spokesperson Caroline Woods said in a statement.

One anti-abortion group reported a \$25,000 contribution last week from South Dakota Republican Gov. Kristi Noem's political action committee.

Funding is close to even in a state with competing ballot measures

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 33 of 79

Nebraska has competing ballot measures.

One would allow abortion until viability, considered to be somewhere after 20 weeks. The other would bar abortion in most cases after the first 12 weeks — echoing current state law, but also allowing for a stricter one.

The side pushing to keep restrictions is leading the fundraising race, with at least \$9.8 million. One prominent family has supplied more than half of that. Republican U.S. Sen. Pete Ricketts has contributed more than \$1 million, and his mother, Marlene Ricketts, has chipped in \$4 million.

The campaign for more access has raised at least \$6.4 million.

In some states, the opposition has been quiet

In most places, abortion-rights supporters have a big fundraising lead.

In Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Montana and Nevada, the opponents had each reported raising less than \$2 million before Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the groups promoting the questions in those states have all collected at least \$5 million.

The ballot questions have different circumstances.

Missouri's amendment would open the door to blocking the state's current ban on abortion at all stages of pregnancy, with some exceptions. Proponents of the measure have raised more than \$30 million to opponents' \$1.5 million.

In Arizona, passing the abortion amendment would roll back a ban after the first 15 weeks of pregnancy and instead allow it until fetal viability, and later in some cases. The state's Supreme Court ruled this year that an 1864 ban on abortion at all stages of pregnancy could be enforced, but the Legislature promptly repealed it.

Colorado is one of the few states that already has no gestational limits on when during pregnancy abortion can be obtained. Montana allows abortion until viability.

Opponents of Nevada's measure have not reported any spending. To take effect, the amendment needs to pass this year and again in 2026.

Fundraising has been low on both sides in Maryland, though Pritzker's fund says it's sending money there, and New York, where a ballot measure doesn't mention abortion specifically but would bar discrimination based on "pregnancy outcomes and reproductive healthcare and autonomy."

Big contributions from national groups are one-sided

Liberal groups, including those that aren't required to report who their donors are, are far more active in the campaigns than their anti-abortion counterparts.

The Fairness Project, which promotes progressive ballot measures, has contributed more than \$30 million to abortion amendment campaigns since last year.

Several other abortion-rights groups have contributed \$5 million or more. No single entity on the anti-abortion side has reported giving that much.

Groups that funded the majority of last year's campaign against an Ohio abortion-rights amendment that voters approved are absent from this year's list of big contributors.

The Concord Fund, part of a network of political groups centered around conservative legal activist Leonard Leo, didn't show up in campaign finance reports until Wednesday, when a Missouri filing showed the group gave \$1 million the day before to a group opposing the ballot measure there. Leo was a driving force in securing nominations of Supreme Court justices who voted to overturn Roe.

Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America has not been active on abortion ballot measures this year, but it is pumping money into the presidential race in support of Republican Donald Trump.

"This is the most consequential fight for life before us," SBA spokesperson Kelsey Pritchard said in a statement, noting that the group is aiming to spend \$92 million in eight states in the presidential race.

A national campaign to lessen polarization pushes states to ditch partisan primaries

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A national campaign is backing ballot measures in six states to end partisan primaries, seeking to turn down the temperature in a polarized country by removing a process that gives the most active members of both major parties an outsize role in picking the country's leaders.

The \$70 million effort to replace traditional primaries with either nonpartisan ones or ranked choice voting is run by Unite America, a Denver organization dedicated to de-polarizing the country.

"People are losing faith in democracy itself," said Kent Thiry, the group's co-chair and the former chief executive officer of the kidney dialysis firm DaVita Inc, during a Denver debate about the initiative on the Colorado ballot.

Nick Troiano, Unite America's executive director, said the goal is to end a system where 85% of congressional seats are effectively filled in partisan primaries because the districts are so overwhelmingly Democratic or Republican that whoever wins the relevant primary is virtually guaranteed victory in November.

Troiano said the Republican congressmen who voted to overturn the 2020 election after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol almost all represented noncompetitive districts and have had to answer only to their party's voters.

Supporters are excited at the breadth of the campaign.

"It's eclipsed by the presidential election, but this is the most important year for this sort of structural reform that I can recall," said Edward Foley, a law professor at Ohio State University.

But some skeptics contend that changing the structure of primaries won't make much of a difference in polarization given how so much of the country lives in either heavily Democratic or heavily Republican communities — and will naturally elect people who occupy those ideological extremes.

"It seems like it's adding political complexity, weakening political parties, and it's not clear what problem they're solving," said Lee Drutman of the New America Foundation in Washington, D.C.

The ballot measures include proposals to switch to ranked choice voting in reliably Democratic Colorado, evenly divided Nevada and two reliably Republican states where a sharp swing to the right among GOP primary voters have left traditional Republicans scrambling — Idaho and South Dakota.

Swing-state Arizona and conservative Montana both have measures to shift from partisan primaries to nonpartisan ones. In deep blue Oregon, an initiative would allow parties to still run their own primaries but require them to use ranked choice voting in certain statewide and federal races.

The ballot initiatives come as an unusual number of measures affecting voting are on state ballots in November.

Eight states will consider conservative-led measures to ban voting by noncitizens, which is already illegal under federal law. Connecticut voters will decide whether to allow anyone in their state to vote by mail, and Ohio whether to have a nonpartisan commission draw their state's legislative lines.

The biggest change in U.S. elections could come from increased adoption of ranked voting. It requires every voter to rank candidates in order of preference. If one does not get a majority, the lowest-scoring candidate is eliminated and that politician's votes are reallocated to whoever their voters picked second. This continues until one candidate wins more than 50% of the vote.

Ranked voting is a more complex way of running elections that is touted as producing winners who better represent the whole electorate. The process is used in two states — Alaska and Maine — as well as a handful of cities such as New York and San Francisco.

It allowed a Democrat, Rep. Mary Peltola, to win the race for Alaska's single congressional seat in 2022 even as the state's GOP governor and senator also won re-election. That result angered many Republican activists, who then pushed bans on the process in Republican-controlled states such as Florida and Tennessee. Now, even as additional states consider adopting ranked voting, Alaska voters will consider a ballot measure to repeal it.

Critics contend the campaign to attack partisan primaries is an effort to mute the voices of ideologically

committed voters.

"This is trying to bring centrism back," said Jason Lupo, a conservative political strategist in Colorado who opposes the measure in that state, during a recent debate in Denver. "This is a way to eliminate progressives; this is a way to eliminate conservatives."

Critics also warn the proposed changes come as conservatives have become more distrustful of election processes following Trump's lies about fraud costing him the 2020 race.

"It does make elections more complicated, and that in turn makes elections harder to trust," said Trent England, the founder of the conservative group Save Our States, during a recent debate on the Idaho ballot measure. "Do we really think that now is the time to be doing that?"

Still, advocates of the ballot measures contend that something has to change.

Chuck Coughlin, a veteran Republican strategist in Arizona who used to work for Sen. John McCain, in 2022 wanted to support a Democrat running for Congress in one primary and incumbent Republicans running for county supervisor in the other. But he was allowed to vote only in one primary in a state where the Republican Party had swung sharply to the right.

"I'm like 'I can't do this anymore,'" Coughlin said after 2022, in which every candidate he worked for lost the Republican primary and the GOP nominees for governor, attorney general and secretary of state all lost to Democrats in November because they were too extreme for the state's evenly-divided electorate. "I can't just run elections to the fringe."

Coughlin was thrilled to get help from Unite America, which donated \$5 million to his Arizona initiative earlier this month.

The group was founded in 2013 to promote political independents. Troiano, who ran unsuccessfully as an independent for a Pennsylvania congressional seat, arrived to take it over three years later. He's helped steer it toward investing more in structural changes to democracy such as nonpartisan redistricting.

Unite America has several wealthy supporters, such as board members Kathryn Murdoch, daughter-in-law of media mogul Rupert Murdoch, and Kenneth Griffin, founder of the hedge fund Citadel. Its resources have become a target for opponents of its ballot measures, who contend that ranked choice voting and other changes to partisan primaries will mainly help deep-pocketed candidates win elections.

Opponents of the measures zero in on the funding as a reason to oppose the switch.

"It's not the type of people I want writing my election law," said Sean Hinga, a labor leader spearheading opposition to the Colorado ballot measure.

Opponents use parental rights and anti-trans messages to fight abortion ballot measures

By CHRISTINE FERNANDO Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Billboards with the words "STOP Child Gender Surgery." Pamphlets warning about endangering minors. "PROTECT PARENT RIGHTS" plastered on church bulletins.

As voters in nine states determine whether to enshrine abortion rights in their state constitutions, opponents are using parental rights and anti-transgender messages to try to undermine support for the ballot proposals.

The measures do not mention gender-affirming surgeries, and legal experts say changing existing parental notification and consent laws regarding abortions and gender-affirming care for minors would require court action. But anti-abortion groups hoping to end a losing streak at the ballot box have turned to the type of language many Republican candidates nationwide are using in their own campaigns as they seek to rally conservative Christian voters.

"It's really outlandish to suggest that this amendment relates to things like gender reassignment surgery for minors," said Matt Harris, an associate professor of political science at Park University in Parkville, Missouri, a state where abortion rights are on the ballot.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated constitutional protections for abortion, voters in seven states, including conservative Kentucky, Montana and Ohio, have either protected abortion rights or defeated

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 36 of 79

attempts to curtail them.

"If you can't win by telling the truth, you need a better argument, even if that means capitalizing on the demonization of trans children," said Dr. Alex Dworak, a family medicine physician in Omaha, Nebraska, where anti-abortion groups are using the strategy.

Tying abortion-rights ballot initiatives to parental rights and gender-affirming is a strategy borrowed from playbooks used in Michigan and Ohio, where voters nonetheless enshrined abortion rights in the state constitutions.

Both states still require minors to get parental consent for abortions, and the new amendments have not yet impacted parental involvement or gender-affirming care laws in either state, said David Cohen, a law professor at Drexel University.

"It's just recycling the same strategies," Cohen said.

In addition to Missouri and Nebraska, states where voters are considering constitutional amendments this fall are Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Nevada and South Dakota.

Missouri's abortion ballot measure has especially become a target. The amendment would bar the government from infringing on a "person's fundamental right to reproductive freedom."

Gov. Mike Parson and U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley, both Republicans, have claimed the proposal would allow minors to get abortions and gender-affirming surgeries without parental involvement.

The amendment protects reproductive health services, "including but not limited to" a list of items such as prenatal care, childbirth, birth control and abortion. It does not mention gender-affirming care, but Missouri state Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman, a Republican and lawyer with the conservative Thomas More Society, said it's possible that could be considered reproductive health services.

Several legal experts told The Associated Press that would require a court ruling that is improbable.

"It would be a real stretch for any court to say that anything connected with gender-affirming care counts as reproductive health care," said Saint Louis University law and gender studies professor Marcia McCormick. She noted that examples listed as reproductive health care in the Missouri amendment are all directly related to pregnancy.

As for parental consent for minors' abortions, she pointed to an existing state law that is written similarly to one the U.S. Supreme Court found constitutional, even before *Roe v. Wade* was overturned.

Most states have parental involvement laws, whether requiring parental consent or notification. Even many Democratic-leaning states with explicit protections for transgender rights require parental involvement before an abortion or gender-affirming care for minors, said Mary Ruth Ziegler, a law professor at the University of California, Davis School of Law.

A state high court would have to overturn such laws, which is highly unlikely from conservative majorities in many of the states with abortion on the ballot, experts said.

In New York, a proposed amendment to the state constitution would expand antidiscrimination protections to include ethnicity, national origin, age, disability and "sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive health care and autonomy." The constitution already bans discrimination based on race, color, creed or religion.

The measure does not mention abortion. But because it is broader, it could be easier for opponents to attack it. But legal experts noted that it would also not change existing state laws related to parental involvement in minors getting abortions or gender-affirming care.

The New York City Bar Association released a fact-sheet explaining that the measure would not impact parental rights, "which are governed by other developed areas of State and federal law." Yet the Coalition to Protect Kids-NY calls it the "Parent Replacement Act."

Rick Weiland, co-founder of Dakotans for Health, the group behind South Dakota's proposed amendment said it uses the *Roe v. Wade* framework "almost word for word."

"All you have to do is look back at what was allowed under *Roe*, and there were always requirements for parental involvement," Weiland said.

Caroline Woods, spokesperson for the anti-abortion group Life Defense Fund, said the measure "means

loving parents will be completely cut out of the equation." Weiland said those claims are part of a "constant stream of misinformation" from opponents.

If this campaign strategy failed in Michigan and Ohio, why are anti-abortion groups leaning on it for the November elections?

Ziegler, the University of California, Davis law professor, said abortion-rights opponents know they may be "playing on more favorable terrain" in more conservative states like Missouri or in states like Florida that have higher thresholds for passing ballot measures.

"Anti-abortion groups are still looking for a winning recipe," Ziegler said.

Trump says Liz Cheney might not be such a 'war hawk' if she had guns pointed at her

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Former President Donald Trump launched another attack on former Rep. Liz Cheney late Thursday, calling the Republican former Wyoming congresswoman a "war hawk" and suggesting she might not be as willing to send troops to fight if she had guns pointed at her.

During an event in Glendale, Arizona, with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson, the Republican presidential candidate was asked if it is weird to see Cheney campaign against him. Cheney has vocally opposed Trump since the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol and has become a surrogate for his Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris.

Trump called Cheney "a deranged person," then added: "But the reason she couldn't stand me is that she always wanted to go to war with people. If it were up to her we'd be in 50 different countries."

After calling Cheney "a very dumb individual," he said: "She's a radical war hawk. Let's put her with the rifle standing there with nine barrels shooting at her. OK, let's see how she feels about it. You know, when the guns are trained on her face.

"You know they're all war hawks when they're sitting in Washington in a nice building saying, oh gee, well let's send 10,000 troops right into the mouth of the enemy," Trump said.

After Harris' campaign and other Trump critics on social media pounced on the quote, Trump's campaign responded that he "was talking about how Liz Cheney wants to send America's sons and daughters to fight in wars despite never being in a war herself."

Middle East latest: Israel pounds Beirut suburb Dahiye with airstrikes overnight

By The Associated Press undefined

Israel's air force pounded Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiye overnight, destroying dozens of buildings in several neighborhoods, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said Friday.

There was no immediate word on casualties.

Recently, Israel has intensified its airstrikes on the northeastern city of Baalbek and nearby villages, as well as different parts of southern Lebanon. International mediators are ramping up efforts to halt the wars in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, circulating new proposals to wind down the regional conflict.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said more than 2,800 people have been killed and 13,000 wounded since Oct. 8, 2023, when Hezbollah began firing rockets almost daily into Israel, drawing retaliation.

The death toll from more than a year of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza has passed 43,000, Palestinian officials reported this week, without distinguishing between civilians and combatants. The war began after Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducting 250 others.

Here's the latest:

An Israeli airstrike on the edge of Qamatiyeh in Lebanon kills 3 and wounds 5

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 38 of 79

BERIUT — Lebanon's Health Ministry says an Israeli airstrike on a mountain town overlooking Beirut has killed three people and wounded five.

The ministry gave no further details about the early Friday airstrike on the edge of Qamatiyeh, southeast of Beirut.

An Associated Press journalist who visited the scene said the strike was closer to the nearby village of Ein al-Rummaneh, adding that it caused minor damage to an apartment on the first floor of a building.

On Oct. 6, an Israeli strike in Qamatiyeh killed six people, including three children, Lebanon's Health Ministry said.

Thailand tells Israel not to allow workers to enter closed military zones after 4 are killed in northern Israel
BANGKOK — The employer of the Thai workers killed and injured in northern Israel had received permission from the Israeli military to bring the workers to the area for about 1-2 hours, said Nikordej Balankura, spokesperson of Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, adding Friday that the employer was also killed.

The worker who was injured was in serious condition and was being treated at a hospital in Haifa, he said, and the Thai embassy was already in touch with the families of the deceased.

Projectiles fired Thursday from Lebanon into northern Israel killed seven people, including four Thai workers, in the deadliest such attack since Israeli troops invaded Lebanon in early October. Israel's northernmost town, Metula is surrounded by Lebanon on three sides and has sustained heavy damage from rockets. The town's residents evacuated in October 2023, and only security officials and agricultural workers remain there.

Nikordej said Thailand has called on Israel to refrain from granting permissions for Thai workers to enter closed military zones from now on, to prevent such losses from happening again.

"Thailand reiterates its call on all conflicting parties to immediately cease any retaliatory actions to prevent the situation from prolonging and aggravating, and to restore regional peace and stability in the Middle East region," he said.

Israel pounds Beirut suburb overnight with airstrikes

BEIRUT — Israel's air force resumed airstrikes on Beirut's southern suburb, destroying buildings in several neighborhoods, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said Friday. There was no immediate word on casualties.

The early Friday airstrikes on Dahiyeh — after a four-day lull during which no airstrikes were reported in the suburb — destroyed dozens of buildings and caused fires in the area, the agency said.

In recent days, Israel has intensified its airstrikes on the northeastern city of Baalbek and nearby villages, as well as different parts of southern Lebanon.

Taiwanese driver recounts his narrow escape during Typhoon

Kong-rey

By JOHNSON LAI and KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — A ride-hailing driver recounted Friday how he had narrow escape when a huge tree smashed onto his vehicle as Typhoon Kong-rey swept over Taiwan, also sweeping away metal roofs and sending landslides onto roads and railway tracks and into houses.

Song Zi-jie had just dropped off riders in Taipei, the capital city, and was stopped at a red light on Thursday night when a tree was uprooted and fell squarely onto the passenger compartment of his car. He felt the roof hit his head and reclined his seat but couldn't open the rear door. He lay there until police found him.

"I was so frightened that I didn't know what to do," said Song, who wasn't injured despite the extensive damage to his vehicle. "It took me a while to return to normal."

Two people died, four people are missing and 580 others were injured by Kong-rey in Taiwan. It weakened to a tropical storm after leaving the island but was still bringing heavy rain and windy conditions to Shanghai and nearby parts of China's east coast on Friday.

Kong-rey, which is a Cambodian name, was heading northeast along the coast with winds of 83 kilome-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 39 of 79

ters (52 miles) per hour and could make landfall in Zhejiang province before veering back out to sea, the National Meteorological Center said.

Zhejiang authorities evacuated about 280,000 people and opened more than 10,000 emergency shelters ahead of the storm, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Both Zhejiang and neighboring Fujian province also suspended multiple ferry routes.

In Taiwan, a Czech couple who had gone missing while hiking in the mountains were found and airlifted out of Taroko National Park by helicopter on Friday. They told Taiwanese TV network EBC that they hadn't been aware of the approaching typhoon but were able to call for help with their mobile phones and mostly stayed in their tent until rescuers arrived.

The two fatalities in Taiwan were a man hit by a utility pole that fell over when a tree dragged down nearby power lines in Taipei and a Thai woman who was in a small truck that was hit by a tree.

Workers cut and cleared up fallen trees in Taipei on Friday, while schools and offices largely reopened and public services were gradually restored across Taiwan.

The typhoon passed north of the Philippines earlier in the week, prompting fresh evacuations just days after devastating Tropical Storm Trami killed at least 145 people.

Intense rainfall and flooding caused in part by Trami also killed seven people in China and eight people in Vietnam this week, Xinhua reported. The deaths in China were in Hainan province, a southern island known for its beach resorts.

Kamala Harris says Trump's comment on women 'is offensive to everybody'

By WILL WEISSERT and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Kamala Harris said Thursday that Donald Trump's comment that he would protect women whether they "like it or not" shows that the Republican presidential nominee does not understand women's rights "to make decisions about their own lives, including their own bodies."

"I think it's offensive to everybody, by the way," Harris said before she set out to spend the day campaigning in the Western battleground states of Arizona and Nevada.

She followed up those remarks at her rally in Phoenix: "He simply does not respect the freedom of women or the intelligence of women to know what's in their own best interests and make decisions accordingly. But we trust women."

The comments by Trump come as he has struggled to connect with female voters and as Harris courts women in both parties with a message centered on freedom. She's making the pitch that women should be free to make their own decisions about their bodies and that if Trump is elected, more restrictions will follow as both campaigns sprint toward Tuesday's presidential election.

At a rally Wednesday evening near Green Bay, Wisconsin, Trump told his supporters that aides had urged him to stop using the term protector because it was "inappropriate."

Then he added a new bit to the protector line. He said he told his aides: "Well, I'm going to do it whether the women like it or not. I am going to protect them."

Those comments shaped much of Harris' Thursday as the two campaigns jostled over the remarks.

The actress and singer Jennifer Lopez introduced Harris at a Las Vegas rally that also included a performance by the pop band Maná. Lopez in emotional remarks talked about her background as a Puerto Rican and emphasized the importance of women for the Democratic nominee, who had just arrived after a separate rally in Reno.

"I believe in the power of women," Lopez said. "Women have the power to make the difference in this election."

Lopez also pushed back at comedian Tony Hinchcliffe, who at Trump's Madison Square Garden rally called Puerto Rico "a floating island of garbage."

"You can't even spell American without Rican," she said. "This is our country too."

Trump appointed three of the justices to the U.S. Supreme Court who formed the conservative major-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 40 of 79

ity that overturned federal abortion rights. As the fallout from the 2022 decision spreads, he has taken to claiming at public events and in social media posts that he would "protect women" and ensure they wouldn't be "thinking about abortion."

Harris tied Trump's comments to his approach to reproductive rights, but Trump generally speaks more of protecting women from criminals, terrorists and foreign adversaries, in keeping with the bleak picture he paints of a country in decline.

"I'm going to protect them from migrants coming in. I'm going to protect them from foreign countries that want to hit us with missiles and lots of other things," Trump said during the rally in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Before Trump headlined a rally in Henderson, Nevada, on Thursday night, he responded to a top Harris campaign surrogate's claim that the former president does not surround himself with strong, intelligent women.

Billionaire businessman Mark Cuban said as a guest on ABC's "The View" earlier Thursday that, "You never see" Trump "around strong, intelligent women — ever."

Trump, on X, posted that Cuban was "very wrong," and lashed out at him as "a fool" and a "MAJOR LOSER."

"All strong women, and women in general, should be very angry about this weak man's statement," Trump's post read.

The dispute showed signs of further entrenching each candidate's supporters.

It was not only women who described Trump's remarks as offensive. At the Harris rally in Phoenix, Edison Kinlicheenie, 50, said he sees Trump more as a threat than a protector, noting that the former president has a track record of preying on women.

"I have a wife and a daughter, so I wouldn't let no predator like that come around" them, Kinlicheenie said.

At a Trump rally in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sarah Pyle, 41, cited the opposition to allowing transgender athletes to compete in women's events to portray Trump as someone who helps women.

"I don't want my girls to grow up in a world like this," the Albuquerque mother said, referring to the controversy. "We fought for women's rights for so long, and now we're giving them back to men. It makes no sense."

Trump has given contradictory answers about his position on abortion, at some points saying that women should be punished for having abortions and showcasing the justices he appointed. During his successful 2016 campaign, he told voters that if he were elected, he would appoint justices to the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and said he was "pro-life."

But in recent weeks he's promised to veto a national abortion ban, after repeatedly refusing to make such a pledge. He has said the states should regulate care and said some laws were "too tough."

Since 2022, the patchwork of state laws on abortion has created uneven medical care. Some women have died. Others have bled in emergency room parking lots or became critically ill from sepsis as doctors in states with strict abortion bans send pregnant women away until they are sick enough to warrant medical care. That includes women who never intended to end pregnancies. Both infant and maternal mortality has risen.

Harris' campaign has highlighted Trump's statements around women. In one campaign ad, a woman who became gravely ill with sepsis after a pregnancy complication stands in front of a mirror looking at a large scar on her abdomen, as audio plays of Trump's comments about protecting women.

Harris hopes abortion will be a strong motivator for women at the ballot box.

In early voting so far, 1.2 million more women than men have voted across the seven battleground states, according to data from analytics firm TargetSmart.

That doesn't necessarily translate into Democratic gains. But in the 2020 presidential election, 55% of women supported the Democratic ticket of Joe Biden and Harris, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 110,000 voters.

North Korea boasts of 'the world's strongest' missile, but experts say it's too big to use in war

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea boasted Friday that the new intercontinental ballistic missile it just test-launched is "the world's strongest," a claim seen as pure propaganda after experts assessed it as being too big to be useful in a war situation.

The ICBM launched Thursday flew higher and for a longer duration than any other weapon North Korea has tested. But foreign experts say the test failed to show North Korea has mastered some of the last remaining technological hurdles to possess functioning ICBMs that can strike the mainland U.S.

The North's Korean Central News Agency identified the missile as a Hwasong-19 and called it "the world's strongest strategic missile" and "the perfected weapon system." The official media outlet said leader Kim Jong Un observed the launch, describing it as an expression of North Korea's resolve to respond to external threats to North Korea's security.

The color and shape of the exhaust flames seen in North Korean media photos of the launch suggest the missile uses preloaded solid fuel, which makes weapons more agile and harder to detect than liquid propellants that in general must be fueled beforehand.

But experts say the photos show the ICBM and its launch vehicle are both oversized, raising a serious question about their wartime mobility and survivability.

"When missiles get bigger, what happens? The vehicles get larger, too. As the transporter-erector launchers get bigger, their mobility decreases," Lee Sangmin, an expert at South Korea's Korea Institute for Defense Analyses.

The Hwasong-19 was estimated to be at least 28 meters long (92 feet) while advanced U.S. and Russian ICBMs are less than 20 meters long (66 feet), said Chang Young-keun, a missile expert at Seoul's Korea Research Institute for National Strategy. He suggested that the missile's size likely helped South Korean intelligence authorities detect the launch plan in advance.

"In the event of a conflict, such an exposure makes the weapon a target of a preemptive attack by opponents so there would be a big issue of survivability," Chang said.

Lee Illwoo, an expert with the Korea Defense Network in South Korea, said North Korea may have developed a larger missile to carry bigger and more destructive warheads or multi-warheads. If that's the case, Lee said North Korea could have used liquid fuels as they generate higher thrust than solid fuels. He said some advanced liquid propellants can be stored in missiles for a few weeks before liftoffs.

Lee said North Korea may have placed a dummy, empty warhead on the Hwasong-19 to make it fly higher.

In recent years, North Korea has reported steady advancement in its efforts to obtain nuclear-tipped missiles. Many foreign experts believe North Korea likely has missiles that can deliver nuclear strikes on all of South Korea, but it has yet to possess nuclear missiles that can strike the mainland U.S.

The hurdles it has yet to overcome, according to experts, include ensuring its warheads survive the heat and stress of atmospheric reentry, improving the altitude control and guidance systems for the missiles, and being able to use multiple warheads on a single missile to defeat missile defenses.

"Acquiring reentry technology is currently the most important goal in North Korea's missile development, specifically for ICBMs, but they just keep increasing the ranges instead. This possibly suggests they still lack confidence in their reentry technology," Lee Sangmin said.

Chang said Friday's state media dispatch on the launch lacks details on the technological aspects of the Hwasong-19 and focused on publicity.

Other North Korean claims about its weapons capabilities have been met with wide outside skepticism.

In June, North Korea claimed to have tested a multiwarhead missile in the first known launch of such a weapon, but South Korea said the weapon instead blew up. In July, when North Korea said it had test-fired a new tactical ballistic missile capable of carrying "a super-large warhead," South Korea said the claim was an attempt to conceal a botched launch.

North Korea's missile program is still a major regional security concern, with the country openly threat-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 42 of 79

ening to use its nuclear missiles against its rivals. In a joint statement Thursday, the foreign ministers of South Korea, the U.S. and Japan condemned the ICBM launch as a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and said they're committed to strengthening their efforts to block North Korea's illicit revenue generation funding its missile and nuclear programs.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said Friday it has imposed unilateral sanctions on 11 North Korean individuals and four organizations for their alleged roles in procuring missile components and generating foreign currency to fund Pyongyang's weapons program. The sanctions are largely symbolic given that financial transactions between the Koreas have been suspended for years.

Also Friday, South Korea and the U.S. conducted their first-ever joint live-fire exercise using unmanned aerial vehicles as part of efforts to demonstrate their readiness. South Korea's RQ-4B "Global Hawk" reconnaissance aircraft and the U.S. MQ-9 Reaper strike drone were mobilized for the training, according to South Korea's air force. South Korea and the U.S. have been expanding their regular military drills to cope with North Korea's evolving nuclear threats.

Observers say that Thursday's launch, the North's first ICBM test in almost a year, was largely meant to grab American attention days before the U.S. presidential election and respond to international condemnation over North Korea's reported dispatch of troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine.

North Korea's reported troop dispatch highlights the expanding military cooperation between North Korea and Russia. South Korea, the U.S. and others worry North Korea might seek high-tech, sensitive Russian technology to perfect its nuclear and missile programs in return for joining the Russian-Ukraine war.

Texas hospitals must now ask patients whether they're in the US legally. Here's how it works

By The Associated Press undefined

Texas hospitals must ask patients starting Friday whether they are in the U.S. legally and track the cost of treating people without legal status following an order by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott that expands the state's clash with the Biden administration over immigration.

Critics fear the change could scare people away from hospitals in Texas, even though patients are not required to answer the questions to receive medical care. The mandate is similar to a policy that debuted last year in Florida, where Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis is also a frequent critic of the federal government's handling of illegal crossings along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Texas hospitals have spent months preparing for the change and have sought to reassure patients that it won't affect their level of care.

Here's what to know:

Required to ask, not required to answer

Under the executive order announced by Abbott in August, hospitals must ask patients if they are citizens in the U.S. and whether they are lawfully present in the country.

Patients have the right to withhold the information and hospital workers must tell them their responses will not affect their care, as required by federal law.

Tracking hospital costs and patient data

Hospitals are not required to begin submitting reports to the state until March. An early draft of a spreadsheet made by state health officials to track data does not include fields to submit patient names or personal information.

Providers will fill out a breakdown of visits by inpatient and emergency care patients and document whether they are lawfully present in the country, citizens or not lawfully present in the U.S.

The reports will also add up costs for those covered by Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program, known as CHIP; and the cost for patients without it.

"Texans should not have to shoulder the burden of financially supporting medical care for illegal immigrants," Abbott said when he announced the policy.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 43 of 79

Texas is following Florida's lead

Florida enacted a similar law last year. Health care advocates contend the law has made immigrants who need of emergency medical care fearful and led to fewer people seeking help, even from facilities not subject to the law.

Florida's early data is — by the state's own admission — limited. The data is self-reported. Anyone can decline to answer, an option chosen by nearly 8% of people admitted to the hospital and about 7% of people who went to the emergency room from June to December 2023, according to Florida's state report. Fewer than 1% of people who went to the emergency room or were admitted to the hospital reported being in the U.S. "illegally."

Texas hospitals have been preparing

Immigrant and health care advocates have sought to educate the Texas public about their rights. In Florida, groups used text messages, posters and emails to get the word out. But advocates there have said they didn't see fears subside for about a year.

Health care providers received directives from the state and guidance from the Texas Hospital Association. "The bottom line for patients is that this doesn't change hospital care. Texas hospitals continue to be a safe place for needed care," said Carrie Williams, spokesperson for the hospital association.

Israel fights a seemingly endless war in Gaza's most devastated region

By SAMY MAGDY, JULIA FRANKEL and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — More than a year into a war that has ricocheted across the Middle East, Israeli troops are still battling Hamas in the most heavily destroyed and isolated part of the Gaza Strip.

In northern Gaza, Hamas militants carry out hit-and-run attacks from bombed-out buildings. Residents say Israeli forces have raided shelters for the displaced, forcing people out at gunpoint. First responders say they can barely operate because of the Israeli bombardment.

Since its Oct. 7 attack into Israel that sparked the war in Gaza, Hamas has taken heavy losses. The recent killing of its top leader, Yahya Sinwar, was viewed as a possible turning point, yet the two sides do not appear any closer to a cease-fire, and Hamas, which still holds scores of hostages, remains the dominant power in Gaza.

The conflict has drawn in militants from Lebanon to Yemen, and their key sponsor, Iran, has inched closer to all-out war with Israel. But in northern Gaza, the war seems stuck in a loop of devastating Israeli offensives, followed by Hamas fighters regrouping.

Israel is once again ordering mass evacuations, severely restricting aid despite global outrage and raiding hospitals it says are used by militants.

In the northern border town of Beit Lahiya — one of the first targets of last year's ground invasion — two Israeli strikes this week killed at least 88 Palestinians, including dozens of women and children. The military said its target was a spotter on the roof.

As the war grinds on, Israel is resorting to ever more draconian measures. There is even talk of adopting a surrender-or-starve strategy proposed by former generals.

On Monday, Israel passed legislation that could severely restrict the U.N. agency that is the largest aid provider in Gaza despite protests by the United States and other close allies. It accuses the agency of allowing itself to be infiltrated by Hamas, allegations denied by the U.N.

Another offensive, as Hamas keeps filling the void

Israel launched its latest offensive in northern Gaza in early October, focusing on Jabaliya, a crowded, decades-old urban refugee camp where it says Hamas had regrouped.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted another 250 that day. Israel's offensive has killed over 43,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities, who do not say how many were combatants but say more than half were women and children.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 44 of 79

Israel says it has killed over 17,000 fighters, without providing evidence, and the United States says Hamas is no longer capable of mounting an Oct. 7-style attack.

But Israeli forces have repeatedly returned to areas where they had battled before — only to face renewed attacks. At least 16 Israeli soldiers have been killed in northern Gaza since the latest operation began, including a 41-year-old colonel.

Israel has yet to lay out a plan for postwar Gaza and has rejected a U.S. push for the Western-backed Palestinian Authority to return and govern with Arab support. Plainclothes Hamas security men still patrol most areas.

“It’s endless war,” said Michael Milshtein, a former Israeli military intelligence officer who now leads a Palestinian studies program at Tel Aviv University.

He says Israel has only two options to break the cycle: Either completely reoccupy Gaza, which would require several thousand troops to be stationed there indefinitely. Or secure a cease-fire with Hamas that involves the release of its hostages in exchange for Palestinians in Israeli jails, and a full Israeli withdrawal — the kind of deal that has long eluded U.S. and Arab mediators.

“We are in Jabaliya for the fourth time, and maybe in the next month we will find ourselves there for the fifth and the sixth.” he said.

‘Leave now’ if you care about the lives of your children

Around a million people fled the north, including Gaza City, when Israel ordered its wholesale evacuation at the start of the war. They have not been allowed to return.

Some 400,000 have remained, even as Israel has encircled the area and obliterated entire neighborhoods and critical infrastructure.

The U.N. says at least 60,000 people have fled to Gaza City in recent weeks from Jabaliya and the northern border towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya.

Residents who remain describe being stuck in their homes for days at a time because of the fighting, with bodies rotting in the streets and rescue teams unable to venture out.

Amna Mustafa and her children were asleep before dawn in a crowded school-turned-shelter in Beit Lahiya last week when an Israeli drone hovering overhead ordered everyone to evacuate. “If you care about your life and the lives of your children, leave now,” it said.

She said men were ordered to strip down and taken away in trucks. The military says it makes every effort to avoid harming civilians, and that such procedures are used to search and detain militants who it says hide among civilians.

Women and children were ordered to walk to a nearby hospital, where Israeli soldiers searched them before allowing most to walk onward to Gaza City, several miles (kilometers) to the south. Mustafa said she spent two nights in the open before moving into a new tent camp in a soccer field.

“There is no food, no water, no blankets, no diapers and no milk for the children,” she said. “We are here waiting for God’s mercy.”

The Israeli military shared drone footage of a similar exodus, showing thousands of people walking down a plowed up road past tanks. It said Hamas had prevented them from leaving before its forces arrived, without providing evidence.

The U.N. human rights office warned earlier this month that Israel “may be causing the destruction of the Palestinian population in Gaza’s northernmost governate through death and displacement.”

Israel restricts aid despite U.S. warnings

Israel has severely restricted aid to Gaza in October, allowing in only about a third of the humanitarian assistance that entered the previous month.

Alia Zaki, a spokesperson for the World Food Program, said Israel has not allowed U.N. agencies to deliver aid to the north outside of Gaza City since the latest offensive began.

Col. Elad Goren, a spokesperson for COGAT, the Israeli military body in charge of civilian affairs in Gaza, attributed the lack of aid in the first half of the month to Jewish holiday closures and troop movements.

At a briefing last week, he said there was no need for aid deliveries in Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya because there was “no population” left in either town. That was before this week’s strikes on Beit Lahiya

killed scores of people.

The Biden administration has told Israel to increase the supply of aid entering Gaza, warning it of U.S. laws that could require it to reduce its crucial military support.

Does Israel plan to empty the north?

Palestinians fear Israel is carrying out a strategy proposed by former generals in which aid to the north would be cut off, civilians would be ordered to leave and anyone remaining would be branded a militant. Rights groups say the plan would violate international law.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who visited the region last week for the 11th time since the start of the war, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told him that Israel had not adopted the plan. The military has denied receiving such orders.

But the Israeli government has not publicly repudiated the plan, even after Blinken's visit.

Milshtein says the fact that Israel is even considering it is "a post-traumatic phenomenon" born of desperation.

"Many people in the (Israeli military) know it's a bad idea... But they say: 'OK, we don't have any other plan, so let's try it.'"

Hakeem Jeffries chooses calm over chaos as Democrats work to win the House majority

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

PALMDALE, Calif. (AP) — This election, he has warned, is about the economy. Freedom. Stopping Project 2025 and the MAGA extremes.

And, after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, it's about democracy.

And yet, Hakeem Jeffries, in line to make history as the first Black speaker of the House, says he is choosing to stay calm, as Democrats work to wrest control of the chaotic U.S. House from Republicans.

"In this unprecedented moment that we're in, I've concluded that calm is an intentional decision," Jeffries told The Associated Press during an interview at a park-side cafe in between campaign stops in Southern California.

"We have to continue to make the decision to remain calm, execute the plan, run through the finish line," he said. "And then put it into the hands of the American people."

Ever tight, the campaign for control of the House is a toss-up, playing out in unlikely corners of the country far from the presidential race, including in Jeffries' home state of New York and in California. A single contested seat, among 435, could make the difference if Democrats can flip the majority and dislodge Republican Mike Johnson from the speaker's office.

Never before in the nation's nearly 250-year history has a Black American been so close to grasping the gavel. Jeffries, 54, is part of a younger generation of leaders, alongside Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris, proposing a new way forward, past the era of the former president, Republican Donald Trump.

But Jeffries, a lawyer before coming to Congress, doesn't want to talk about the milestone of becoming House speaker, and he won't venture to predict that Democrats will sweep the House majority. He wants to talk about the choices before voters right now.

"Everything we care about is on the line. Everything we care about is on the ballot. We can either move this country forward or turn back the clock," he said on an early Sunday morning in the high desert community of Palmdale, the dusty far reaches of Los Angeles County.

"We're not going back!" chanted the hundreds of volunteers, ready to go knock on doors to get out the vote for Democrat George Whitesides in the race against Republican Rep. Mike Garcia.

The Brooklyn-born Jeffries took over as House Democratic leader when Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi stepped aside, making him heir apparent to the speaker's office. He is poised to win internal party balloting as leader again later this year, regardless of the election results. Yet if Democrats win majority control, he would stand for election as speaker by the whole House, when the new Congress convenes in January.

One of the party's most effective communicators, Jeffries' free-form speeches on the House floor stand

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 46 of 79

out among modern oratory, popping with cultural references of the times. He is sometimes compared to former President Barack Obama.

Now, the congressman's skills and savvy as he traverses the country and fundraises for the party are being put to the test.

He is open and accessible to colleagues, methodical and even meditative, though sometimes slow to act, and keeps his counsel very close. He appears to have told almost no one what he said to President Joe Biden when the two spoke privately during a tumultuous July, before the president announced his decision to withdraw from the race and endorse Harris.

"A rock," said Rep. Grace Meng, a fellow Democrat from New York, who has viewed Jeffries as a mentor. "He takes everyone seriously."

Logging 25,000 miles and visiting more than 30 states to flip the House, Jeffries is proposing a "robust" Democratic agenda, which he described as lowering inflationary costs, creating better jobs and safer communities, and confronting the affordable housing crisis.

The House, under Democrats, would vote to enshrine access to reproductive care in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision that ended abortion rights in *Roe v. Wade*, he said. And it would pass the John R. Lewis voting rights bill to expand and protect ballot access.

On the campaign swing through California, Jeffries spent Saturday afternoon rallying voters at a banquet hall in Orange County's Little Saigon, near Disneyland, in one of the most contested seats of the cycle.

By Sunday, he was at one of the older Black churches in the Lancaster area, in what residents said had been a segregated part of town. He urged the congregation to round up family and friends and "vote for enlightened leadership, people who have your best interests in mind, who want to work together."

In many ways, Jeffries has already been acting as the *de facto* House speaker, the leader who could be depended on after Republicans booted Kevin McCarthy from the speaker's office and threw the chamber into chaos.

It was Jeffries who provided the Democratic votes to ensure Congress passed major legislation, including to prevent a government shutdown and to arm Ukraine as it fights Russia, when Johnson could not control his own GOP majority.

And it was Jeffries who saved Johnson's job as speaker, again providing the Democratic votes needed to turn back far-right Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene's effort to oust him.

Asked about what kind of speaker he would be, if Democrats win, Jeffries said he has already shown it.

"Putting 'people over politics' is not simply a slogan," he said about the party's message. "It's been a governing way of life."

Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, once the highest-ranking Black leader as the House Democratic whip, said having Jeffries ascend to speaker would show the nation's path "toward a more perfect union."

"All of that are stepping stones," he said. "And you keep going until you make a breakthrough. And I think we have a chance to make the breakthrough here."

As families played at a nearby park, Claudette Reynolds, a retired postal official, spotted Jeffries walking into the Orange County cafe.

She rushed over to take a selfie, and later shared their conversation.

"I told him we're going to make him the next speaker of the House," she said.

Trump makes anti-trans attacks central to his campaign's closing argument

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Donald Trump has made his opposition to transgender rights central to his closing argument before Election Day, using demeaning language and misrepresentations to paint an exceedingly narrow slice of the U.S. population as a threat to national identity.

The former president and Republican nominee's campaign and aligned political action committees have spent tens of millions of dollars on advertising that attacks Democratic nominee and Vice President Kamala

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 47 of 79

Harris for her previous statements supporting transgender rights.

His rally speeches now feature a spoof video mocking trans people and their place in the U.S. military. The montage, interspersed with clips of the Vietnam War movie "Full Metal Jacket," typically draws loud boos at his rallies, as do Trump's false claims about female athletes and his mocking impression of what he says is a trans woman lifting weights.

"We will get ... transgender insanity the hell out of our schools, and we will keep men out of women's sports," Trump said at his recent Madison Square Garden rally, drawing an approving roar from the crowd of 20,000-plus.

While often overshadowed by Trump's emphasis on migrants, his broadsides against LGBTQ people have seemed to grow more frequent and ominous in the campaign's final days, intended both to stir his core supporters and coax votes from more moderate voters who may not mesh with Trump on other matters. It's part of an overall campaign in which Trump has pushed his own brand of hyper-masculinity, most recently referring several times to CNN anchor Anderson Cooper, who is gay, by a woman's name, "Allison Cooper."

Harris has largely ignored Trump's attacks but has pushed back on his characterization of her stances, noting that federal policy giving U.S. military personnel access to gender-affirming medical care and transgender surgery was in place during Trump's presidency.

"I will follow the law," Harris said in a Fox News interview on Oct. 17. "And it's a law that Donald Trump actually followed. You're probably familiar with now. It's a public report that under Donald Trump's administration, these surgeries were available on a medical necessity basis, to people in the federal prison system."

On "The Breakfast Club" podcast earlier this week, she added that Trump was "living in a glass house" with his attacks. She compared the number of people involved: She said two U.S. service members have sought transgender surgery, while millions of people could be stripped of their health insurance if Trump and Republicans succeed in their efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Polling suggests a divided electorate on transgender rights. About half of Americans, 51%, say changing one's gender is morally wrong, according to a Gallup poll from May. About 7 in 10 Americans say transgender athletes should only be allowed to compete on sports teams that match their birth gender, according to a 2023 Gallup poll. Yet about 6 in 10 Americans oppose laws that ban treatments and medical procedures that help transgender individuals align with their gender identity, according to a Gallup poll from May. About one-third favor such bans.

Civil rights advocates, meanwhile, express concerns over what a second Trump administration would mean for LGBTQ rights, and say his campaign messaging already threatens the security of transgender people, regardless of who prevails.

Trump has vowed to target transgender people if elected. He has said he would ask Congress to pass a bill stating there are "only two genders" and to ban hormonal or surgical intervention for transgender minors in all 50 states.

Sarah Kate Ellis, president of the LGBTQ advocacy group GLAAD, said Trump's approach attacks "vulnerable people" who make up about 1% of the population "and already are marginalized" by much of society.

"Why are we debating trans people's medical care? Because there's a lack of understanding, and there's a lack of humanizing about who trans people are," Ellis said. "It's not easy to be transgendered, to wake up every day in a body that might not fit who you are, and instead of having empathy, they're met with hostility. That's the culture Trump is creating."

Writer and activist Charlotte Clymer added on the social media platform X: "It really ... sucks to watch any sports event as a trans person right now because of the Trump commercials, and I just need everyone to know that: yes, we do see the ads, and it's demoralizing to know this entire subset of people sees us as subhuman."

Indeed, Trump's campaign has since Sept. 1 spent about \$35 million airing three ads based on statements Harris made in 2019 as a candidate for Democrats' 2020 presidential nomination. Clips show Harris affirming her support for federal policies that allow federal prisoners access to medical care including gender-affirming hormone treatments and, potentially, transgender surgery.

"It sounds insane because it is insane," the announcer states in an ad that, as of Thursday, had aired

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 48 of 79

almost 28,000 times across presidential battlegrounds and national television. "Kamala's agenda is 'they-them,' not you," the ad concludes, referring to non-gender-specific pronouns.

Harris, in her 2019 presidential campaign, wrote in an ACLU questionnaire, "I support policies ensuring that federal prisoners and detainees are able to obtain medically necessary care for gender transition, including surgical care, while incarcerated or detained."

She also worked as California attorney general to grant access to such care for state prisoners. But Harris is correct in noting that similar federal policies were in place under Trump's presidency, both for immigrant detainees and federal prisoners.

At Trump's rallies, he often addresses LGBTQ issues with generalizations and emotional appeals. He routinely blasts U.S. military leaders for being "woke," blaming Harris and President Joe Biden.

The spoof video that is played on screens at Trump's rallies alternates between scenes of intense military training, sometimes with drill sergeants yelling at troops, and scenes depicting what are supposed to be LGBTQ members of the military, each displaying exaggerated feminine affects. The latter scenes, the video states, reflect the U.S. military under Biden and Harris.

By the time Trump takes the stage, multiple speakers have primed the audience on the issue.

"We're in the middle of a national identity crisis. Faith in God, patriotism, hard work, family -- these things have disappeared only to be replaced by 'wokeism' and transgenderism" and other philosophies, said former Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy at Madison Square Garden. "These are symptoms of a deeper void of purpose and meaning in our country, and right now we need to step up and fill that void with our own vision."

Peeking behind the curtain: News outlets are conscious of the need to explain election reporting

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press will have thousands of people on hand next week to count votes and declare winners and losers in the U.S. election, continuing a tradition that began in 1848.

There's an even greater priority this year on explaining that process to outsiders.

The AP has already run a series of stories outlining how everything works, and has a team of reporters who will be assigned on election night to write in plain language why it is "calling" key individual states for presidential candidates Kamala Harris or Donald Trump.

Similar plans are afoot at other news organizations. At the AP, editors are mindful of political misinformation and opinion polls that reveal a growing distrust of the media, said Julie Pace, senior vice president and executive editor.

"I can't make people trust us," Pace said. "But we have devoted an incredible amount of time and effort and resources in getting after exactly that. We take it very seriously."

Several news organizations are trying to explain things

NBC News has published explanatory stories on its website — one, for example, tells readers how exit polls work and how the network will use them. The New York Times has promised more information will accompany one of its most popular online features election night, the Needle, which fluctuates as it measures the probability of which presidential candidate will win.

On the air, ABC News has run a "Protecting Your Vote" series, which has profiled election workers, explained why there will be fewer polling places and introduced people who have been caught up in elections lawsuits.

CNN is also posting a series of articles that explain the projection process and exit polls, and gives advice on how people should follow election night coverage. It is also making a version of its "Magic Wall" available online, so viewers can have the same access to statistics and historical comparisons that correspondent John King has on the air.

The AP's election night role in counting the vote is unique, built upon the premise that while individual jurisdictions report tallies, there is no federal authority to pull it all together.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 49 of 79

The process involves nearly 5,000 people and the data is widely used across the news industry. Stringers collect results directly from local authorities nationwide and transmit them to a vote entry center, where the numbers are compiled and checked against online sources. Separately, the news organization — like the largest television networks — calls individual races making use of actual results, exit polls and historical trends.

The rule for declaring a winner is simple: “We call the race when there is no way that the trailing candidate can catch up,” Pace said. In 2020, news outlets declared Joe Biden the winner over Trump on Saturday after election day.

The AP expects to make calls this year in 6,832 individual races, from the president down to local elections and ballot measures.

Why calls are made — and not made

A dozen journalists have been assigned to write stories and live blog entries that explain the specific factors that go into making calls in the key presidential swing states and other closely-watched races. It’s a test for writers: It requires both technical knowledge and an ability to convey that information clearly and quickly.

It’s also important to keep people updated when a race is too close or there are other factors holding back a call.

“It’s absolutely important for an organization to be as transparent as they can be, especially because there’s been an effort to challenge the credibility of calls,” said Mark Lukasiewicz, dean of Hofstra University’s communications school and a longtime NBC News producer. At the same time, it’s hard to do in a way that makes sense to people who are not statisticians or systems operation experts, he said.

The AP was correct in every one of its calls for president, Congress and governors in the 2020 race, a 99.9% accuracy rate overall.

Yet then-President Trump and his supporters were furious when Fox News Channel and the AP reported Joe Biden as the winner in the key state of Arizona well before other news organizations. The call proved correct but it fueled suspicions about the voting process. Fox, in particular, faced an enormous blowback from its viewers.

There’s a direct line from that episode to AP’s effort to be more systematic and thorough in its explanatory efforts this year, Pace said.

“We need to be better and faster in explaining what is happening in those moments as opposed to saying, effectively, ‘We’re the AP, we have a 99% accuracy rate, of course we’re right,’” she said.

Don’t overlook routine things that may become stories

Journalists also need to be aware that even small things that happen routinely during elections — numbers mistakenly transposed on a vote tally, or broken voting machines that result in extended hours at some polling places — are stories that need to be reported upon so they don’t blow up into conspiracy theories.

Ultimately, elections in the United States have been incredibly well run, Pace said.

“My hope is that if people are confused about what’s going to happen here, what’s happening behind the scenes, we’ve been very transparent,” she said. “It’s all there. It’s all available for people.

“I’m not naive enough to think that putting it out there quells all of the skepticism around elections or tamps down all of the misinformation, but it’s an incredibly robust effort to make sure that fact-based explanatory information about elections is out there.”

The AP experimented with more of this material early in the election season and it proved popular with readers. “It reinforced for us that this is something that we should be doing,” she said.

AP-NORC poll finds skepticism of nationwide election tallies, especially among Republicans

By CHRISTINE FERNANDO and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's deep partisan divisions extend to trust in the vote tallies for this year's election, as a new poll finds that Republicans are much more skeptical than Democrats that ballots will be counted accurately.

Voters generally show more distrust toward nationwide voting results compared to the tallies done by their own local election offices, according to the survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

About half of Republican registered voters have "a great deal" or "quite a bit" of trust that the vote will be accurately counted by their local election officials and around 4 in 10 say the same about the vote count in their state, but only around one-quarter have at least "quite a bit" of trust in the nationwide count.

Republicans voters' overall level of trust in all three, however, is lower than it is among Democratic voters. Roughly three-quarters of Democrats say they have at least "quite a bit" of confidence that votes will be counted accurately nationwide, in their state or by their local election officials.

This year's election marks the first presidential race since former President Donald Trump began a campaign of lies about a stolen 2020 election — a narrative that has undermined public confidence in election results among a wide swath of conservative voters, despite no evidence of widespread fraud.

Election experts have warned that Trump may be laying the groundwork to once again challenge the election if he loses.

David Farrington, a 78-year-old conservative in Fort Worth, Texas, said he distrusts mail-in ballots and ballot drop boxes, both common targets for claims of voter fraud and election conspiracies attempting to sow distrust in election results.

"It's not the vote count that I'm worried about," Farrington said. "I have every faith in all the precincts and their ability to count the ballots that are there. But the ballots — we don't know if they're legitimate or not."

Conversely, Ruth Edwards, a 28-year-old kindergarten teacher in Tampa, Florida, said she has "never seen evidence that elections are rigged."

"It's just people who are upset about their candidate losing who are now claiming it's rigged with no evidence," said Edwards, a Democrat. "It's ridiculous."

Voters overall are more likely to believe that votes in the 2024 presidential election will be counted accurately by their local election officials or in their state than nationwide, according to the poll. About 6 in 10 voters have "a great deal" or "quite a bit" of confidence that votes in the 2024 presidential election will be counted accurately by their local election officials or in their state, while about half say this about votes counted nationwide.

About one-quarter in each case have "a moderate amount" of confidence. About 3 in 10 say they have "only a little" or no confidence in the nationwide count, while fewer say that about the tally in their state or by local officials.

Drew Inman, a 31-year-old Republican working in law enforcement in New Jersey, said he is skeptical that votes will be counted accurately at all levels, but especially in counties outside his own.

"I definitely trust my vote to be counted at a local level more than I trust the national vote count," he said. "... When you go national, there's a lot more people involved and that can create corruption."

While ballots can include races for federal offices such as president or Congress, the U.S. does not run national elections as other countries do. All elections are run by the states and administered by local election offices in thousands of townships, cities and counties.

Election officials have recognized that many skeptical voters tend to point to other jurisdictions with false claims of fraud. Some groups have tried to counter this perception by emphasizing that elections in every state are run at the local level.

"What is difficult is when we have national elections, oftentimes people will maybe throw election profes-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 51 of 79

sionals under the bus from another state, and that is not helpful," said Tammy Patrick, a former election official now with the National Association of Election Officials.

Older voters have more faith in the vote count at all levels than younger voters, including the count conducted by local election officials. About half of 18- to 29-year-old voters have at least "quite a bit" of confidence that votes will be counted accurately in their state or by their local election officials, compared to around 7 in 10 voters ages 60 and older.

The gap is smaller for the nationwide vote count, though: About 4 in 10 18- to 29-year-old voters have at least "quite a bit" of confidence, compared to about half of voters ages 60 and older.

Bill Sanchez, a 29-year-old criminal defense attorney in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, said older voters have been watching and participating in the election process for longer, giving them more time to build trust.

"Younger voters have less experience voting and have spent a lot of their lives surrounded by this kind of misinformation that we're seeing more and more of," Sanchez said. "... It just sets the base for younger voters to be more distrustful."

About 6 in 10 Republicans say people voting who are not eligible is a major problem in U.S. elections, compared to 2 in 10 Democrats. Democrats and Republicans differ most sharply over whether mail ballots that are returned via the U.S. Postal Service or a drop box will be counted accurately. About 6 in 10 Democrats are "extremely" or "very confident" that mail ballots that are returned by these methods will be counted accurately, compared to around 1 in 10 Republicans.

Democrats, meanwhile, are much more concerned about voter suppression than Republicans. About half of Democrats say voter suppression is a major problem, compared to about one-third of Republicans.

And about 4 in 10 voters are concerned about other countries tampering with U.S. voting systems or election results, which is down slightly from when the question was last asked in February 2020. This is something that independent voters are at least slightly more likely to be worried about than Democrats or Republicans.

Sanchez, the attorney from Pennsylvania, said he is more concerned about voter suppression than widespread fraud or ballots being miscounted and called for the expansion of early voting and mail ballots to "make voting as accessible as possible." He also worries about the potential that false claims of voter fraud could incite violence and unrest, and said he hopes election officials' attempts to inform voters ahead of the election will help.

"There's a lot of misinformation and disinformation about election security from bad faith actors who are trying to build distrust and take advantage of the fact that people don't always understand everything about the process," Sanchez said. "And when we don't understand things, we end up fearing it."

Final jobs report before election will likely offer a blurred view of labor market

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans on Friday will get their last major look at the state of the U.S. economy — the October jobs report — just four days before Election Day. The view, though, is likely to be obscured by the effects of strikes and hurricanes that left many workers temporarily off payrolls.

The Labor Department is expected to report that employers added just under 118,000 jobs last month, according to forecasters surveyed by the data firm FactSet. That would be a decent if hardly spectacular gain. But it would mark a sharp drop from the unexpectedly strong 254,000 jobs that the economy added in September.

Economists have cautioned, though, that Hurricanes Helene and Milton, combined with ongoing strikes, including one by machinists at Boeing, had the effect of pushing down net job growth in October. Lydia Boussour, a senior economist at the tax and consulting firm EY, said she expects the government to report that just 70,000 jobs were gained in October. By her calculations, the hurricanes and the strikes combined to subtract as many as 111,000 jobs from payrolls last month.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 52 of 79

"The October jobs report will be muddled," Boussoir wrote in a commentary. "We believe the true underlying pace of job growth was likely around 170,000 in October." At the same time, the unemployment rate is expected to stay at a low 4.1%, according to the FactSet survey.

By any measure, such figures are those of a healthy job market — not quite as robust as it was early this year but still solid and steady. Combined with an inflation rate that has tumbled from its 2022 peak to near pre-pandemic levels, the overall economy appears on solid footing on the eve of Election Day.

Economists have noted, too, that the United States has the strongest of the world's most advanced economies, one that has proved surprisingly durable despite the pressure of high interest rates. This week, for example, the government estimated that the economy expanded at a healthy 2.8% annual rate last quarter, with consumer spending — the heart of the economy — helping drive growth.

Yet as voters choose between former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris, large numbers of Americans have said they are unhappy with the state of the economy. Despite the plummeting of inflation, many people are exasperated by high prices, which surged during the recovery from the pandemic recession and remain about 20% higher on average than they were before inflation began accelerating in early 2021.

The blurriness of the October jobs data could lead some Republican political figures to once again question the credibility of the government's employment figures, especially if they turn out stronger than economists expect. Sen. Marco Rubio, for example, a Florida Republican who is a onetime Trump critic turned unabashed supporter, has baselessly claimed that the surprisingly strong September jobs report was "fake."

Yet no mainstream economists share such skepticism. And other economic barometers, like the number of people seeking unemployment benefits — data that is compiled mostly by the states — also point to a still-solid job market.

With inflation having significantly cooled, the Federal Reserve is set to cut its benchmark interest rate next week for a second time and likely again in December. The Fed's 11 rate hikes in 2022 and 2023 managed to help slow inflation without tipping the economy into a recession. A series of Fed rate cuts should lead, over time, to lower borrowing rates for consumers and businesses.

In the meantime, there have been signs of a slowdown in the job market. This week, the Labor Department reported that employers posted 7.4 million job openings in September. Though that is still more than employers posted on the eve of the 2020 pandemic, it amounted to the fewest openings since January 2021.

And 3.1 million Americans quit their jobs in September, the fewest in more than four years. A drop in quits tends to indicate that more workers are losing confidence in their ability to land a better job elsewhere.

Rocket fire from Lebanon kills 7 in Israel as US officials try to push for cease-fires

By MELANIE LIDMAN, JULIA FRANKEL and FADI TAWIL Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Rocket barrages from Lebanon into northern Israel killed four foreign workers and three Israelis on Thursday, Israeli medics said, the deadliest cross-border strikes in Israel since it invaded Lebanon. Israel kept up airstrikes it says targeted Hezbollah militants across Lebanon, where health authorities on Thursday reported 24 people killed.

U.S. diplomats were in the region pushing for cease-fires in both Lebanon and Gaza, hoping to wind down the wars in the Middle East as the Biden administration enters its final months. Pressure has been building ahead of the U.S. election next week.

In northern Gaza, Israeli forces struck one of the last functioning hospitals, destroying much-needed supplies that the World Health Organization had delivered to the facility, the U.N. agency said. The strikes set off a fire that affected the dialysis unit, destroyed water tanks, damaged the surgery building and injured four medics trying to extinguish the blaze, said the hospital's director, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya.

The Israeli military did not respond to a request for comment about a strike on the hospital, which it stormed last week after alleging it was harboring Hamas militants. Gaza's Health Ministry on Thursday

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 53 of 79

condemned Israeli attacks on the hospital and called on the international community to safeguard medical facilities in Gaza.

Back-to-back deadly rocket attacks hit Israel

Projectiles from Lebanon crashed into an agricultural area in Metula, Israel's northernmost town, killing four Thai workers and an Israeli farmer, officials said.

Hours later, the Israeli military reported another volley of some 25 rockets from Lebanon, striking an olive grove in a suburb of the northern Israeli port city of Haifa. That strike killed a 30-year-old man and 60-year-old woman while wounding two others, said Magen David Adom, Israel's main emergency medical organization.

Both Hezbollah and Hamas are backed by Iran, Israel's regional adversary. Hezbollah did not immediately claim responsibility for Thursday's rocket fire. Israel's military said 90 projectiles were fired from Lebanon on Thursday.

Hezbollah has been firing thousands of rockets, drones and missiles into Israel — and drawing fierce Israeli retaliatory strikes — since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack out of the Gaza Strip triggered Israel's devastating war in the Palestinian enclave.

The residents of Metula evacuated in October 2023, and only security officials and agricultural workers remain.

In addition to the four Thais killed, another Thai agricultural worker was injured by the rocket fire, Thailand's Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa said in social media posts Friday. Maris urged all parties to return to the path of peace in the name of the civilians harmed by the continuing conflict.

The Hotline for Refugees and Migrants, an Israeli organization that advocates for foreign workers, said authorities had put them in danger by allowing them to work along the border without proper protection.

Agricultural areas near Israel's border are closed military zones that can only be entered with official permission. For the few remaining residents, the thump of interceptions by Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system and wailing air raid sirens punctuate daily life.

Nonetheless, local officials largely support continuing a ground operation in southern Lebanon.

"If the Israeli government accedes to an agreement brought by (the Biden administration) ... we will not have it because for us this is rehabilitating Hezbollah again on our borders," said Eitan Davidi, the mayor of the northern town of Margaliot.

Israeli bombs across Lebanon after evacuation warnings

Israeli strikes killed 24 people in Lebanon on Thursday, among them 13 people in the country's eastern Bekaa Valley, according to Lebanon's state-run National News agency, a day after the Israel's military warned residents there to evacuate.

The warnings sent thousands of people fleeing and spread panic across the city known for its colossal Roman ruins.

The Lebanese Health Ministry reported that over the last 24 hours, Israeli bombardments killed 45 people and wounded 110 in various parts of the country.

Jean Fakhry, a local official in the Deir al-Ahmar region in the Bekaa Valley, said Israeli airstrikes pummeling the area turned the main highway "a parking lot" of fleeing cars stuck in traffic.

Around 12,000 displaced people are staying in the area, he said, with most taking refuge in private homes. At one of the shelters in Deir al-Ahmar, families with luggage were still arriving Thursday.

"Our homes were destroyed," said Zahraa Younis, from the village near Baalbek. "We came with nothing — no clothes or anything else."

US officials are in the region seeking a cease-fire

Senior White House aides Brett McGurk and Amos Hochstein were in Israel for talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and senior officials about the conflicts with Hamas and Hezbollah.

The meetings focused on efforts to secure a cease-fire deal in Lebanon and to assess new proposals floated by mediators to free Israeli hostages being held in Gaza, according to a U.S. official familiar with planning for the talks who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment

publicly. The meetings were attended by Netanyahu as well as Yoav Gallant, the Israeli defense minister; David Barnea, the director of the Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence agency; and other officials.

But with the U.S. election on Tuesday, hopes for immediate progress appeared remote — particularly in Gaza where Israel has come under criticism for not letting more humanitarian aid into the besieged north.

The death toll from more than a year of war in Gaza passed 43,000 earlier this week, Palestinian health officials reported.

The Awda Hospital in central Gaza said late Thursday it had received 16 bodies of people killed by Israeli bombardment of two houses in Nuseirat refugee camp. The hospital said more than 30 others, including a medic and two journalists, were wounded.

Over the past year, the broadening Israeli campaign in Lebanon against Hezbollah has killed 2,865 people there, wounded over 13,000 and devastated Lebanese towns near the border.

Some 1.2 million people in Lebanon have been displaced since Israel escalated the conflict into a full-blown war last month, when it launched a wave of heavy airstrikes that killed Hezbollah's top leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and most of his deputies.

A year of Hezbollah rocket attacks have also forced 60,000 Israelis to evacuate from near the border.

Harris tries to turn Gaza protests into a way to energize the crowds at her rallies

By DAN MERICA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Protesters can create awkward moments for presidential candidates. They interrupt, heckle and, oftentimes, knock a candidate off track.

But Vice President Kamala Harris is trying a new strategy late in the campaign to turn what would otherwise be awkward interactions into moments of energy used to rally her supporters and subtly drive her message against her Republican opponent, Donald Trump.

At all three of the Democratic nominee's rallies on Wednesday — in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — pro-Palestinian protesters broke in with chants, banners, and even a whistle to criticize Harris for how she and President Joe Biden have handled the war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

Gaza protesters have long targeted Harris' events, and Biden's when he was still the party's nominee, hoping to use the disturbances to draw media attention to their cause. They have often prompted prolonged pauses while security officers remove the demonstrators or create uncomfortable interactions.

After three months as a candidate, and as she tries to stick to her carefully honed closing message in the final week of the campaign, Harris' latest tactic aims to both validate protester concerns and use them as a proof point in her case against the former president.

When a protester in North Carolina yelled that Harris was "disrespecting the Palestinian community," Harris used the moment to attack Trump.

"This is the thing, we know we're actually fighting for a democracy," Harris said in Raleigh. "Unlike Donald Trump, I don't believe that people who disagree with you are the enemy."

Hours later, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Harris used a similar protest to embrace democracy.

"Look, I will repeat it, we are fighting for a democracy, we love our democracy," she said. "It could be complicated at times, but it is the best system in the world."

When she faced protests at the end of her night in Wisconsin, Harris used a familiar callback to what she said when then-Vice President Mike Pence attempted to interrupt her during their debate in 2020.

"We all want the war in Gaza to end and to get the hostages out and I will do everything in my power to make it heard and known," Harris said. "And everyone has a right to be heard, but right now I am speaking."

The moments, at each stop, energized the large crowds at Harris' events, drowning out the protesters and turning into a way for her supporters to come together.

In Wisconsin, the response was so loud and sustained that a second group with a banner wasn't loud enough to disrupt the event.

Despite the way the protests were drowned out on Wednesday, some pro-Palestinian figures opposed

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 55 of 79

to Harris see her focus on democracy and her acknowledgment that those protesting have the right to be heard as a softening from the Democratic nominee.

"It's nice her rhetoric has softened but the time for that has passed," said Dearborn City Council member Mustapha Hammoud. "Instead of peace, we've seen an increase in violence in the war. So we can't accept talk, we need actual outcomes." In September, Hammoud told The Associated Press that he considered himself a Democrat until recently.

Protests are an occupational hazard for presidential candidates.

In 2016, Trump responded to a protest in Nevada by saying, "I'd like to punch him in the face." Hillary Clinton, that same year, was regularly protested by Black Lives Matter activists, including at one event where the protesters drowned her out for 10 minutes and forced Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights icon, to ask the group to stop. And in 2020, after Biden won a slate of state primaries on Super Tuesday, anti-dairy industry protesters stormed the stage, forcing Jill Biden to protect her husband by pushing the activists aside.

"I'm a good Philly girl," Jill Biden told reporters after the confrontation.

Harris, unlike Biden, has taken a more confrontational posture toward protesters since she won the Democratic nomination earlier this year.

When a group of pro-Palestinian protesters interrupted her at an August event by chanting, "Kamala, Kamala, you can't hide, we won't vote for genocide," Harris responded directly: "If you want Donald Trump to win, then say that. Otherwise, I'm speaking."

AP sources: White House altered record of Biden's 'garbage' remarks despite stenographer concerns

By AAMER MADHANI and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House press officials altered the official transcript of a call in which President Joe Biden appeared to take a swipe at supporters of Donald Trump, drawing objections from the federal workers who document such remarks for posterity, according to two U.S. government officials and an internal email obtained Thursday by The Associated Press.

Biden created an uproar earlier this week with his remarks to Latino activists responding to racist comments at a Trump rally made by the comedian Tony Hinchcliffe, who referred to the U.S. island territory of Puerto Rico as a "floating island of garbage."

Biden, according to a transcript prepared by the official White House stenographers, told the Latino group on a Tuesday evening video call, "The only garbage I see floating out there is his supporters — his — his demonization of Latinos is unconscionable, and it's un-American."

The transcript released by the White House press office, however, rendered the quote with an apostrophe, reading "supporter's" rather than "supporters," which aides said pointed to Biden criticizing Hinchcliffe, not the millions of Americans who are supporting Trump for president.

The change was made after the press office "conferred with the president," according to an internal email from the head of the stenographers' office that was obtained by The AP. The authenticity of the email was confirmed by two government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters.

The supervisor, in the email, called the press office's handling of the matter "a breach of protocol and spoliation of transcript integrity between the Stenography and Press Offices."

"If there is a difference in interpretation, the Press Office may choose to withhold the transcript but cannot edit it independently," the supervisor wrote, adding, "Our Stenography Office transcript — released to our distro, which includes the National Archives — is now different than the version edited and released to the public by Press Office staff."

The edit of the transcript came as the White House scrambled to respond to a wave of queries from reporters about Biden's comments. The president's remarks clashed with Vice President Kamala Harris' near-simultaneous speech outside the White House in which she called for treating Americans of differing ideologies with respect.

The Trump campaign quickly moved to fundraise off the quote, and the next day, Trump himself held a

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 56 of 79

photo op inside a garbage truck to try to capitalize on Biden's criticism.

Harris on Wednesday distanced herself from Biden's comments — making the clearest break from the president since she took over for him at the top of the Democratic ticket just over three months ago. "Let me be clear," she told reporters, "I strongly disagree with any criticism of people based on who they vote for."

According to the email, the press office had asked the stenographers to quickly produce a transcript of the call amid the firestorm. Biden himself took to social media to say that he he was not calling all Trump supporters garbage and that he was referring specifically to the "hateful rhetoric about Puerto Rico spewed by Trump's supporter at his Madison Square Garden rally."

The stenographers office is charged with preparing accurate transcripts of public and private remarks of the president for preservation by the National Archives and distribution to the public.

The two-person stenography team on duty that evening — a "typer" and "proofreader" — said any edit to the transcript would have to be approved by their supervisor, the head of stenographers' office.

The supervisor was not immediately available to review the audio, but the press office went ahead and published the altered transcript on the White House website and distributed it to press and on social media in an effort to tamp down the story.

White House senior deputy press secretary Andrew Bates that evening also posted on X the edited version of the quote and wrote that Biden was referring "to the hateful rhetoric at the Madison Square Garden rally as 'garbage.'"

The supervisor, a career employee of the White House, raised the concerns about the press office action — but did not weigh in on the accuracy of the edit — in an email to White House communications director Ben LaBolt, press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and other press and communications officials.

"Regardless of urgency, it is essential to our transcripts' authenticity and legitimacy that we adhere to consistent protocol for requesting edits, approval, and release," the supervisor wrote.

The supervisor declined to comment to The AP and referred questions about the matter to the White House press office.

Asked to comment, Bates did not address the alteration of the transcript and said: "The President confirmed in his tweet on Tuesday evening that he was addressing the hateful rhetoric from the comedian at Trump's Madison Square Garden rally. That was reflected in the transcript."

House Republicans, meanwhile, were debating launching an investigation into the matter. House Republican Conference Chairwoman Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., and House Oversight and Accountability Chairman James Comer, R-Ky., on Wednesday accused White House staff of "releasing a false transcript" of Biden's remarks.

In a letter to White House counsel Ed Siskel on Wednesday, they called on the administration to retain documents and internal communications related to Biden's remarks and the release of the transcript.

"White House staff cannot rewrite the words of the President of the United States to be more politically on message," the lawmakers wrote to Siskel.

Stefanik and Comer said the action could be in violation of the Presidential Records Act of 1978.

US calls on a silent China to use its sway over Russia and North Korea

By DIDI TANG and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. and South Korea have called on China to use its influence over Russia and North Korea to prevent escalation after Pyongyang sent thousands of troops to Russia to aid Moscow's war against Ukraine. Beijing has so far stayed quiet.

In a rare meeting earlier this week, three top U.S. diplomats met with China's ambassador to the United States to emphasize U.S. concerns and urge China to use its sway with North Korea to try to curtail the cooperation, according to a State Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Thursday that the sides had "a robust conversation just this week" and that China knows U.S. expectations are that "they'll use the influence that they have to work to curb

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 57 of 79

these activities.”

“But I think this is a demand signal that’s coming not just from us, but from countries around the world,” he said at a news conference in Washington with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and their South Korean counterparts.

Liu Pengyu, spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, said in a statement that China’s position on the Ukraine crisis is “consistent and clear.”

China strives “for peace talks and political settlement of the Ukraine crisis. This position remains unchanged. China will continue to play a constructive role to this end,” Liu said.

The U.S. says 8,000 North Korean soldiers are in Russia near Ukraine’s border and are preparing to help the Kremlin fight against Ukrainian troops in the coming days. China has yet to publicly comment on the move.

Beijing has forged a “no limits” partnership with Moscow, and while it has also been a major ally for Pyongyang, experts say Beijing might not approve of the closer military partnership between Russia and North Korea because it sees it as destabilizing in the region.

The Russia-North Korea partnership runs contrary to Beijing’s goal for a peaceful Korean Peninsula, said Shi Yinhong, an international relations expert at China’s Renmin University.

Beijing is “aware of the complexity and danger of the situation,” Shi said, noting that the “fact that China hasn’t said anything yet on the military alliance agreement between North Korea and Russia indicates that China strongly disagrees with it.”

Dennis Wilder, senior fellow for the Initiative for U.S.-China Dialogue on global issues at Georgetown University, called Beijing’s “radio silence” on North Korea’s move “staggering.” He said Beijing must find a balance between supporting Moscow and not angering the West, and that Chinese President Xi Jinping might “for his own sake ignore the whole thing.”

Xi has built a personal relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and “he cannot see Putin fail,” Wilder said this week at a panel discussion hosted by the Washington-based think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies.

At the same time, Xi cannot anger the Europeans and Americans when his country’s economy is struggling, Wilder said. “So he’s not going to say anything publicly about this,” Wilder said.

Victor Cha, Korean chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said at the same panel discussion that for China, “there’s probably a combination of a little bit of exasperation, a little bit of panic and a little bit of they don’t know what to do with regard to the current situation.”

It’s unclear if Beijing was informed of Pyongyang’s move in advance, Cha said. Beijing also could fret over Russia gaining more influence than China over North Korea, Cha said.

Austin said Thursday that China “should be asking Russia some hard questions at this point and whether it intends to broaden this conflict by this kind of behavior.”

Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Dan Kritenbrink and Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs James O’Brien met with Chinese envoy Xie Feng in Washington on Tuesday, according to the State Department official, who would not detail the Chinese response.

Lu Chao, director of the Institute of American and East Asian Studies at Liaoning University in China’s northeastern province of Liaoning, said the U.S. should not expect China to manage North Korea.

“It is not the case that China is responsible to manage North Korea and the U.S. is responsible for managing South Korea,” Lu said. “I hope the U.S. government could understand China’s stance.”

Lu also said the troop deployment is “a matter between Russia and North Korea,” while China’s attitude remains unchanged that the conflict should not be escalated.

Survivors of deadly collapse at Georgia dock seek state's help for funerals, counseling

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — Survivors of a deadly walkway collapse at a state-run ferry dock on a Georgia island said Thursday that the government should help them pay for funerals for the seven people who died as well as medical bills and mental health counseling for those who lived.

Lawmakers on the Georgia Senate's Urban Affairs Committee heard from four people who were at the dock on Sapelo Island on Oct. 19 when a metal gangway snapped in the middle, sending dozens of people plunging into the water.

Among them was Yvonne Brockington of Jacksonville, Florida, who had arranged for more than 50 members of her club for older adults to visit the island during an annual cultural festival organized by its tiny Gullah-Geechee community of Black slave descendants.

Brockington said she was waiting with others to board an afternoon ferry off the island when she suddenly felt as if she was in a falling elevator. When she stopped suddenly, she felt both of her legs break. While bystanders used a rope to pull Brockington to safety, four members of her club perished.

"The psychological effect, I don't know if it will ever go away, but we definitely need help," Brockington told lawmakers via video conference from her hospital bed. "It should not have happened. The state of Georgia owes us more than resources. They owe us an apology, and they need to make sure it never happens again."

Other survivors told the meeting in Atlanta that the traumatic day still haunts them.

Darrel Jenkins, who pulled two people from the water but never learned whether they lived or died, said he continues to have nightmares and asks himself: "What about the people that might not have lived? Could I have done more?"

Regina Brinson said her 79-year-old uncle, Isaiah Thomas, drowned after she had to pry his clutching fingers from her shirt to avoid being dragged underwater herself.

"We need mental health support, financial support, resources to ensure that the survivors and their families have what they need to start recovery," Brinson said.

The dock on Sapelo Island is operated by the state Department of Natural Resources, which manages the daily ferry service to and from the mainland.

The agency says about 700 people visited Oct. 19 for Cultural Day, a celebration of the tiny Hogg Hummock community founded by emancipated slaves after the Civil War. Hogg Hummock is one of the few Gullah-Geechee communities remaining in the South, where slaves who worked isolated island plantations retained much of their African heritage.

Mawuli Davis, an attorney for some of the people injured in the collapse, told lawmakers his clients have been contacted by state investigators for interviews but not by anyone offering assistance.

Lawmakers said they agree that the state should do more to assist the victims. But how much influence they will have isn't clear: The Senate Urban Affairs Committee is made up of six Democrats, while Republicans control the legislature and the governor's office.

"The state has responsibility," said Sen. Donzella James, an Atlanta Democrat and the committee's chairperson. "We're having this hearing to find out what it is exactly they're responsible for."

The Department of Natural Resources, with assistance from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, is investigating what caused the collapse. But victims' lawyers have said they don't trust the state agency to investigate itself, and last week Attorney General Chris Carr said he had called in an engineering firm to conduct an independent, parallel investigation.

No one from the Department of Natural Resources spoke before the committee Thursday.

Last weekend the department offered free counseling services to residents of Sapelo Island as well as on the mainland in McIntosh County. It said in a news release that "ongoing mental health resources will be provided to those in need" and that Natural Resources Commissioner Walter Rabon contacted families of those killed and "shared a phone number with them should they need anything."

The news release also included a hyperlink to an online form that injured people can fill out to file a liability claim with the state.

A Department of Natural Resources spokesperson did not immediately respond to an email message seeking more information on how it is assisting victims.

Trump will become first major 2024 candidate to visit majority-Arab Dearborn, Michigan

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Donald Trump is set to visit Dearborn, Michigan — the nation's largest Arab-majority city — on Friday, according to a local business owner who first insisted the former president call for peace in Lebanon before hosting him.

Metro Detroit is home to nation's largest concentration of Arab Americans, with a large chunk of them living in Dearborn. The city — which President Joe Biden won by a 3-to-1 margin — has been roiled by political turmoil, with many upset with the Biden administration's handling of the Israel-Hamas war.

While Vice President Kamala Harris has been working through surrogates to ease community tensions, Trump's visit will mark the first by either candidate, according to a local leader, Osama Siblani. Earlier this year, Harris met with the city's Democratic mayor, Abdullah Hammoud, though their discussion took place outside Dearborn.

Sam Abbas, the owner of The Great Commoner in Dearborn, told The Associated Press that Trump was set to visit his restaurant.

"We expect some remarks around ending the war and bringing peace to the Middle East," said Abbas. "I'm not here to get political. I'm not here to tell people which way I'm voting. I am simply here because our family is being slaughtered and we just want to end the war. Stop the bombing."

Israel invaded Gaza after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack and last month launched an invasion of Lebanon to suppress Hezbollah, the militia that has continuously launched rockets into Israeli territory. At least 43,000 people have died in Gaza, according to Gaza's health ministry, which does not distinguish in its death toll between combatants and civilians.

The Trump campaign declined to comment on the visit. It follows Trump's rally in Michigan last week, when he brought local Muslims up onstage with him. Trump has also received endorsements from two Democratic mayors of Muslim-majority cities.

While many Democratic leaders in the community have not endorsed Harris, they 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 he would give Israel even more leeway to attack its rivals in the region.

Even so, Democrats worry that traditionally loyal voters may shift to Trump or third-party candidates like Jill Stein — or skip the top of the ballot altogether. This could prove pivotal in Michigan, a state both parties see as a toss-up.

Abbas said Trump allies had reached out to him several weeks ago about hosting Trump in Dearborn. Before hosting Trump, Abbas said he wanted to see a statement from Trump that he said showed Trump "has the intentions of ending the war and helping us rebuild Lebanon and helping the displaced and the injured."

That statement came Wednesday, when Trump posted on X that he wanted to "stop the suffering and destruction in Lebanon."

"I will preserve the equal partnership among all Lebanese communities," Trump said on X. "Your friends and family in Lebanon deserve to live in peace, prosperity, and harmony with their neighbors, and that can only happen with peace and stability in the Middle East."

Once Trump put out the statement, Abbas said he agreed to host the event. He expects close to 100 people from the community.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 60 of 79

"He's coming to us to basically tell us, look, I did what you guys asked. My intentions, my true intentions are to bring peace and to end the war," said Abbas.

Los Angeles County sues Pepsi and Coca-Cola over plastic bottles

By JAIMIE DING Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles County is taking on Pepsi and Coke for their role in plastic pollution. In a lawsuit filed Wednesday, the county alleged PepsiCo and Coca-Cola companies have misled the public about the recyclability of their plastic bottles and downplayed the negative environmental and health impacts of plastic disposal.

"Coke and Pepsi need to stop the deception and take responsibility for the plastic pollution problems your products are causing," LA County supervisor Lindsey Horvath said in a statement. "Los Angeles County will continue to address the serious environmental impacts caused by companies engaging in misleading and unfair business practices."

Coca-Cola owns brands like Dasani, Fanta, Sprite, Vitamin Water, and Smartwater, while PepsiCo owns Gatorade, Aquafina, Mountain Dew, and more. The two companies have been ranked as the world's top plastic polluters for five consecutive years, and Coca-Cola has taken the number one spot for six years, according to global environmental group Break Free From Plastic.

PepsiCo produces approximately 2.5 million metric tons of plastic and Coca-Cola produces approximately 3.224 million metric tons of plastic annually, according to Break Free from Plastic.

A European Union consumer protection group and environmental organizations filed a legal complaint against Coca-Cola, Nestle, and Danone last November, accusing them of being misleading when representing packaging as 100% recycled or 100% recyclable.

The LA lawsuit said Coca-Cola and PepsiCo have employed "disinformation campaigns" for consumers to purchase single-use plastic, believing them to be recyclable and less harmful to the environment.

It alleged that both companies promised to create a "circular economy" for its bottles, in which plastic bottles can be recycled and reused an endless number of times, while in reality plastic bottles can only be recycled once, if at all.

The American Beverage Association, which PepsiCo and Coca-Cola are a part of, denied the lawsuit's accusations about their plastic bottle recycling labels.

"The allegation that our packaging is not and will not be recycled is simply not true," the group's spokesperson William Dermody said in a statement.

Dermody said California had a 71% bottle recycling rate in 2023, one of the highest in the country, and that their bottles are "designed to be recycled and remade and can include up to 100% recycled plastic."

In 2022 alone, an estimated 121,324 to 179,656 tons of plastic waste leaked into the land and ocean in California, and plastics make up seven of the top 10 litter products found on beaches, the lawsuit states.

A big part of the problem is microplastics.

Plastics that have leaked into the environment eventually disintegrate into tiny pieces of plastic measuring five millimeters or less. They can affect soil and plant growth, marine and fish life, and are nearly impossible to remove from the environment, the lawsuit states.

Some Australian researchers, on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund, calculated in 2019 that many people each week consume roughly 5 grams of plastic from common food and beverages, and microplastics have been found in body tissues and organs. Though research is still limited overall, there are growing concerns that microplastics in the body could potentially be linked to heart disease, Alzheimer's and dementia, and other problems.

The lawsuit is seeking a court order to stop the companies' "unfair and deceptive business practices" as well as restitution for consumers and civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per violation.

In February 2020, environmental nonprofit Earth Island Institute filed a lawsuit in California asking for damages and an order for Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Nestle USA, Procter & Gamble and six other companies to clean up the plastic waste they should be held responsible for.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 61 of 79

New York state also sued PepsiCo last November for its role in creating the plastic waste that littering the Buffalo River, which empties into Lake Erie and supplies the city of Buffalo's drinking water. A judge dismissed the case Thursday, stating in a court filing that there was no "failure to warn" the public on plastic-related dangers and that there was no cause of action to punish the companies for the actions of a third party — people who litter.

Donald Trump gambles with late-stage trips to Democratic New Mexico and Virginia

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and SUSAN MONTROYA BRYAN Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Donald Trump is traveling to New Mexico and Virginia in the campaign's final days, taking a risky detour from the seven battleground states to spend time in places where Republican presidential candidates have not won in decades.

The former president campaigned in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Thursday and was scheduled to visit Salem, Virginia, on Saturday.

The Trump team is projecting optimism based in part on early voting numbers and thinks he can be competitive against Democrat Kamala Harris in both states — New Mexico in particular, if he sweeps swing states Nevada and Arizona. That hope comes even though neither New Mexico nor Virginia has been carried by a GOP nominee for the White House since George W. Bush in 2004.

Over the past few months in particular, the battleground states — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — have seen a constant stream of candidate visits, and residents have been bombarded with political ads on billboards, televisions and smartphones. In the past two weeks alone, presidential and vice presidential candidates have made 21 appearances in Pennsylvania, 17 in Michigan and 13 in North Carolina.

In the 43 other states, a candidate visit is an exciting novelty.

Trump retains fervent pockets of support even in states that vote overwhelmingly against him, and he can easily fill his rallies with enthusiastic supporters.

He has made other recent detours from the states most at play, holding rallies at Madison Square Garden in New York and in Coachella, California — states that are even more solidly Democratic than New Mexico and Virginia. Those events satisfied Trump's long-shot claims that he can win both states, but were also aimed at earning maximum media attention as his campaign seeks to reach voters who do not follow political news closely.

Trump also showed up in staunchly Republican Montana, and both Trump and Harris campaigned on the same day last week in Texas, which Democrats last won in 1976.

Those trips served other purposes, such as highlighting issues important in a state or supporting House or Senate candidates.

Trump said in Albuquerque that he could win the state as long as the election is fair, repeating falsehoods about rigged past elections.

"If we could bring God down from heaven, he could be the vote counter and we could win this," Trump said. He added he's visiting New Mexico because it's "good for my credentials" with Hispanic voters.

Trump's strategy carries risk.

After losing to Trump in 2016, Democrat Hillary Clinton was criticized for going to Arizona late in the campaign instead of spending time in Wisconsin, Michigan or Pennsylvania, states that ended up deciding that election. Arizona is now a battleground, but it wasn't considered particularly competitive eight years ago, when it voted for Trump by a 4-percentage point margin.

"I don't think there's any strategy," said Bob Shrum, a longtime Democratic political consultant who worked on numerous presidential campaigns and now leads Center for the Political Future at University of Southern California. "I think he insisted on doing it. It makes no sense."

New Mexico stop brings Trump to a border state

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 62 of 79

The planned visit to Albuquerque brings Trump and his immigration stance to a border state with the nation's highest concentration of Latino voters, highlighting the campaign for Hispanic supporters.

About 44% of the voting-age population in New Mexico identifies as Hispanic. Many have centuries-old ties to Mexican and Spanish settlements, while the state has a smaller share of foreign-born residents than the national average.

At the same time, federal and local authorities in New Mexico are dealing with a surge in migrant deaths along the U.S. border with Mexico.

Trump's visit has implications for a congressional swing district stretching from Albuquerque to the border with Mexico. It's now held by a Democrat as Republicans look to hold onto their narrow House majority. Immigration has been a major issue in the race.

Also on the ballot, Democratic Sen. Martin Heinrich is seeking a third term against Republican Nella Domenici. She is the daughter of the late Republican Sen. Pete Domenici, who served six terms, from 1973 to 2009 and was the last New Mexico Republican elected to the Senate.

Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. remains on the ballot in New Mexico, and roadside campaign signs for Kennedy popped up across the capital city of Santa Fe in late October, about two months after Kennedy's withdrawal from the race and endorsement of Trump.

New Mexico voters have twice rebuffed Trump at the polls, and Democrats hold every statewide elected position, all three congressional seats and majorities in the state House and Senate.

"He just brings us back to what the U.S. needs to be," Leandra Dominguez of Albuquerque, 45, said before Trump spoke. "It's just fallen apart. We just need someone to save us."

Virginia was once a battleground

While Virginia was considered a battleground as recently as 2012, it has trended toward Democrats in the past decade, especially in the populous northern Virginia suburbs.

Trump lost the state to Clinton in 2016 and Democrat Joe Biden in 2020. This year, Democrats and their allies in the presidential race have spent nearly twice as much as Republicans on ads in Virginia, data show, though it pales in comparison to the spending in battleground states.

"We have a real chance," Trump said while phoning into a Richmond-area rally on Saturday.

Trump, while in Virginia, is likely to speak about Wednesday's Supreme Court ruling leaving in place a purge of voter registrations that the state says is aimed at stopping people who are not U.S. citizens from voting.

The high court, over the dissents of the three liberal justices, granted an emergency appeal from Virginia's Republican administration led by Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

Speaking to Fox News' Bret Baier on Wednesday night, Youngkin said from what he's seeing on the ground, "Virginia is far more competitive than any of the pundits would have believed."

He noted that two years after Biden won by 10 percentage points in 2020, he won as governor.

"Virginians are ready for strength back in the White House," he said.

Susan Swecker, chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Virginia, said Trump's scheduled visit to Salem on Saturday would only widen Harris' lead in the state.

"Kamala Harris will win Virginia convincingly, as he knows, and any visit from this deranged lunatic will only widen the margin," Swecker said.

Spain searches for bodies after unprecedented flooding claims at least 158 lives

By ALBERTO SAIZ, JOSEPH WILSON and ALICIA LEÓN Associated Press

BARRIO DE LA TORRE, Spain (AP) — Crews searched for bodies in stranded cars and sodden buildings Thursday as residents salvaged what they could from their ruined homes following monstrous flash floods in Spain that claimed at least 158 lives, with 155 deaths confirmed in the eastern Valencia region alone.

More horrors emerged Thursday from the debris and ubiquitous layers of mud left by the walls of water

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 63 of 79

that produced Spain's deadliest natural disaster in living memory. The damage from the storm late Tuesday and early Wednesday recalled the aftermath of a tsunami, with survivors left to pick up the pieces as they mourn their loved ones.

Cars were piled on one another like fallen dominoes, uprooted trees, downed power lines and household items all mired in mud that covered streets in dozens of communities in Valencia, a region south of Barcelona on the Mediterranean coast.

An unknown number of people are still missing and more victims could be found.

"Unfortunately, there are dead people inside some vehicles," Spain's Transport Minister Óscar Puente said early Thursday before the death toll spiked from 95 on Wednesday night.

Rushing water turned narrow streets into death traps and spawned rivers that tore through homes and businesses, sweeping away cars, people and everything else in its path. The floods demolished bridges and left roads unrecognizable.

Luís Sánchez, a welder, said he saved several people who were trapped in their cars on the flooded V-31 highway south of Valencia city. The road rapidly became a floating graveyard strewn with hundreds of vehicles.

"I saw bodies floating past. I called out, but nothing," Sánchez said. "The firefighters took the elderly first, when they could get in. I am from nearby so I tried to help and rescue people. People were crying all over, they were trapped."

Regional authorities said late Wednesday that rescuers in helicopters saved some 70 people stranded on rooftops and in cars, but ground crews were far from done.

"We are searching house by house," Ángel Martínez, one of 1,000 soldiers helping with rescue efforts told Spain's national radio RNE from the town of Utiel, where at least six people died.

An Associated Press journalist saw rescuers remove seven body bags from an underground garage in Barrio de la Torre.

"Our priority is to find the victims and the missing so we can help end the suffering of their families," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said after meeting with officials and emergency services in Valencia on Thursday, the first of three official days of mourning.

An 'extraordinary' deluge

Spain's Mediterranean coast is used to autumn storms that can cause flooding, but this was the most powerful flash flood in recent memory. Scientists link it to climate change, which is also behind increasingly high temperatures and droughts in Spain and the heating up of the Mediterranean Sea.

Human-caused climate change has doubled the likelihood of a storm like this week's deluge in Valencia, according to a rapid but partial analysis Thursday by World Weather Attribution, comprising dozens of international scientists who study global warming's role in extreme weather.

Spain has suffered through an almost two-year drought, meaning that when the deluge happened, the ground was so hard that it could not absorb the rain, leading to flash floods.

The violent weather event surprised regional government officials. Spain's national weather service said it rained more in eight hours in the Valencian town of Chiva than it had in the preceding 20 months.

A man wept as he showed a reporter from national broadcaster RTVE the shell of what was once the ground floor of his home in Catarroja, south of Valencia. It looked as though a bomb had detonated inside, obliterating furniture and belongings, and stripping the paint off some walls.

In Paiporta, mayor Maribel Albalat said Thursday that at least 62 people had perished in the community of 25,000 next to Valencia city.

"(Paiporta) never has floods, we never have this kind of problem. And we found a lot of elderly people in the town center," Albalat told RTVE. "There were also a lot of people who came to get their cars out of their garages ... it was a real trap."

Farms damaged

While the most suffering was inflicted on municipalities near the city of Valencia, the storms unleashed their fury over huge swaths of the south and eastern coast of the Iberian peninsula. Two fatalities were confirmed in the neighboring Castilla La Mancha region and one in southern Andalusia.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 64 of 79

Greenhouses and farms across southern Spain, known as Europe's garden for its exported produce, were also ruined by heavy rains and flooding. The storms spawned a freak tornado in Valencia and a hail storm that punched holes in cars in Andalusia. Homes were left without water as far southwest as Malaga in Andalusia.

Heavy rains continued Thursday farther north as the Spanish weather agency issued alerts for several counties in Castellón, in the eastern Valencia region, and for Tarragona in Catalonia, as well as southwest Cadiz.

"This storm front is still with us," the prime minister said. "Stay home and heed the official recommendation and you will help save lives."

Frustration brews as residents hunt for basic supplies

As the shock dissipated, anger grew over the authorities' handling of the crisis, both for their late warnings of the looming floods and the chaotic relief response.

Many survivors had to walk long distances in sticky mud to find food and water. Most of their cars had been destroyed and the mud, destruction and debris left by the storm made some roads unpassable. Some pushed shopping carts along sodden streets while others carried their children to keep them out of the muck.

Some 150,000 people in Valencia were without electricity on Wednesday, but roughly half had power by Thursday. An unknown number did not have running water and were relying on whatever bottled water they could find.

The region remained partly isolated with several roads cut off and train lines interrupted, including the high-speed service to Madrid. Officials said it would take two to three weeks to repair that damaged line.

And with emergency personnel focused on recovering the dead, survivors were left to find basic supplies and clean up the mess. Volunteers joined locals in moving wrecked vehicles, removing junk and sweeping mud.

With local services clearly overwhelmed, Valencia regional President Carlos Mazón on Thursday asked if Spain's army could assist with distributing basic goods to the population. The government in Madrid responded by promising to send in 500 more soldiers, more national police and Civil Guards.

But necessity — and the post-apocalyptic atmosphere — prompted some to enter abandoned stores.

The National Police arrested 39 people for looting on Wednesday. The Civil Guard said it detained 11 people for thefts in shopping malls, while its officers were also deployed to stop people stealing from cars.

Some people said they had to steal supplies, especially those who have no running water or a way to get to stores that were not wrecked.

"We are not thieves. I work as a cleaner at the school for the council. But we have to eat. Look at what I'm picking up: baby food for the baby," said Nieves Vargas in a local supermarket whose doors had been tossed aside by the water and was unattended by staff. "What can I give to the child, if we don't have electricity."

Prosecutors say lawyers for Sean 'Diddy' Combs want to 'hijack' criminal case to fight civil claims

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal prosecutors say lawyers for Sean 'Diddy' Combs are trying to "hijack" the music mogul's criminal case from them by asking a judge to force early disclosure of evidence, including his accusers' identities.

The prosecutors urged a judge in papers filed late Wednesday to reject the requests, saying the effort to reveal the identities of prospective witnesses, in particular, was "blatantly improper."

They said it was inappropriate for defense lawyers to seek the disclosure of victim identities and details about other evidence that would preview the government's case.

Defense lawyers also have asked for a gag order to stop accusers' lawyers from commenting publicly

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 65 of 79

and have claimed government leaks to the media have threatened the rapper's chance at a fair trial.

Prosecutors said the requests were "a thinly veiled attempt to restrict the Government's proof at this early stage of the case and to hijack the criminal proceeding so the defendant can respond to civil lawsuits. This demand should be squarely rejected, especially in light of the risk it poses to witness safety."

Prosecutors added: "As the defendant well knows, there is zero legal authority for his attempt to co-opt this criminal proceeding to defend against civil litigation."

Combs, 54, has remained in a federal jail in Brooklyn since his Sept. 16 arrest, awaiting a trial scheduled to start on May 5.

Part of the grounds on which a judge rejected a bail package suggested by his lawyers was that he was a danger to obstruct justice and engage in witness tampering.

He has pleaded not guilty to charges that he coerced and abused women for years, aided by associates and employees.

Prosecutors said that since at least 2008, Combs engaged in a racketeering conspiracy, using his power and prestige in the entertainment industry to force women to engage in extended sex acts with male commercial sex workers in what were known as "Freak Offs."

They said he used videos of the attacks as collateral to threaten victims, and they said he also physically assaulted women and others by striking, punching, dragging and kicking them.

Prosecutors said defense claims that the government leaked a video of Combs assaulting his ex-girlfriend Cassie at a Los Angeles hotel hallway on March 5, 2016, to CNN were not true.

They said defense lawyers were engaged in a "bald attempt to suppress a damning piece of evidence against him — a video of him violently beating a victim."

In May, Combs posted a video statement in which he said he took "full responsibility" for his actions in the video against Cassie, an R&B singer whose legal name is Casandra Ventura. She sued him last November, alleging years of sexual, physical and emotional abuse. The lawsuit was settled the next day.

"I was disgusted then when I did it. I'm disgusted now," Combs said in the video.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly, as Ventura has done.

Combs also faces civil lawsuits by multiple men and women alleging they were sexually assaulted by Combs during the last quarter century after being drugged.

Lawyers for Combs have asked that the accusers and their lawyers be ordered not to make public statements, saying they have already made "numerous inflammatory extrajudicial statements aimed at assassinating Mr. Combs's character in the press."

More than a dozen lawsuits filed in Manhattan federal court have been assigned to different judges, leading to varying early rulings on whether allegations were sufficiently made.

In one instance, a judge on Wednesday ruled that a Tennessee woman who alleges Combs raped her in 2004 when she was 19 must proceed without anonymity or not at all. The judge wrote that defendants have a right to investigate those who sue them and the public has a right to know who uses the courts.

A lawyer for Combs did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Thursday.

About 8,000 North Korean troops at Ukraine's border are expected in combat in days, US says

By TARA COPP, MATTHEW LEE and EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some 8,000 North Korean soldiers are now in Russia near Ukraine's border and are preparing to help the Kremlin fight against Ukrainian troops in the coming days, the Biden administration said Thursday.

The new figure is a dramatic increase from a day earlier, when Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin would only say some of the troops had moved toward Ukraine's border in the Kursk region, where Moscow's forces have struggled to push back a Ukrainian incursion.

That also would mean most of the North Korean troops that the U.S. and its allies say have been sent

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 66 of 79

to Russia are now on the border with Ukraine.

The U.S. has estimated a total of about 10,000 North Korean troops are in Russia. Seoul and its allies assessed that has increased to 11,000, while Ukraine has put the figure higher, at up to 12,000.

Of the 8,000 in Kursk, "we've not yet seen these troops deploy into combat against Ukrainian forces but we would expect that to happen in the coming days," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at a news conference in Washington with Austin and their South Korean counterparts.

Russia has been training North Korean soldiers in artillery, drones and "basic infantry operations, including trench clearing, indicating that they fully intend to use these forces in front line operations," Blinken said.

North Korea's efforts to tighten its relationship with Russia has raised concerns around the world about how that may expand the war in Ukraine and what Russian military aid will be delivered in exchange.

It's become a key topic as U.S. and South Korean leaders met this week in Washington, fueling concerns that the presence of those soldiers will further destabilize the Asia-Pacific region and broaden Moscow's war on Ukraine.

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul condemned the deployment "in the strongest possible terms" and called for an immediate withdrawal of the troops. North Korea's belligerent actions not only places the European continent but also the Korean Peninsula under threat and that Seoul agrees "to take necessary measures accordingly," he said.

Blinken and Austin said the U.S. is talking with South Korea and allies in Europe about next steps and noted that additional military aid for Ukraine would be announced soon. The U.S. has provided more than \$59 billion in military assistance to help Ukraine fend off Russia.

Austin reiterated that Moscow has provided the North Korean troops with Russian uniforms and equipment, another indication they are likely to be used on the front lines.

"Make no mistake, if these North Korean troops engage in combat or combat support operations against Ukraine, they would make themselves legitimate military targets," Austin said.

However, he said the injection of North Korean troops was unlikely to cause Ukraine to lose ground in Kursk: "This 10,000 won't come close to replacing the numbers that the Russians have lost" in the fighting to date.

The U.S. estimates that more than 500,000 Russian forces have been killed or wounded in the more than two-year-long conflict.

The U.S. and South Korean leaders called for China to engage, saying Beijing should be deeply concerned by the movements and the possibility it will further destabilize the region.

There are questions about what new military technologies North Korea might get from Russia in exchange for the deployment and whether it might lead other nations to send their own forces to fight in the war.

North Korea test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile Thursday for the first time in almost a year, demonstrating a potential advancement in its ability to launch long-range nuclear attacks on the American mainland. Some experts speculated that Russia may have provided technological assistance to North Korea over the launch.

As the U.S.-South Korea ministerial meeting in Washington was underway, the U.S., South Korea and Japan released a joint statement condemning the missile launch as a "flagrant violation" of numerous U.N. Security Council resolutions and criticizing the deepening military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, particularly the deployment of the North Korean troops.

"We strongly urge (North Korea) to immediately cease its series of provocative and destabilizing actions that threaten peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and beyond," they said.

In a dramatic moment during a U.N. Security Council meeting earlier Thursday, the deputy U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Robert Wood, first noted the number of North Korean troops near Ukraine.

"And I have a very respectful question for my Russian colleague: does Russia still maintain that there are no DPRK troops in Russia? That's my only question and final point," he said, using the acronym for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or North Korea.

Russia's deputy ambassador to the U.N., Anna Evstigneeva, shook her head from side to side indicating she did not want to respond to the comment at a meeting called by Moscow to discuss the flow of

Western weapons to Ukraine.

Besides troops, North Korea also has provided munitions to Russia, and earlier this month, the White House released images it said were of North Korea shipping 1,000 containers of military equipment there by rail.

Lawyers are allowed into Giuliani's NYC apartment after he misses a deadline for turning over assets

By DAVE COLLINS Associated Press

A moving company representative and lawyers were expected to be given access to Rudy Giuliani's Manhattan apartment on Thursday after the former New York City mayor failed to turn over belongings to two former Georgia election workers who won a \$148 million defamation judgment against him.

The two sides hurled allegations against each other this week as the deadline for Giuliani to surrender the items passed Tuesday without any of the assets changing hands.

U.S. District Judge Lewis Liman ordered Giuliani last week to give the election workers, Ruby Freeman and her daughter, Wandrea "Shaye" Moss, many of his prized possessions. Among them: his \$5 million Upper East Side apartment, a 1980 Mercedes once owned by movie star Lauren Bacall, and a variety of other belongings, from his television to a shirt signed by New York Yankees legend Joe DiMaggio to 26 luxury watches.

The moving company representative and lawyers for Freeman and Moss were expected to be let into Giuliani's apartment to see what property was there and estimate the cost of moving items named in Liman's order, according to a court document filed late Wednesday by Aaron Nathan, an attorney for the election workers.

In the document, Nathan said he had talked with Giuliani's lawyers but that they were not ready to turn over any items and could not "even answer basic questions" about the location of the assets.

Giuliani's attorney, Kenneth Caruso, had said in a court filing late Tuesday that his client was ready to hand over the assets but lawyers for Freeman and Moss had not provided instructions on how to do so.

Nathan declined to comment Thursday. The Associated Press left phone and email messages on Thursday with a representative and lawyers for Giuliani.

Voting in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Thursday afternoon, Giuliani did not confirm that anyone had been in his New York apartment. He said he didn't get a chance to defend himself in the Georgia election workers case and said he believes the judgment will be reversed on appeal.

"It will probably be one of the most unfair trials in American history, with the exception of the J6 people," he said, referring to the criminal cases against Trump supporters who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

In fact, Giuliani was given a chance to turn over information requested by lawyers for Freeman and Moss last year, but didn't do so. As punishment, a separate judge found Giuliani liable for defamation before any trial was held. A trial to determine damages was held later.

On Thursday, Liman ordered both sides to submit a status report on any property exchanges by Monday. He said he would hold a status conference on Nov. 7 if the assets aren't turned over.

Giuliani's legal defense fund sent out emails Thursday asking for donations as he fights "Deep State plans to utterly ruin me."

"They want my home, my belongings, even all of the nostalgic keepsakes that I've collected throughout my 80 years of life," the email said.

Giuliani's lawyers had argued that Freeman and Moss should not be allowed to obtain and sell his belongings while his appeal of the \$148 million judgment is pending. But Liman ruled against him last week and set the Tuesday deadline. Giuliani's appeal is currently before a federal appeals court in Washington.

A Giuliani spokesperson, Ted Goodman, said in a recent statement that "Mayor Giuliani is being unfairly punished by partisan, political activists who are trying to make an example out of him."

Also being litigated is whether Giuliani should have to turn over his \$3 million Palm Beach, Florida, condo

— which he says is his primary residence — and several Yankees World Series rings he received when he was mayor.

Pushing Donald Trump's unfounded claims that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him, Giuliani falsely accused Freeman and Moss of ballot fraud, saying they snuck in ballots in suitcases, counted ballots multiple times and tampered with voting machines.

Freeman and Moss sued for defamation and said the false allegations led to death threats that made them fear for their lives. A jury in Washington awarded them \$148 million last year.

US voters hear a stark message in the presidential race: The country's fate is on the line

By ALI SWENSON and GARY FIELDS Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Few elections in the nation's history have provided such a divide as this year's, with the two major candidates and so many of their supporters saying the outcome will determine the fate of the country and whether it can hold to its democratic moorings.

As they cast their ballots, voters have opinions on the divide as diverse and complex as the nation itself. Perhaps no place captures this range of perspective more clearly than Charlottesville, Virginia.

It was once a meeting place for Founding Fathers who cautioned about the dangers of political demagoguery. It also was the site of the "Unite the Right" rally in 2017, the first year of Donald Trump's presidency, when hundreds of white nationalists and neo-Nazis felt emboldened enough to unleash racist and antisemitic violence on the community for its decision to remove a Confederate statue. They chanted "Jews will not replace us" as they marched through the streets carrying tiki torches and Confederate flags.

One rallygoer plowed his car into a crowd of counter-protesters, killing a woman and injuring dozens more. President Joe Biden has said the open display of racism and antisemitism prompted him to enter the race for the White House in 2020.

Associated Press journalists spent three days in and around Charlottesville during early October, interviewing voters about the election that is now days away. These voters have experienced one of the most visible recent examples of the vitriol and division that has long been brewing beneath the country's surface, a reminder of what can happen when hate erupts and extreme ideas are allowed to fester unchecked.

Here is what they had to say about the presidential election and its consequences.

Extremism is not going away

As a racial justice activist in the summer of 2017, Jalane Schmidt tried to sound the alarm early.

The religious studies professor at the University of Virginia said as she was helping Charlottesville residents prepare for "Unite the Right" and the other racist demonstrations that preceded it, she was too often told to "just have a dialogue and not be so polarizing or dismissive."

"I was like, how am I supposed to have a dialogue with someone who desires my annihilation?" said Schmidt, who is Black.

Looking back on that summer, Schmidt says she and other activists saw then what others have started to see since — that extremists pose a real danger that is not going away.

Schmidt said Trump's return to the White House poses a threat to democracy, one the Founding Fathers warned about.

"I think we have things to learn from some of the warnings that have been given to us about demagogues," she said. "It is not an overstatement to say that democracy is on the line with this election."

Political differences should not create enemies

Rob Pochek, the senior pastor, gathered a small group of men in a meeting room at First Baptist Church on Park Street, a Charlottesville institution approaching its 200th anniversary.

Universally, they denounced the "Unite the Right" rally as hateful and against their values. Pochek said the marchers' antisemitic comments came "straight from the pits of hell." Christians worship Jesus, who was a Jew, he said.

While the group had nuanced views about Trump, they all agreed they cannot support Vice President

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 69 of 79

Kamala Harris because of her stance on abortion. Pochek said Trump's lies, specifically about the 2020 election, and other rhetoric make it a tough decision.

"I think the fact that we have former President Trump and Vice President Harris as the two candidates for president of the United States is in itself a judgment on America, that this is the best we have out of nearly 400 million Americans," he said.

He also tries to build bridges, emphasizing to his congregants that people with different points of view should not be seen as their enemies.

Referring to the symbols of both major parties, Pochek tells them their allegiance is not to a donkey or an elephant: "We worship the Lamb," he said.

'The blinders are off'

Susan Bro lives in a single-wide trailer in Ruckersville, about a half-hour's drive outside Charlottesville, a town so small it sometimes doesn't appear on maps.

The car that struck the "Unite the Right" counter-protesters killed her daughter, 32-year-old Heather Heyer. Bro said that summer awakened her and other white residents to the hatred people of color had long known.

"I think the blinders are off," she said. "This existed. We just pretended it didn't."

She said she's terrified of what will happen to the country if Trump wins. She's concerned about his lies, his promises of retribution and the Republican Party's failure to stand up to him. She's not sure whether democracy can survive.

But she also realized that events like what happened in Charlottesville seven years ago can delude people into thinking that hate is exclusive to extremists.

"We all have to watch ourselves with these virulent rhetoric paths that we go down, because once you start on that, it's really easy to just keep mouthing these phrases, holding on to these ideas," Bro said. "We have more in common than we think we do."

'Trump was right' about the marchers

At an early voting office in Charlottesville, Dan and Ruth Suggs said they had cast their ballots for Trump. The couple, married for 53 years, did not see Trump or Harris as an existential threat to the nation's future.

"It's not the end of the world. No matter who wins, it is still pretty much going to be the same thing," said Dan Suggs. "The biggest difference is going to be the economy."

They both disagreed with how the city handled the removal of the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from a downtown park, a decision that sparked the 2017 rally. They said the city should have held a referendum on the issue and that it mismanaged the protest.

"I believe in free speech. I don't think anybody has the right to try to shut it down, and that's basically what they were trying to do to the alt-right," Dan Suggs said.

Ruth Suggs said not everyone present was there to cause trouble.

"There were people who just wanted to hear what they had to say," she said. "Trump was right when he said there were good people on both sides."

Students from immigrant families see a personal threat, but differently

Nineteen-year-old Kushaan Soodan's parents are Indian immigrants. Eighteen-year-old Arturo Romero is from Mexico and legally immigrated to California in high school with his parents and younger sisters.

The two are now college students and acquaintances at the University of Virginia. But they see the election completely differently, in part because of their experiences hailing from immigrant families.

As Soodan registered UVA students to vote on a recent Friday, he said the election is crucial to preserving democracy and making a statement that hate should not have a home in America.

"That sort of hatred — we've already seen what that can cause," said Soodan, standing near the campus walkway used seven years ago by the "Unite the Right" marchers. "And I think that this election is one of the ways we can do that to where we can say, no, we don't want this, we don't like this."

Romero said he feared a Harris victory would push the country to the point of no return. He defended Trump and said his words were often misunderstood, including when he suggested that migrants who are in the U.S. and have committed murder did so because "it's in their genes."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 70 of 79

Romero said Trump was not speaking about all immigrants. He said he had seen how Mexico changed for the worse when more migrants began traveling through to get to the U.S. He said crime increased, and he doesn't want the same thing to happen to America.

Romero praised Trump's overall impact on the economy, border and the nation's international stability, and he felt Biden's policies had fallen short: "If we get four more years, then this is not going to be reversible." "The pot's still on the stove"

Leslie Scott-Jones was born and raised in Charlottesville and has lived her life aware of the worst consequences of racism. So she was perplexed after the "Unite the Right" rally to see the news media present it as shocking.

"How did you come to believe that we were living in a post-racial society?" said Scott-Jones, who is Black. "Because the rest of us have been living a very different experience."

The violent rally was a "bubble bursting," she said, but "the pot's still on the stove."

Still, it was a deeply painful moment for Scott-Jones, who was holding an event for artists when she heard crashing sounds that turned out to be the vehicle assault on the counter-protesters. She stopped what she was doing and rushed to help.

Scott-Jones, who is curator of learning and engagement at a local African American heritage center, said she has heard the pleas to save democracy with her vote, but they don't seem compelling. She thinks the system needs to be reimagined.

"This country has not worked for Black people since we got here," she said. "Why would I want to save something that literally treated my people as property for hundreds of years?"

She said she is voting for third-party candidate Cornel West and hopes America can someday live up to the ideals it espouses.

Might the country descend into political violence and sink into deeper division after November's election?

"That is a worry," Scott-Jones said. "But I honestly don't think that that depends on who sits in that chair."

Google Maps adds AI features to help users explore and navigate the world around them

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE AP Technology Writer

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) — Google Maps is heading down a new road steered by artificial intelligence.

The shift announced Thursday will bring more of the revolutionary AI technology that Google already has been baking into its dominant search engine to the digital maps service that the internet company launched nearly 20 years ago as part of its efforts to expand into new frontiers.

Google Maps recently surpassed 2 billion monthly users worldwide for the first time, a milestone that illustrates how dependent people have become on the service's directions during their daily commutes and excursions to new places. With the introduction of Google's AI-powered Gemini technology, the maps are now being set up to become entertainment guides in addition to navigational tools.

Starting this week in the U.S. only, users will be able to converse with Google Maps to ask for tips on things to do around specific spots in a neighborhood or city and receive lists of restaurants, bars and other nearby attractions that include reviews that have been compiled through the years. The new features will also provide more detailed information about parking options near a designated destination along with walking directions for a user to check after departing the car.

"We are entering a new era of maps," Miriam Daniel, general manager of Google Maps, told reporters Wednesday during a preview of the features presented in Palo Alto, California. "We are transforming how you navigate and explore the world."

Google Maps also is trying to address complaints by introducing more detailed imagery that will make it easier to see which lane of the road to be situated in well ahead of having to make a turn.

In another AI twist, Google Maps is going to allow outside developers to tap into the language models underlying its Gemini technology to enable pose questions about specific destinations, such as apartments or restaurants, and get their queries answered within seconds. Google says this new feature, which initially

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 71 of 79

will go through a testing phase, has undergone a fact-checking procedure that it calls "grounding."

Google's Waze maps, which focus exclusively on real-time driving directions, will use AI to offer a conversational way for its roughly 180 million monthly users to announce hazards in the road and other problems that could affect traveling times.

The decision to bring AI into a service that so many rely upon to get from one point to the next reflects Google's growing confidence in its ability to prevent its Gemini technology from providing false or misleading information, also known as "hallucinations," to users. Google's AI has already been caught hallucinating in some of the summaries that began rolling in May, including advice to put glue on pizza and an assertion that the fourth U.S. president, James Madison, graduated from the University of Wisconsin, located in a city named after him.

The struggle for Senate control goes down to the wire as spending shatters records

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Billions of dollars in advertising are raining down on voters across the Rust Belt, Rocky Mountains and American southwest as the two major political parties portray their opponent's candidates as extreme in a struggle for control of the U.S. Senate.

In three races alone — Ohio, Pennsylvania and Montana — more than \$1 billion is projected to be spent by Nov. 5.

The race in Ohio could break the spending record for Senate races. The race in Montana will go down as the most expensive Senate race ever on a per-vote basis. And, late in the game, Democrats are sending millions more dollars to Texas, a GOP stronghold where the party has new hopes of knocking off two-term conservative stalwart Sen. Ted Cruz, an upset that could help them protect their majority.

Republicans need to pick up two seats to capture a surefire majority, and one of those — West Virginia — is all but in the bag for the GOP.

Other races are more volatile and less predictable.

For Democrats, the brutal math of this year's election cycle is forcing them to defend eight seats in tough states. Losses by established incumbents could amount to an extinction-level event for Democrats who represent reliably Republican states.

The election also will test the down-ballot strength of both parties in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, the premier presidential battleground states known as the Blue Wall for their relatively reliable Democratic voting history. Wins there by Republicans would dramatically alter the Senate playing field.

All told, data from political ad tracking firm AdImpact projects that more than \$2.5 billion will be spent on advertising in Senate races in this two-year campaign cycle, slightly more than the 2022 total.

That includes a half-billion dollars in Ohio alone, another \$340 million in Pennsylvania and \$280 million in Montana, population 1.1 million, or less than one-tenth of the population of either Ohio or Pennsylvania. The most expensive Senate race ever was Democrat John Ossoff's victory in a Georgia contest that went to a runoff in 2021 and decided Senate control, according to data from the campaign finance-tracking organization Open Secrets.

Generally, campaign strategists say Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is polling ahead of his party's Senate candidates in Senate battleground states, while Democratic candidates in those states are polling ahead of their presidential nominee, Kamala Harris.

That means there is a slice of voters who could vote for Trump but not back Republicans in Senate races — or who could split their tickets with Democratic Senate candidates.

Such splits have been rare. In Maine, in 2020 voters backed Democrat Joe Biden for president and re-elected Republican Sen. Susan Collins, for instance.

Republican strategists said they expect the party's major super PACs to spend until election day in seven states where Democrats are defending Senate seats: Michigan, Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, where polls show competitive races, but also Nevada and Arizona, where Republicans are encouraged by

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 72 of 79

strong early voting numbers.

Republicans are most confident about flipping the seat in deep-red Montana, where Republican Tim Sheehy is challenging third-term Democratic Sen. Jon Tester. They are also optimistic about reliably red Ohio, where Republican Bernie Moreno is challenging third-term Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown.

Torunn Sinclair, a spokesperson for a pair of Republican-aligned super PACs, said one — American Crossroads — is pulling \$2.8 million out of Montana, while the pair are plunging several million more into Pennsylvania.

There, Republican David McCormick is trying to knock off three-term Democratic Sen. Bob Casey in a presidential battleground undercard that both sides say is close.

McCormick, a former CEO of the world's largest hedge fund, has hammered the message in two debates that Casey is a "sure thing" to back the Biden-Harris administration's agenda.

In recent days, Casey began running an ad in conservative areas that touts his "greedflation" legislation to pursue price-gouging. The ad says "Casey bucked Biden to protect fracking" and "sided with Trump" on trade and tariffs.

Republicans say Casey's ad showing Trump is similar to a TV ad that Sen. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin is airing and speaks to both Democrats' need to protect themselves against Harris' vulnerability in their states.

"They're hoping to peel off enough Trump voters to win," Sinclair said.

Still, Casey ran a similar ad in 2018's midterm election when he won easily — even though that ad didn't mention Trump — while Casey's campaign notes that he has long split with Democrats by opposing free trade agreements and supporting fossil fuel-power projects.

Democrats, conversely, say they are forcing competitive contests late in the campaign in two red states, Texas and Nebraska. Ousting incumbent Republicans from one or both of those seats could help Democrats to at least a 50-50 split in the Senate should Democrats lose in Montana or Ohio.

In Texas, U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, a former professional football player, has proven adept at raising small-dollar donations in his challenge to incumbent Republican Sen. Ted Cruz. Allred has outraised every Senate candidate nationally, except Tester and Brown.

The ad spending advantage for Allred has been 3-to-2, according to AdImpact, with the Democratic-aligned Senate Majority PAC touting a new seven-figure digital ad buy and a separate \$5 million TV ad buy attacking Cruz on a key issue for Democrats, abortion rights.

On top of that, Democrats hope Harris' rally in Houston on Friday with Allred and Beyoncé can help Allred by boosting Black voter turnout.

In Nebraska, independent Dan Osborn — a tattooed former labor leader who supports abortion rights — appears to have consolidated Democratic and independent voters while making some inroads with Republicans, Democratic strategists say.

While Osborn is running as an independent and hasn't said which party he'd caucus with, he's getting support from a liberal super PAC that has helped him amass a significant spending advantage over Republican Sen. Deb Fischer.

In both states, Republicans acknowledge that they've had to spend money unexpectedly to shore up their incumbents' prospects, but they also say they expect to win comfortably.

In Ohio, Brown has tried to personalize his appeal by appearing in most of his own ads and speaking directly into the camera.

"I'm Sherrod Brown and I have a question," Brown says, looking into the camera and leaning his elbow on what might be a wood-working shop table. "Have you ever heard Bernie Moreno talk about what he's going to do for Ohio?"

Brown also makes a personal appeal to potential swing voters, saying he has spent his career fighting for workers and veterans and working with law enforcement and "presidents of both parties to do what's best for our state."

Elsewhere, strategists expect first-term Florida Sen. Rick Scott will fend off a challenge from Democrat Debbie Mucarsel-Powell and that Democrat Angela Alsobrooks in deep-blue Maryland will beat former Gov. Larry Hogan to fill a seat being vacated by Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 73 of 79

Dodgers win World Series in 5 games, overcome 5-run deficit with help of errors to beat Yankees 7-6

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — You gotta hand it to Freddie Freeman, Shohei Ohtani and the Los Angeles Dodgers. And not just because the Yankees certainly did.

When New York let LA back into World Series Game 5, the Dodgers did what they've done all year — kept on going.

After taking advantage of three miscues to erase a five-run, fifth-inning deficit during one of the most memorable midgame meltdowns in baseball history, the Dodgers used eighth-inning sacrifice flies from Gavin Lux and Mookie Betts to beat New York 7-6 on Wednesday night.

"In spring training this is what we said we were going to do and we did it," Betts proclaimed, champagne stinging his eyes.

Aaron Judge and Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning for New York. Alex Verdugo's RBI single chased Jack Flaherty in the second, and Giancarlo Stanton's third-inning homer against Ryan Brasier built a 5-0 Yankees lead.

In the dugout, the Dodgers remained focused.

"We were like just get one, chip away, chip away," Freeman said.

Errors by Judge in center and Anthony Volpe at shortstop, combined with pitcher Gerrit Cole failing to cover first on Betts' grounder, helped Los Angeles score five unearned runs in the fifth.

Of the 234 teams to trail by five or more runs in a Series game, the Dodgers became just the seventh to win.

"This is going to sting forever," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "I'm heartbroken."

After Stanton's sixth-inning sacrifice fly put the Yankees back ahead 6-5, the Dodgers loaded the bases against losing pitcher Tommy Kahnle in the eighth before the sacrifice flies off Luke Weaver.

Judge doubled off winner Blake Treinen with one out in the bottom half and Chisholm walked. Manager Dave Roberts walked to the mound with Treinen at 37 pitches.

"I looked in his eyes. I said how you feeling? How much more you got?" Roberts recalled. "He said: 'I want it.' I trust him."

Treinen retired Stanton on a flyout and struck out Anthony Rizzo.

Walker Buehler, making his first relief appearance since his rookie season in 2018, pitched a perfect ninth for his first major league save.

When Buehler struck out Verdugo to end the game, the Dodgers poured onto the field to celebrate between the mound and first base, capping a season in which they led the big leagues with 98 wins.

With several thousand Dodgers fans remaining in a mostly empty stadium, baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred presented the trophy on a platform quickly erected over second base.

Ohtani, the Dodgers' record-setting \$700 million signing and baseball's first 50-homer, 50-steal player, went 2 for 19 with no RBIs and had one single after separating his left shoulder during a stolen base attempt in Game 2. Ohtani went through the clubhouse pouring champagne on teammates and having it sprayed on him

"We were able to get through the regular season, I think, because of the strength of this team, this organization," he said through a translator. "The success of the postseason is very similar."

Freeman hit a two-run single to tie the Series record of 12 RBIs, set by Bobby Richardson over seven games in 1960, and was voted Series MVP. With the Dodgers one out from losing Friday's opener, Freeman hit a game-ending grand slam reminiscent of Kirk Gibson's homer off Oakland's Dennis Eckersley in 1988's Game 1 that sparked Los Angeles to the title.

The Dodgers earned their eighth championship and seventh since leaving Brooklyn for Los Angeles — their first in a non-shortened season since 1988. They won a neutral-site World Series against Tampa Bay in 2020 after a 60-game regular season and couldn't have a parade because of the coronavirus pandemic.

These Dodgers of Ohtani, Freeman and Betts joined the 1955 Duke Snider and Roy Campanella Boys of

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 74 of 79

Summer, the Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale era that spanned the three titles from 1959-65, the Tommy Lasorda-led groups 1981 and '88, and the Betts and Clayton Kershaw champions of 2020.

Ending a season that started with a gambling scandal involving Ohtani's interpreter during the opening series in South Korea, Roberts won his second championship in nine years as Dodgers manager, matching Lasorda and trailing the four of Walter Alston. The Dodgers won for the fourth time in 12 Series meetings with the Yankees.

New York remained without a title since its record 27th in 2009. The Yankees acquired Juan Soto from San Diego in December knowing he would be eligible for free agency after the 2024 Series. The 26-year-old star went 5 for 16 with one RBI in the Series heading into what will be intensely followed bidding on the open market.

"I'll be open to listen to every single team," Soto said. "I don't have any doors closed or anything like that, so I'm going to be available to all 30 teams."

Judge finished 4 for 18 with three RBIs.

"You can't give a good team like that extra outs," Judge said. "It starts with me there in the line drive coming in, misplay that. So that doesn't happen then I think we got a different story tonight."

Cole didn't allow a hit until Kiké Hernández singled leading off the fifth. Judge, who an inning earlier made a leaping catch at the left-center wall to deny Freeman an extra-base hit, dropped Tommy Edman's fly to center. Volpe then bounced a throw to third on Will Smith's grounder, allowing the Dodgers to load the bases with no outs.

Cole struck out Lux and Ohtani, and Betts hit a grounder to Rizzo — a slow grounder by a Mookie turned the 1986 World Series, by the Mets' Mookie Wilson against Boston.

Cole didn't cover first, pointing at Rizzo, who didn't charge because he was afraid the spinning ball might get past him. Betts outraced Rizzo to the bag.

"I took a bad angle to the ball," Cole said. "I wasn't sure really off the bat how hard he hit it. ... By the time the ball got by me, I was not in a position to cover first."

Freeman followed with a two-run single and Teoscar Hernández hit a tying two-run double.

"When you're given extra outs and you capitalize in that kind of game, that's huge," Freeman said. "For us to get it back to even, you could just feel the momentum just coming along."

Stanton's sixth-inning sacrifice fly off Brusdar Graterol put the Yankees ahead 6-5, but the Dodgers rallied one last time in the eighth after Kiké Hernández singled off Kahnle leading off, Edman followed with an infield hit, and Smith walked on four pitches.

"We faced every adversity possible and we overcame every single one," Freeman said, who won his second title after 2021 with Atlanta, and rebounded from a sprained ankle to homer in each of the first four Series games.

Purchased by Guggenheim Baseball Management in 2012, the Dodgers hired Andrew Friedman from Tampa Bay to head their baseball operations two years later. He boosted the front office with a multitude of analytics and performance science staff, and ownership supplied the cash.

Los Angeles went on an unprecedented \$1.25 billion spending spree last offseason on deals with Ohtani, pitchers Yoshinobu Yamamoto, Tyler Glasnow and James Paxton, and outfielder Teoscar Hernández. Much of the money was future obligations that raised the Dodgers' deferred compensation to \$915.5 million owed from 2028-44.

Faced with injuries, the Dodgers acquired Flaherty, Edman and reliever Michael Kopech ahead of the trade deadline, and all became important cogs in the title run. The additions boosted payroll to \$266 million, third behind the Mets and the Yankees, plus a projected \$43 million luxury tax.

Los Angeles will celebrate with a parade Friday on what would have been the 64th birthday for Dodgers great Fernando Valenzuela, who died three days before the Series opener.

"It's going to be emotional for all of us," Roberts said.

UP NEXT

Los Angeles opens its spring schedule on Feb. 20 against the Chicago Cubs at Camelback Ranch, and the Yankees start the next day against Tampa Bay in Tampa, Florida.

Some US Muslims struggle to find a candidate they can tolerate supporting for president

By MARIAM FAM Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — With the death and destruction in Gaza on her mind, Soraya Burhani agonized over how to cast her vote for president.

"For us, Muslims, I see that there's no good choice," she said.

With the U.S. handling of the Israel-Hamas war and conflict in the Middle East looming over the White House race, many American Muslim voters — most of whom backed President Joe Biden four years ago — have been wrestling with voting decisions.

After U.S. support for Israel left many of them feeling outraged and ignored, some seek a rebuff of the Democrats, including by favoring third-party options for president. Others grapple with how to express their anger through the ballot box amid warnings by some against another Donald Trump presidency.

For voters in swing states like Georgia, which Biden won in 2020 by fewer than 12,000 votes, the weight of such decisions can be amplified.

When it comes to voting, "the responses are all over the place and it's not really aligned to one political party as it has in the past," said Shafina Khabani, executive director at Georgia Muslim Voter Project. "Our communities, they're sad; they're mourning; they're grieving; they're angry and they're confused."

Burhani, a Malaysian American, ended up voting for Kamala Harris — but it was a vote against Trump, rather than in support of the Democratic vice president, she said. "It was very difficult. It was very painful. It was very sad."

Burhani had become a spokesperson for a recently launched campaign, "No Peace No Peach," that urged withholding votes from Harris unless demands, including halting arms shipments to Israel, were met. The group ultimately encouraged voters to "keep Palestine in mind at the ballot box, and vote with their conscience."

Some others, she said, "can't bring themselves" to vote for Harris and will instead back the Green Party's Jill Stein.

They include Latifa Awad, who has relatives in Gaza and said she wants her vote for Stein to send a message: our voices matter.

"People are like, 'well, if you don't vote for Kamala, then you're voting for Trump,'" she said. But, she added, "they both support Israel."

Jahanzeb Jabbar said he voted for Trump in 2020 and supports him this year.

"If Trump was in office and this was going on, I would have not voted for him," he said. "Had the Democrats come out with a very strong stance on a ceasefire and stopping military aid to Israel, my vote was ready to be had."

He sees Trump as "the better option" for peace, saying the Republican nominee is a good deal maker. Jabbar rejects warnings by some that things would be worse under Trump, questioning how it can get worse after Israel's military offensive in Gaza has already killed over 43,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities.

The war was sparked by the Oct. 7, 2023 attack on Israel in which Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people and took about 250 hostages.

In 2020, among Muslim voters nationally, about two-thirds supported Biden and about one-third supported Trump, according to AP VoteCast. That Biden support has left many feeling betrayed or even guilty.

"They're seeing these elected officials that they voted for essentially, to them, funding a war that's killing their own family and friends," Khabani said. At the same time, community members warn against another Trump presidency, she said, recalling Trump's ban while in office that affected travelers from several Muslim-majority countries. Biden rescinded the ban.

Some Muslims, Khabani said, are also concerned about such issues as the maternal mortality rate in Georgia's Black communities, health-care affordability and gun safety.

Many, she said, are unsure if they want to vote. She and others have urged them to not overlook down-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 76 of 79

ballot races.

Nationally, some religious leaders have backed various sides of the debate.

One letter signed by a group of imams and other leaders urged U.S. Muslims to reject what they said was a "false binary" and to make a statement by voting third party in the presidential election.

"We will not taint our hands by voting for or supporting an administration that has brought so much bloodshed upon our brothers and sisters," it said, emphasizing that this was no endorsement of Trump, whom it also criticized.

A different group of imams said that the benefit of backing Harris "far outweighs the harms of the other options."

"Knowingly enabling someone like Donald Trump to return to office, whether by voting directly for him or for a third-party candidate, is both a moral and a strategic failure," that letter stated.

In swing state Michigan, Trump has secured a number of endorsements from Muslims, including two mayors, even as many other leaders remained negative toward him.

Harris and Trump have jostled for an edge among Arab and Muslim American voters and Jewish voters, especially in tight races in Michigan and Pennsylvania. U.S. Muslims, who are racially and ethnically diverse, make up a tiny sliver of overall voters, but community activists hope that energizing more of them, especially in key swing states with notable Muslim populations, makes a difference in close races.

"If you don't live in a swing state, I envy you," said Georgia State Rep. Ruwa Romman, a Democrat of Palestinian descent. "For those of us in swing states ... it has been a suffocating and crushing responsibility."

Romman's name was among those proposed by "uncommitted" activists pushing for a Palestinian speaker on the Democratic National Convention's stage. Denial of that request dismayed many of those wanting Harris to distinguish herself from Biden's Gaza policy. Some had credited Harris with striking a more empathetic tone toward Palestinian suffering but said she failed to follow that with action.

Romman, had she given a speech, would have called for electing Harris and defeating Trump, while outlining demands, including for a cease-fire. She laments the rejection of the "symbolic gesture" of a speaker as a lost opportunity but says Trump would be "so much worse" for Palestinians. "I'm just frustrated because I'm sitting between two immovable entities, right? — the Harris campaign and the community," she said. "Sometimes it feels like they're actually moving further away from each other."

She said, "If I believe there's a chance to stop the genocide under Harris but no chance under Trump, don't I have a moral obligation to get to that situation?"

An attendee at an Arab American convention in Michigan recently told Romman it was "disgusting" that she had been willing to take the DNC stage and offer an endorsement then without a policy shift by the administration.

Nasrina Bargzie, director of Muslim and Arab American outreach for Harris' campaign, said in a statement that throughout her career, Harris "has been steadfast in her support of our country's diverse Muslim community, including ensuring that they can live free from the hateful policies of the Trump administration." She added that Harris "will continue working to bring the war in Gaza to an end in a way where Israel is secure, the hostages are released, the suffering in Gaza ends, and the Palestinian people can realize their right to dignity, security, freedom and self-determination."

Trump campaign senior adviser Brian Hughes said the Harris-Biden administration's "failed foreign policy has brought death, chaos, and war to the Middle East," adding that only Trump "will restore peace and stability in the Middle East for all people and he will protect religious freedom for all Americans, as he did in his first term."

Trump has touted his support for Israel and as president declared Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

At Georgia's Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam, where the congregation is primarily African American, mosque-goer Sabir Muhammad said that "as Muslims, of course, we're disheartened by the situation in Gaza and we can't support the government being complicit."

He said he felt he had little choice this election — Trump is not an option for him — and would probably vote for Harris, adding, later, that he voted but wanted to keep his choice private.

"We're in a quandary," he had said.

What is Diwali, the Festival of Lights? How is it celebrated in India and the diaspora?

By DEEPA BHARATH Associated Press

Diwali is the most important festival of the year in India — and for Hindus in particular.

It is celebrated across faiths by more than a billion people in the world's most populous nation and the diaspora. Over five days, people take part in festive gatherings, fireworks displays, feasts and prayer.

Diwali is derived from the word "Deepavali," which means "a row of lights." Celebrants light rows of traditional clay oil lamps outside their homes to symbolize the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

When is Diwali?

The dates of the festival are based on the Hindu lunar calendar, typically falling in late October or early November.

This year, the holiday is being celebrated on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. In the U.S., Diwali falls on Halloween this year, which has triggered quite a few #Diwaloween memes on social media where some celebrants can be seen lighting diyas in their scary costumes or handing out laddoos to trick-or-treaters.

What are some Hindu stories of Diwali?

While Diwali is a major religious festival for Hindus, it is also observed by Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists. The origin story of Diwali varies depending on the region. All these stories have one underlying theme — the victory of good over evil.

In southern India, Diwali celebrates the victory of Lord Krishna's destruction of the demon Naraka who is said to have imprisoned women and tormented his subjects. In northern India, Diwali honors the triumphant return of Lord Rama, his wife Sita, and brother Lakshmana, from a 14-year exile in the forest.

How is Diwali celebrated?

The festival brings with it a number of unique traditions, which also vary by the region. What all celebrations have in common are the lights, fireworks, feasting, new clothes and praying.

—In southern India, many have an early morning warm oil bath to symbolize bathing in the holy River Ganges as a form of physical and spiritual purification.

—In the north, worshipping the Goddess Lakshmi, who symbolizes wealth and prosperity, is the norm.

Gambling is a popular tradition because of the belief whoever gambled on Diwali night would prosper throughout the year. Many people buy gold on the first day of Diwali, known as Dhanteras — an act they believe will bring them good luck.

Setting off firecrackers is a cherished tradition, as is exchanging sweets and gifts among friends and family. Diwali celebrations typically feature rangoli, which are geometric, floral patterns drawn on the floor using colorful powders. This year, several northern Indian states, including the capital New Delhi, are instituting partial or total fireworks bans to combat rising pollution levels during Diwali.

What are the Diwali stories from other faiths?

Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs have their own Diwali stories:

—Jains observe Diwali as the day the Lord Mahavira, the last of the great teachers, attained nirvana, which is liberation from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth.

—Sikhs celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas — a day that overlaps with Diwali — to commemorate the release of Guru Hargobind, a revered figure in the faith, who had been imprisoned for 12 years by the Mughal emperor Jahangir.

—Buddhists observe the day as one when the Hindu Emperor Ashoka, who ruled in the third century B.C., converted to Buddhism.

New in 2024: Diwali Barbie

This year, Mattel has released its "Barbie Signature Diwali Doll" by designer Anita Dongre who wrote on Instagram that her Barbie represents "the fashion-forward modern women who wears India on her sleeve with pride."

In contrast to her earliest iteration in 1996 who was clad in a bright pink sari or the 2012 avatar who

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 78 of 79

was packaged with a "monkey friend," Diwali Barbie is fashionably dressed in a lehnga, an ankle length embroidered skirt with motifs from Dongre's home state of Rajasthan, a cropped blouse and vest.

This doll, priced at \$40, sold out on day one on Mattel's website.

Indians celebrate Diwali by lighting a record number of clay lamps

By BISWAJEET BANERJEE Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India (AP) — Millions of Indians began celebrating the annual Hindu festival of lights, Diwali, by symbolically lighting a record 2.51 million clay oil lamps at dusk on Wednesday on the banks of the river Saryu in a northern Indian city they believe to be the birthplace of the deity Lord Ram.

Diwali is the most important festival of the year in India, particularly for the Hindu majority. It is celebrated by socializing and exchanging gifts with loved ones. Many light candles and oil lamps made from clay. Fireworks are set off. In the evening, a special prayer is dedicated to the Hindu goddess Lakshmi, who is believed to bring luck and prosperity.

A Guinness World Records team presented a certificate to Uttar Pradesh state Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath acknowledging the unprecedented number of oil lamps, exceeding last year's 2.2 million. Drone cameras closely monitored the event.

The celebrations took place within the northern city of Ayodhya, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi nine months ago opened a controversial Hindu temple built on the ruins of a historic mosque following a Supreme Court decision, seen as a political win for the populist leader. The establishment of the temple dedicated to Lord Ram fulfilled a long-standing demand by millions of Hindus.

On Wednesday, thousands of volunteers lit lamps, called "diyas," along riverbanks, lanes, fronts and roofs of homes.

"More than 30,000 volunteers, primarily college students, worked meticulously to maintain the systematic pattern of burning lamps for the prescribed time," said Dr. Pratibha Goyal, vice chancellor of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University, who coordinated the massive effort.

The lamps lit along 55 riverfront steps of the river Saryu created a captivating display along 1.5 kilometers (one mile). As the lamps remained lit for over five minutes, government spokesperson Shishir Singh said Ayodhya achieved its seventh consecutive world record for the largest display.

Singh said that around 91,000 liters (about 24,000 gallons) of mustard oil was used to light the lamps.

The event transformed Ayodhya into a city of lights amid devotional bhajan singing. A laser show depicting scenes from the epic Ramayana added to the experience, and an eco-friendly fireworks show lit the skyline. Traditional decorations, including elaborate arches and grand gateways along the main highways, captured the festive atmosphere as folk cultural performances drew pilgrims to the streets.

The festival also featured a praying ceremony performed by 1,100 priests along riverbanks.

Security was tightened across the city. Paramilitary commandos, bomb detectors, dog squads, face-recognition technology, and real-time monitoring drones were deployed, police officer Rajkaran Nayyar said.

Major Hindu festivals like Dussehra and Diwali are associated with mythological tales of Lord Ram extolling the virtues of truth, sacrifice, and ethical governance.

Diwali's main celebrations are held across the country on Thursday.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 01, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 129 ~ 79 of 79

Today in History: November 1 Seabiscuit wins "Race of the Century"

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Friday, Nov. 1, the 306th day of 2024. There are 60 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 1, 1938, in a two-horse match race, Seabiscuit defeated the favored Triple Crown winner War Admiral by four lengths in what was dubbed the "Race of the Century" at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore.

Also on this date:

In 1765, the Stamp Act, passed by the British Parliament, went into effect, prompting stiff resistance from American colonists.

In 1861, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln named Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan General-in-Chief of the Union armies, succeeding Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott.

In 1894, Nicholas II became Emperor of Russia, succeeding his late father Alexander III.

In 1936, in a speech in Milan, Italy, Benito Mussolini described the alliance between his country and Nazi Germany as an "axis" running between Rome and Berlin.

In 1950, two Puerto Rican nationalists tried to force their way into Blair House in Washington, D.C., in a failed attempt to assassinate President Harry S. Truman. (One of the pair was killed, along with a White House police officer.)

In 1982, the first Japanese car produced in the U.S. rolled off the assembly line at the Honda manufacturing plant in Marysville, Ohio.

In 1989, East Germany reopened its border with Czechoslovakia, prompting tens of thousands of refugees to flee to the West.

In 1995, peace talks opened in Dayton, Ohio, with the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia present.

Today's Birthdays: Golf Hall of Famer Gary Player is 89. Football Hall of Famer Ted Hendricks is 77. Music producer David Foster is 75. Musician Lyle Lovett is 67. Apple CEO Tim Cook is 64. Rock singer Anthony Kiedis (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 62. Country singer "Big Kenny" Alphin (Big and Rich) is 61. Actor Toni Collette is 52. Actor-TV host Jenny McCarthy is 52. Actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is 51. Football Hall of Famer Steve Hutchinson is 47. Actor Natalia Tena is 40. Actor Penn Badgley is 38. Actor Anthony Ramos is 33.