

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Monday, Nov. 4

Senior Menu: Chicken Alfredo, California blend, pineapple, breadstick

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.

School Lunch: Corn dogs, baked beans.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center

JH GBB at Warner, 6 p.m.

## Tuesday, Nov. 5

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin, tropical fruit, mixed vegetables, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg omelets.

School Lunch: Chicken strips, waffle fries.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid, LWML, 1:30 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.

Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center Region 1A Volleyball

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Hello God... we need your help down here. The world has gone mad. Please hear and answer our prayers. Thank you, God.

Amen



## Wednesday, Nov. 6

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken breast, sweet potato, capri blend, peach crisp.

School Breakfast: Cereal.

School Lunch: Quesadilla, Santa Fe Corn.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; Confirmation with students and parents, 6 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Budget/financing meeting for 2025, 7 p.m.

Groton Chamber meeting, noon, City Hall

Youth Rally, 7 p.m., GHS Gym

## Thursday, Nov. 7

Senior Menu: Roast pork, mashed potatoes with gravy, three bean salad, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Pancake on a stick.

School Lunch: Taco burgers, tater tos.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

Region 1A Volleyball in Groton. Groton Area plays the first match at 6 p.m.

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

## FROSTY CLUE

I/My.....

4. Graduated from Groton High School



### Codington County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: 445th Ave and 175th St, 10 miles southwest of Watertown, SD

When: 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024

Driver 1: 33-year-old male from Watertown, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2012 Ford Escape

Seatbelt Used: No

Codington County, S.D.- A Watertown man died Saturday morning in a single vehicle crash 10 miles southwest of Watertown, SD.

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

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2012 Ford Escape was traveling west on 175th Street near 445th Avenue. The vehicle left the roadway, rolled, and entered a slough, coming to rest on its roof in the slough west of the intersection.

The driver was pronounced deceased at the scene.

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

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

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# 1440

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

## Election Eve

Millions of US voters will head to the voting booth tomorrow to cast ballots in what appears to be a deadlocked presidential race. Various poll aggregators—see RealClearPolitics and 538—have former President Donald Trump leading by 0.1% or Vice President Kamala Harris leading by 0.9%, respectively, in national polls. Both figures are within the margin of error.

These polls capture national sentiment, not probabilities of Electoral College victory. Analyst Nate Silver gives Harris about a 75% chance of winning the national vote, but Trump a slight edge in winning the Electoral College.

The outcome is expected to be determined by the results in a set of swing states—most notably Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Nevada, Arizona, Georgia, and North Carolina. See how voting patterns in these states have changed in recent elections.

More than 75 million early votes have been cast thus far—roughly 41 million in person and almost 35 million mail-in ballots. Data (where available) suggest even participation by party, though women outpace men by about nine points nationally.

Also at stake are 34 Senate seats and a number of competitive House districts, with control of each chamber up for grabs.

## College Basketball Tips Off

The 2024-25 college basketball season gets underway today, with all but six AP-ranked teams playing on the men's side. Opening day games include No. 1 Kansas against Howard (8 pm ET, ESPN) and No. 8 Baylor facing No. 6 Gonzaga (10:30 pm ET, ESPN).

Top storylines of this year's men's season include No. 3 UConn's quest for a third consecutive national title and the play of No. 7 Duke freshman Cooper Flagg, who is widely projected to be next year's No. 1 NBA Draft pick.

On the women's side, defending champion No. 1 South Carolina tips off against Michigan in Las Vegas (6:30 pm ET, TNT), and No. 20 Ole Miss takes on No. 3 USC from Paris, France (11 am, ESPN). With last year's superstars Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese off to the WNBA, new top players include No. 2 UConn's Paige Bueckers and No. 3 USC sophomore JuJu Watkins.

## Conviction in Louisville

Former Louisville, Kentucky, police officer Brett Hankison was convicted by a federal jury late Friday for his role in the raid that killed 26-year-old Breonna Taylor in March 2020. The development marks the first conviction of an officer involved in the raid.

The jury found 48-year-old Hankison guilty of using excessive force while acquitting him of violating the civil rights of Taylor's neighbors. Hankison fired 10 shots into Taylor's apartment, some of which entered a neighboring unit but didn't hit anyone. Hankison was retried after the first jury was deadlocked. He will be sentenced March 12 and faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Taylor was killed during a midnight no-knock raid on her apartment. While her name and residence were on the warrant, she was considered a soft target, with police having located the prime suspect. Taylor was shot six times when her boyfriend exchanged gunfire with officers, believing them to be intruders. Two other officers involved in the raid were not charged; prosecutors believed they were justified in returning fire.

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## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Abdi Nageeye becomes first runner from the Netherlands to win men's New York City Marathon; Kenya's Sheila Chepkirui wins women's title.

UK prosecutors investigating comedian Russell Brand on possible sexual assault charges.

"Venom: The Last Dance" hauls in \$317M at global box office.

Alan Rachins, Emmy-nominated actor known for starring role on "LA Law," dies at age 82.

"Dawson's Creek" star James Van Der Beek reveals colorectal cancer diagnosis.

## Science & Technology

Researchers develop technique similar to large language models—the approach used to train chatbots like ChatGPT and Anthropic's Claude—to teach robots new skills.

Utah's Pando tree is between 16,000 and 80,000 years old, making it one of the oldest organisms on Earth, genetic analysis shows. The single plant consists of nearly 50,000 tree-like stems spread across 106 acres.

Chemists make molecules previously thought to be too unstable to exist; chemicals feature a double carbon bond in a location that breaks a century-old rule, may lead to development of new drug compounds.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher Friday (S&P 500 +0.4%, Dow +0.7%, Nasdaq +0.8%).

Nvidia to replace rival chipmaker Intel in Dow Jones Industrial Average Nov. 8; paint maker Sherwin-Williams to replace chemicals company Dow Inc.

Striking Boeing workers to vote on latest contract today to potentially end seven-week strike; latest offer from Boeing includes increasing wages 38% over four years.

TGI Fridays files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy; the fast-casual restaurant chain's locations will remain open amid restructuring.

IRS raises limits for 401(k) and other retirement plans, increases catch-up contributions for 60- to 63-year-olds in 2025.

## Politics & World Affairs

Israeli forces capture senior Hezbollah naval leader. Israel says it carried out ground raid into Syria in recent months, seized a Syrian citizen who they believe is tied to Iranian network targeting Israel.

UK Conservative Party elects Kemi Badenoch as its leader; Badenoch becomes the first Black woman to head Britain's oldest party.

At least 200 Bolivian soldiers reportedly taken hostage by armed supporters of Bolivia's former President Evo Morales amid ongoing abuse investigations into Morales.

## “Listen up and keep your hearing”

Hearing loss affects millions of Americans. In fact, by age 75 over half of adults will have some form of hearing loss.

Signs of hearing loss include having trouble hearing speech in noisy places, finding it hard to follow speech in groups, trouble hearing on the phone, listening makes you tired, or if you need to turn the volume up on the TV or radio while others complain it is too loud.

To some, hearing loss may just be a minor inconvenience. If it is more severe, however, it can have a big impact on day to day activities, impairing communication, safe driving, safe walking, and has even been shown to increase rates of depression and dementia. When people disengage from others because they cannot hear well enough, people may become more withdrawn, and might not enjoy many of the things they used to.

The simplest solution is to try hearing aids. While hearing aids are available over the counter, they are recommended only for adults with mild to moderate hearing loss. Meanwhile, it may be a good idea to see an audiologist or an Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) physician for a thorough assessment first.

Warning signs you should seek medical care include seeing blood, pus, or fluid coming out of your ear, ear pain, an ear deformity, feeling something is in your ear, dizziness or vertigo, sudden changes or variations in hearing, worse hearing in one ear, or ringing or buzzing (tinnitus) especially if it is in only one ear.

At least one quarter of hearing loss is due to prolonged exposure to loud noises, and even brief exposure to very loud noises like gunfire can cause hearing loss. Loud concerts, sporting events, car stereos, machinery, occupational exposures, and more all play a role. In addition, because of ear buds with the volume turned up, even going on a walk on a peaceful bike path can contribute to hearing loss.

Besides loud noises, other causes of hearing loss include ear infections, genetic factors, infections during fetal development, trauma, medications, smoking, chronic diseases, and more. Ear wax can cause temporary hearing loss. However, be careful how you remove it to avoid causing damage to the tympanic membrane. In other words, it's best to avoid sticking anything in your ear.

In addition to hearing aids and other hearing assisted devices, cochlear implants have been revolutionary in treating hearing loss. Instead of amplifying sound, cochlear implants help by bypassing damaged portions of the ear and directly stimulating the auditory nerve. This has been a life-changing method at helping people of all ages to hear, even infants as young as 9 months of age. If you ever need a pick-me-up, search online for videos of infants and kids hearing for the first time with a cochlear implant.

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



## NOTICE OF SALE

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

State Nebraska Bank & Trust vs Brian Dolan & Kristen Dolan

(06CIV22-000424-01)

2012 Chevy Avalanche



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

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

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

DAVE LUNZMAN, SHERIFF OF BROWN COUNTY.

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

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



LICENSE YOUR DOG.



**Licenses due by December 31, 2024**

**Fines start January 1, 2025**

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

**Proof of rabies shot information is REQUIRED!!**

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

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

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

Questions call (605) 397-8422

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## Working to Protect & Promote Traditional American Values

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



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



Paid for by Manhart for State House

# MANHART

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE

### DISTRICT 1

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

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



## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is the so-called “greening” of Antarctica as its ice melts actually helping to prevent climate change given that plant life absorbs and stores carbon?

– W.P. Smith, via email

As Antarctica warms due to climate change, an unexpected phenomenon is occurring: the “greening” of the continent. As ice melts, certain areas once covered in snow and ice are becoming hospitable to algae and other plant life. A key question arises: Does the increased carbon capture from this greening offset or help prevent climate change?



**Red and green algae color the snow on Half Moon Island off Antarctica.** Credit: Paul Seligman, FlickrCC.

The “greening” of Antarctica primarily refers to the growth of green snow algae, which thrive in the increasingly warmer temperatures of the Antarctic Peninsula. As temperatures rise slightly above freezing, especially in coastal regions, these algae blooms are expanding significantly. These blooms are acting as carbon “sinks,” absorbing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) through photosynthesis, which reduces greenhouse gases. According to a study by the University of Cambridge, green snow algae in Antarctica capture approximately 479 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, and their growth is expected to increase as the snow melts and more land becomes suitable for these blooms.

While the role of algae as a carbon sink is positive, there are several limitations to its impact on mitigating climate change. First, the scale of the carbon sequestration is relatively small when compared to global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The estimated 479 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> captured by Antarctic algae is just a fraction of the billions of tons emitted annually worldwide, rendering its contribution minimal in the grand scheme. As a result, while algae may contribute to reducing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, it does not provide a large enough offset to make a significant dent in global warming.

Moreover, the overall ecological and climate impacts of Antarctica’s greening are most concerning. The melting of Antarctic ice is leading to rising sea levels, which far outweigh the benefits of carbon sequestration by its algae. And this global sea level rise threatens coastal communities and ecosystems around the world. Additionally, the introduction of plant life into Antarctica’s fragile ecosystem may create new environmental challenges, disrupting existing species and possibly causing further ecological shifts that could have unforeseen consequences.

While Antarctic algae blooms represent an interesting phenomenon, to combat climate change effectively we need to focus on reducing our carbon footprint through renewable energy, supporting reforestation projects, advocating for strong climate policies, and reducing waste.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Seven ballot measures, \$7 million and counting: Reports reveal total spending

Millions more raised and likely spent since pre-election reporting deadline

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - NOVEMBER 3, 2024 7:00 AM

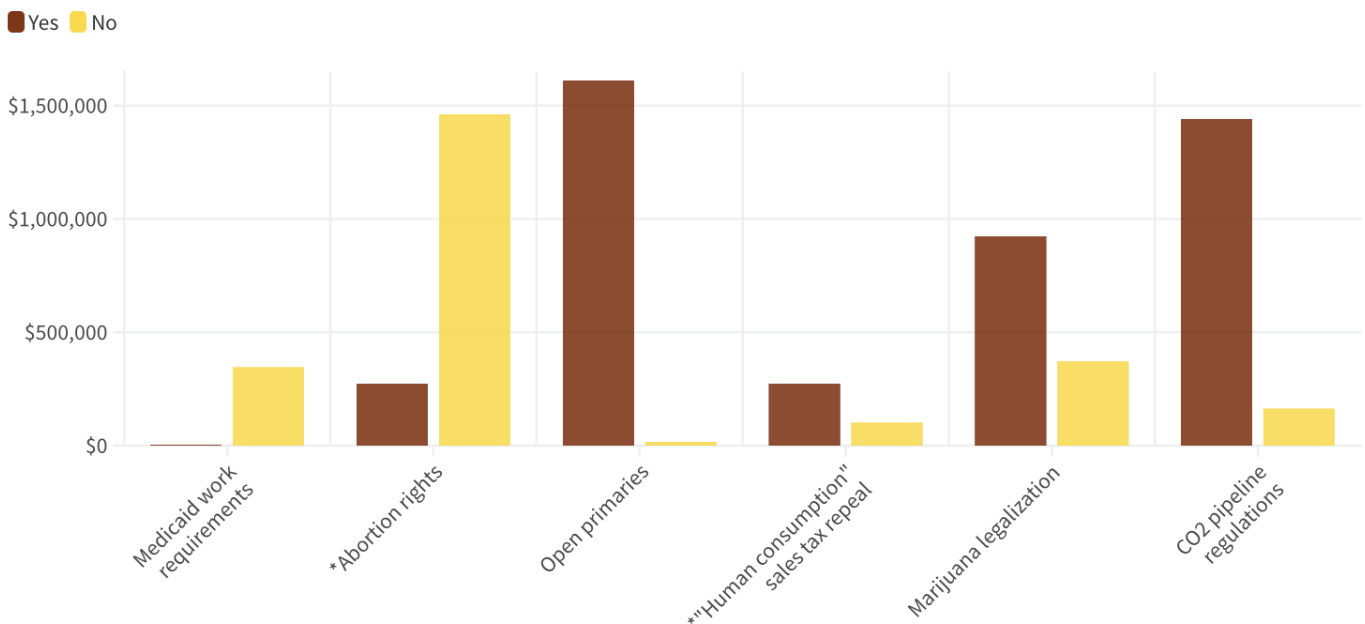
Ballot question campaigns in South Dakota had collectively spent about \$7 million this year by their Oct. 21 reporting deadline, according to a South Dakota Searchlight analysis, and they've likely spent millions more since then that won't be fully disclosed until the next spending reports in January.

There are seven statewide ballot questions under consideration by South Dakotans in the Nov. 5 general election.

Groups campaigning for an open primary system were the top spenders as of the deadline, committing approximately \$1.6 million to sway voters toward a "yes" on Amendment H. The amendment would change future primary elections so that all candidates, regardless of party, would be on a single ballot open to all voters. The top two vote-getters would advance to the general election. The top four would advance in races with two winners, such as state House districts.

### Ballot measure spending through late October

Total expenditures by all groups active on the yes and no sides of ballot measures in South Dakota's 2024 general election, as of the Oct. 21 campaign finance reporting deadline. Additional expenditures won't be fully reported until January.



Source: [State campaign finance reporting system](#) • \*The money spent in support of the abortion-rights and sales-tax repeal measures is duplicated in this analysis. One group is supporting both measures and did not distinguish spending on one measure or the other.

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The “no” groups on abortion rights had spent about \$1.5 million to defeat the measure by the reporting deadline. Abortion is currently banned in the state, 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.

Supporters of a law containing new regulations on carbon dioxide pipelines, Referred Law 21, had spent over \$1.4 million to secure “yes” votes by the filing deadline. The law would establish financial and other protections for landowners and counties affected by pipelines. It would also help maintain a regulatory path forward for a CO2 pipeline supported by the ethanol industry and opposed by some landowners along the route.

Supporters of adult marijuana legalization, Initiated Measure 29, had spent more than \$920,000 by the filing deadline.

Beyond these top-spending groups, several others reported expenditures below \$400,000.

One of those was Dakotans for Health, a ballot question committee supporting both the abortion rights measure, which is Amendment G, and Initiated Measure 28, which the group describes as a repeal of state sales taxes on groceries. The group reported expenditures of more than \$270,000 at the filing deadline, without distinguishing expenses for one campaign or the other.

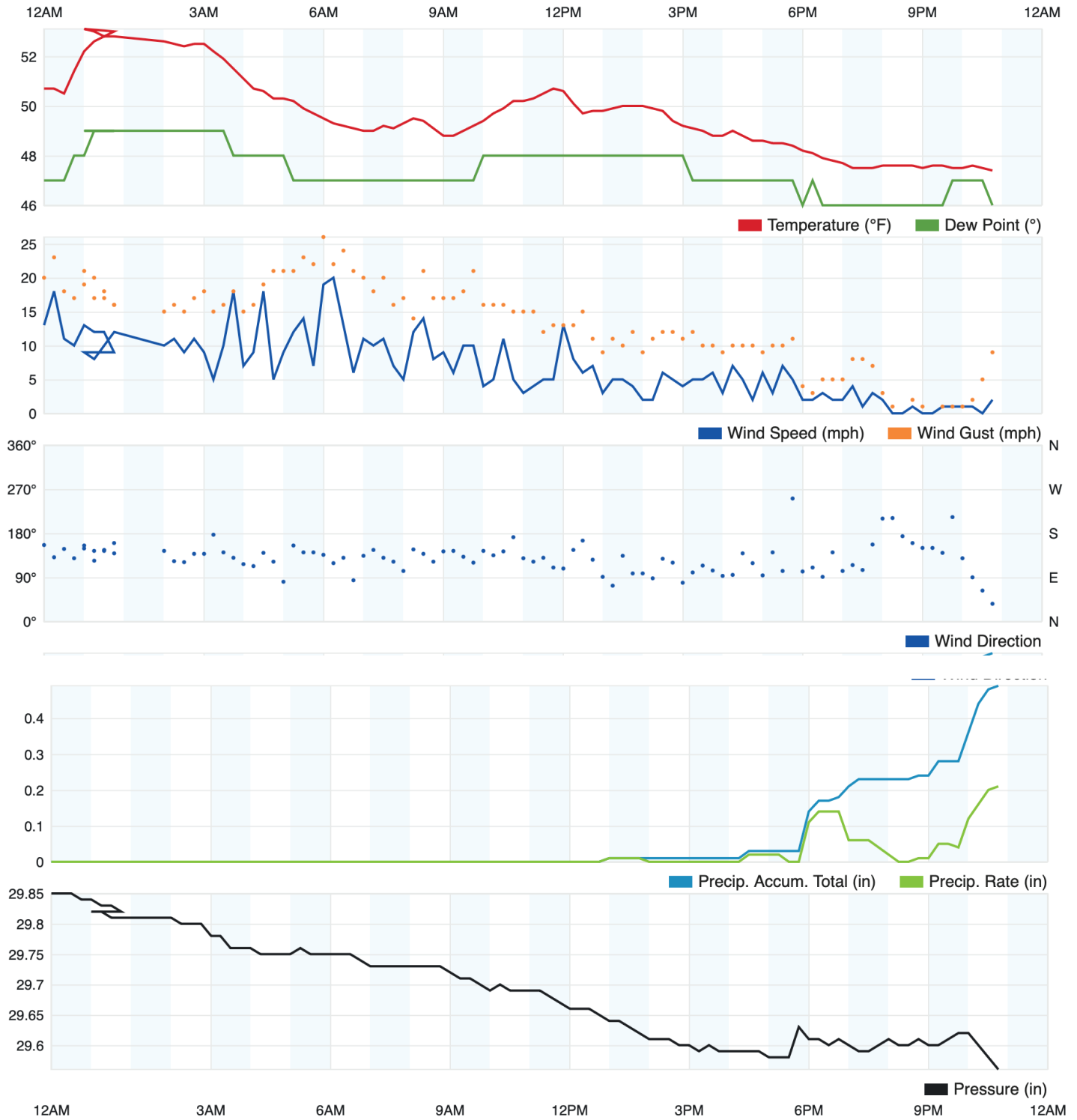
Ballot question committees are required to file supplemental reports about fundraising in the days leading up to the election. Those reports have reflected significant recent activity, such as \$500,000 contributions from out-of-state groups for both the pro and con sides of the abortion measure. Further committee reports detailing spending aren't due until Jan. 31.

*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.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 46 °F

Mostly Sunny

Tonight



Low: 24 °F

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 48 °F

Becoming  
Sunny

Tuesday Night



Low: 26 °F

Partly Cloudy


Wednesday



High: 49 °F

Mostly Sunny

*Monday*



HIGHS: 40S AND 50S  
LOWS: MID 20S TO MID 30S

MAINLY DRY

Dry for the rest of Monday with highs in the 40s and 50s and gradually clearing skies.

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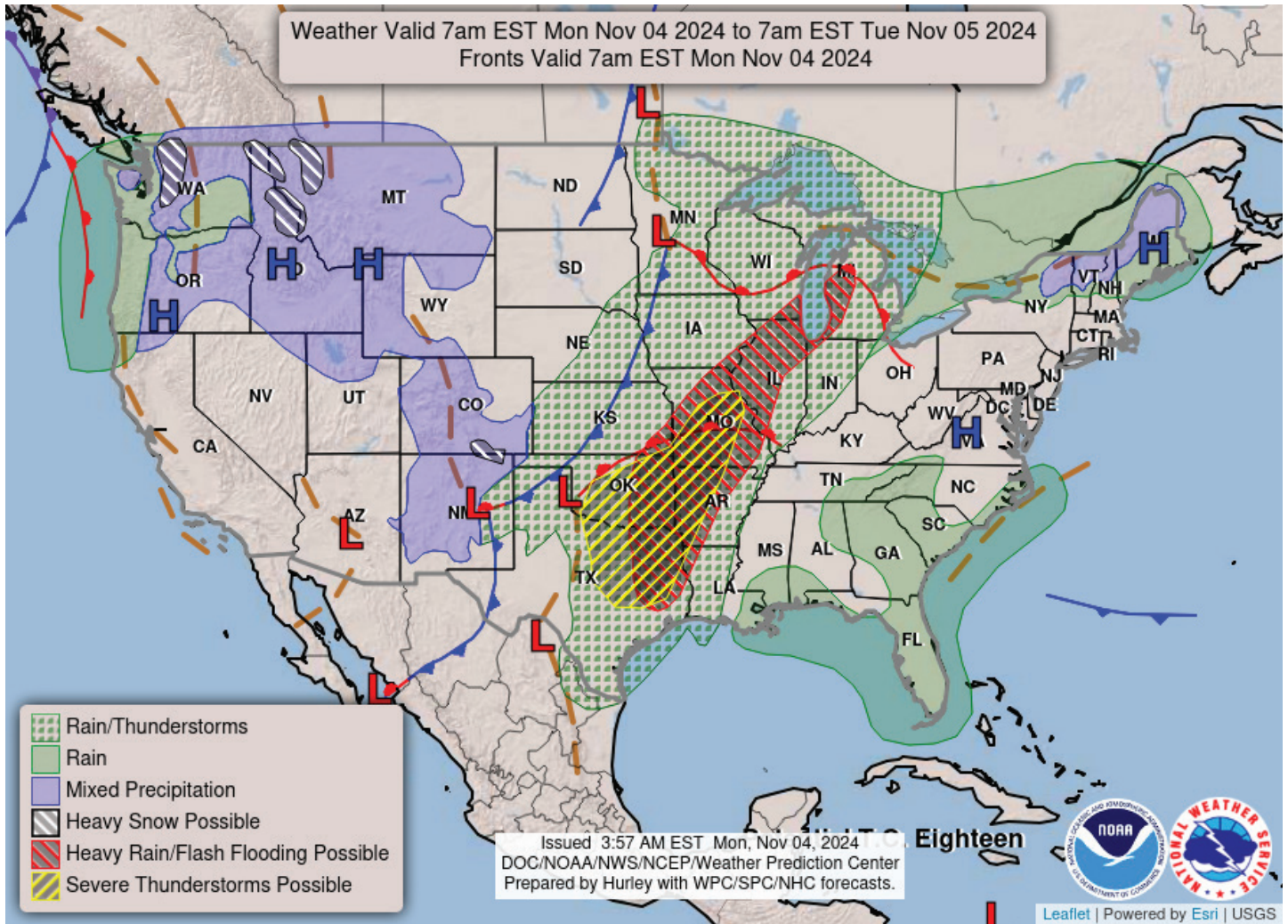
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 53 °F at 1:47 AM**  
**Low Temp: 47 °F at 11:02 PM**  
**Wind: 26 mph at 5:57 AM**  
**Precip: : 0.49**

Day length: 10 hours, 00 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 78 in 2020  
Record Low: -2 in 1991  
Average High: 49  
Average Low: 25  
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.14  
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.57  
Average Precip to date: 20.61  
Precip Year to Date: 20.45  
Sunset Tonight: 5:16:26 pm  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:16:54 am



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## Today in Weather History

November 4th, 1992: Significant snow blanketed much of the state except the southwest between November 1st and November 4th. The snow and slush caused numerous minor traffic accidents and further delayed the fall harvest in many areas. The highest snowfall amounts included over a foot in north-central and northeast South Dakota, and the northern Black Hills, generally 3 to 7 inches reported elsewhere. Some of the more significant storms total snowfall reports were 25.2 inches at Lead, 15 inches at Eureka, 14 inches near Summit, 13 inches near Victor, 12.6 inches at Roscoe, and 12 inches in Leola and 23 miles north of Highmore.

1927 - A great Vermont flood occurred. Tropical rains deluged the Green Mountain area of Vermont causing the worst flood in the history of the state. Torrential rains, up to 15 inches in the higher elevations, sent streams on a rampage devastating the Winooski Valley. Flooding claimed 200 lives and caused 40 million dollars damage. The town of Vernon reported 84 deaths. Flooding left up to eight to ten feet of water in downtown Montpelier VT. (2nd-4th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1959: A rare F0 tornado caused minor damage near Cape St. Elias Light Station on Kayak Island, Alaska.

1985: Heavy rains from the remnants of tropical storm Juan dropped 10 to 19 inches of rain on West Virginia and surrounding states, causing 62 deaths. A maximum rainfall amount of 19.77 inches was recorded near Montebello in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. The flood in West Virginia was considered the worst in the state's history.

1985 - A super wet Gulf storm dumped upwards of fifteen inches of rain in the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia causing devastating damage and claiming forty lives. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thirty-two cities in the eastern and south central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 74 degrees at Portland ME and 86 degrees at Fort Smith AR equalled November records. It was the fourth day of record warmth for Beckley WV, Memphis TN and Paducah KY. A cold front ushered much colder air into the north central U.S. Gale force winds lashed all five Great Lakes. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a fast moving cold front produced severe weather over the Tennessee Valley and the Central Gulf Coast States during the afternoon and evening hours, and into the next morning. Thunderstorms spawned nineteen tornadoes, including eleven in Mississippi. The last of the nineteen tornadoes killed a woman in her mobile home in Lee FL. A tornado in Culbert AL injured sixteen people, and caused two million dollars damage. Thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail in Alabama. Unseasonably hot air prevailed south of the cold front. McAllen TX was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow and high winds plagued parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Winds gusted to 71 mph near Wheatland WY, and reached 80 mph west of Fort Collins CO. Up to five inches of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park WY closing many roads. Snow also blanketed northern Minnesota, with seven inches reported at Baudette. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) 1935: Called the Yankee Hurricane, this Category 2 storm affected the Bahamas and South Florida. The storm remains the only tropical cyclone to hit Miami from the Northeast in November.



## ANGER IN ACTION

A college professor was having a difficult time getting his students to do their required assignments. As the class was about to end he said emphatically, "When you come to class tomorrow, it would be wise to have your assignment completed and ready for my review."

The next day when class began he said in a loud, threatening voice, "Hold up your papers with your right hand!" All of the students complied with his demand except one. He held up his paper with his left hand.

Incensed, the professor shouted, "Right hand stupid, not your left hand. Don't you know the difference?"

"Yes, sir, I do sir," said the student. "But I lost my right hand in combat."

The Greeks had a special phrase for anger. They called it "a brief madness." It seems appropriate. When we become angry, we lose control of ourselves, and we often say things that are hurtful and harmful.

David the Psalmist was wise when he wrote, "Stop your anger! Turn from your rage...it only leads to harm."

Anger and rage are destructive emotions that reveal a desire to dominate and control others. That is God's responsibility. Ours is to concentrate on God and His grace and find peace as we trust Him to control us.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to turn our anger into affection and our frustration into faith – knowing that You will turn our trials into triumphs. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Stop being angry! Turn from your rage! Do not lose your temper – it only leads to harm. Psalm 37:8

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



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## 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.

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State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net)

## Groton Daily Independent [www.397news.com](http://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](https://paypal.me/paperpaul)

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

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.01.24

11 22 42 46 51 4

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$303,000,000**

NEXT 1 Day 17 Hrs 21

DRAW: Mins 29 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.02.24

7 9 23 32 42 10

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$13,630,000**

NEXT 16 Hrs 36 Mins

DRAW: 29 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.03.24

5 13 18 21 42 8

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT 16 Hrs 51 Mins

DRAW: 29 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.02.24

9 14 22 31 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$86,000**

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 51

DRAW: Mins 29 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.02.24

4 20 37 48 58 24

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 20 Mins

DRAW: 29 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.02.24

10 45 48 58 61 2

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$63,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 20 Mins

DRAW: 29 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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## Upcoming Groton Events

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

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

### Who will replace Mitch McConnell as Senate GOP leader? It remains deeply uncertain

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans vying to replace longtime leader Mitch McConnell have been crossing the country to campaign and fundraise for colleagues, making their final arguments before a consequential ballot the week after the presidential election. But their pitches are mostly behind closed doors, and most GOP senators won't yet say which lawmaker they are backing.

South Dakota's John Thune, McConnell's current No. 2, and John Cornyn of Texas, who held that job before Thune, are the front-runners in the Nov. 13 secret ballot to replace McConnell. The Kentucky senator is stepping aside from the post in January after almost two decades as leader. The winner could steer the direction of the party for years to come and possibly become the next Senate majority leader if Republicans win enough seats in Tuesday's election.

The outcome is, for now, uncertain.

Only a few Republican senators have publicly endorsed a candidate. Many say they are still undecided. The third senator in the race — Florida Sen. Rick Scott, who is dealing with his own reelection bid — could act as a spoiler. Another candidate could still jump in.

In many ways, "the two Johns" are remarkably similar, making the choice difficult for their colleagues. Both are well-liked and, in the mold of McConnell, lean toward the more traditional wing of the Republican Party. But both have also suggested they will try to move on from the McConnell era with a more open approach.

"I'm trying to find differentiation because they're both great guys," said Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., who has worked closely with both of them.

The two men are also trying to distinguish themselves from McConnell by making clear that they support Donald Trump in this year's presidential election. Like McConnell, they have both sparred with Trump in the past, especially after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. But both Thune and Cornyn have talked to Trump frequently in recent months, attended campaign events and visited his Florida home.

Whether Trump wins, and if he endorses one of the contenders, could become a determining factor.

"I don't know what he'll do," Cornyn said of Trump in September. "But this is obviously an election between senators, and I think that's where the voters are."

Some of the former president's strongest allies in the Senate are urging him to stay above the fray. Oklahoma Sen. Markwayne Mullin, who is supporting Thune, says he's been trying to talk Trump out of an endorsement. Trump understands "the need to work with whoever the next leader is," Mullin said.

Tillis suggested that a Trump endorsement could backfire.

"You have to be careful with the psychology of the Senate," Tillis said. "We know each other very well, and we spend hours and hours together. It's a fairly small club."

Still, both Cornyn and Thune are keeping close to Trump. Cornyn met Trump on a trip to Texas in October and appeared at a rally in Nevada. Thune was at an event in August with Trump's running mate, Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance.

Thune, who said after the Jan. 6 attack that Trump's efforts to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power were "inexcusable," told The Associated Press over the summer that he views their potential relationship as a professional one. If they both win their elections, Thune said, "we've got a job to do."

Scott, meanwhile, is a longtime friend of Trump's and has positioned himself as a strong ally. Scott traveled to New York to support Trump during Trump's hush money trial. Trump could endorse Scott in the contest, potentially winning more votes for the Florida senator or giving him leverage to influence the race.

In addition to private meetings, both Thune and Cornyn have flown around the country to fundraise and campaign for their fellow senators.

Thune has made more than two dozen campaign stops for GOP senate candidates, and aides say he has raised more than \$31 million for Senate races this campaign cycle, including a \$4 million transfer to the Senate Republican campaign operation.

Cornyn has similarly gone around for candidates and poured money into Texas races. His aides emphasize his long history of fundraising for Republicans — more than \$400 million during his 22 years in the Senate, his office says.

On policy, the two men are similar, voting generally in step with the conference but working with Democrats at times. Cornyn is a longtime member of the Senate Judiciary Committee who took a leading role on bipartisan gun legislation two years ago. Thune worked across the aisle as a former chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

It's unclear whether either could win support from the growing minority of Republican senators who battled McConnell in recent years as he championed Ukraine aid and criticized Trump. Many in that group voted for Scott when he challenged McConnell after the 2022 elections.

In a potential overture to that group, Cornyn has called for a conference vote on instituting term limits for the Republican leader. "I believe the Senate needs more engagement from my colleagues, and that includes the opportunity for any member to serve in leadership," Cornyn posted on X in March.

Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, a member of the more conservative faction, said he has not made a commitment in the race but wants to know how they would move legislation and work with Trump if he is president. "I think some of this will come into focus after the election when we know what we're dealing with, we know what our caucus is going to be," Hawley said.

Many in that group, including Scott and Utah Sen. Mike Lee, have pushed to take power away from leadership and empower individual senators. Lee has issued a series of candidate demands, but neither Cornyn nor Thune has so far shown interest in negotiating.

But both of them have signaled that they hear the complaints.

Thune indicated in the AP interview that he's open to making changes to the leader's role, but cautioned that he would not leave the position at the mercy of rank-and-file senators. He said he wanted to "empower our individual members or committees to do things through regular order" and open up the amendment process, but "I'm not going to make wholesale changes that weaken the leader position to where it's just a free-for-all."

Tillis suggested in September that it would be a deal breaker for him if any of the candidates engaged in deal-making.

"If you would be willing to weaken your position to satisfy a few votes, then you're unfit to be leader, in my opinion," Tillis said. "And I think most people think that way."

## **Quincy Jones, music titan who worked with everyone from Frank Sinatra to Michael Jackson, dies at 91**

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

Quincy Jones, the multi-talented music titan whose vast legacy ranged from producing Michael Jackson's historic "Thriller" album to writing prize-winning film and television scores and collaborating with Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles and hundreds of other recording artists, has died at 91.

Jones' publicist, Arnold Robinson, says he died Sunday night at his home in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles, surrounded by his family.

"Tonight, with full but broken hearts, we must share the news of our father and brother Quincy Jones' passing," the family said in a statement. "And although this is an incredible loss for our family, we celebrate the great life that he lived and know there will never be another like him."

Jones rose from running with gangs on the South Side of Chicago to the very heights of show business, becoming one of the first Black executives to thrive in Hollywood and amassing an extraordinary musical catalog that includes some of the richest moments of American rhythm and song. For years, it was unlikely to find a music lover who did not own at least one record with his name on it, or a leader in the

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entertainment industry and beyond who did not have some connection to him.

Jones kept company with presidents and foreign leaders, movie stars and musicians, philanthropists and business leaders. He toured with Count Basie and Lionel Hampton, arranged records for Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, composed the soundtracks for "Roots" and "In the Heat of the Night," organized President Bill Clinton's first inaugural celebration and oversaw the all-star recording of "We Are the World," the 1985 charity record for famine relief in Africa.

Lionel Richie, who co-wrote "We Are the World" and was among the featured singers, would call Jones "the master orchestrator."

In a career which began when records were still played on vinyl at 78 rpm, top honors likely go to his productions with Jackson: "Off the Wall," "Thriller" and "Bad" were albums near-universal in their style and appeal. Jones' versatility and imagination helped set off the explosive talents of Jackson as he transformed from child star to the "King of Pop." On such classic tracks as "Billie Jean" and "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough," Jones and Jackson fashioned a global soundscape out of disco, funk, rock, pop, R&B and jazz and African chants. For "Thriller," some of the most memorable touches originated with Jones, who recruited Eddie Van Halen for a guitar solo on the genre-fusing "Beat It" and brought in Vincent Price for a ghoulish voiceover on the title track.

"Thriller" sold more than 20 million copies in 1983 alone and has contended with the Eagles' "Greatest Hits 1971-1975" among others as the best-selling album of all time.

"If an album doesn't do well, everyone says 'it was the producers fault'; so if it does well, it should be your 'fault,' too," Jones said in an interview with the Library of Congress in 2016. "The tracks don't just all of a sudden appear. The producer has to have the skill, experience and ability to guide the vision to completion."

The list of his honors and awards fills 18 pages in his 2001 autobiography "Q", including 27 Grammys at the time (now 28), an honorary Academy Award (now two) and an Emmy for "Roots." He also received France's Legion d'Honneur, the Rudolph Valentino Award from the Republic of Italy and a Kennedy Center tribute for his contributions to American culture. He was the subject of a 1990 documentary, "Listen Up: The Lives of Quincy Jones" and a 2018 film by daughter Rashida Jones. His memoir made him a best-selling author.

Born in Chicago in 1933, Jones would cite the hymns his mother sang around the house as the first music he could remember. But he looked back sadly on his childhood, once telling Oprah Winfrey that "There are two kinds of people: those who have nurturing parents or caretakers, and those who don't. Nothing's in between." Jones' mother suffered from emotional problems and was eventually institutionalized, a loss that made the world seem "senseless" for Quincy. He spent much of his time in Chicago on the streets, with gangs, stealing and fighting.

"They nailed my hand to a fence with a switchblade, man," he told the AP in 2018, showing a scar from his childhood.

Music saved him. As a boy, he learned that a Chicago neighbor owned a piano and he soon played it constantly himself. His father moved to Washington state when Quincy was 10 and his world changed at a neighborhood recreation center. Jones and some friends had broken into the kitchen and helped themselves to lemon meringue pie when Jones noticed a small room nearby with a stage. On the stage was a piano.

"I went up there, paused, stared, and then tinkled on it for a moment," he wrote in his autobiography. "That's where I began to find peace. I was 11. I knew this was it for me. Forever."

Within a few years he was playing trumpet and befriending a young blind musician named Ray Charles, who became a lifelong friend. He was gifted enough to win a scholarship at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, but dropped out when Hampton invited him to tour with his band. Jones went on to work as a freelance composer, conductor, arranger and producer. As a teen, he backed Billie Holiday. By his mid-20s, he was touring with his own band.

"We had the best jazz band on the planet, and yet we were literally starving," Jones later told Musician magazine. "That's when I discovered that there was music, and there was the music business. If I were

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to survive, I would have to learn the difference between the two.”

As a music executive, he overcame racial barriers by becoming a vice president at Mercury Records in the early '60s. In 1971, he became the first Black musical director for the Academy Awards ceremony. The first movie he produced, “The Color Purple,” received 11 Oscar nominations in 1986. (But, to his great disappointment, no wins). In a partnership with Time Warner, he created Quincy Jones Entertainment, which included the pop-culture magazine Vibe and Qwest Broadcasting. The company was sold for \$270 million in 1999.

“My philosophy as a businessman has always come from the same roots as my personal credo: take talented people on their own terms and treat them fairly and with respect, no matter who they are or where they come from,” Jones wrote in his autobiography.

He was at ease with virtually every form of American music, whether setting Sinatra’s “Fly Me to the Moon” to a punchy, swinging rhythm and wistful flute or opening his production of Charles’ soulful “In the Heat of the Night” with a lusty tenor sax solo. He worked with jazz giants (Dizzy Gillespie, Count Basie, Duke Ellington), rappers (Snoop Dogg, LL Cool J), crooners (Sinatra, Tony Bennett), pop singers (Lesley Gore) and rhythm and blues stars (Chaka Khan, rapper and singer Queen Latifah).

On “We are the World” alone, performers included Michael Jackson, Bob Dylan, Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder and Bruce Springsteen. He co-wrote hits for Jackson – “P.Y.T (Pretty Young Thing)” – and Donna Summer – “Love Is in Control (Finger on the Trigger)” – and had songs sampled by Tupac Shakur, Kanye West and other rappers. He even composed the theme song for the sitcom “Sanford and Son.”

Jones was a facilitator and maker of the stars. He gave Will Smith a key break in the hit TV show “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,” which Jones produced, and through “The Color Purple” he introduced Winfrey and Whoopi Goldberg to filmgoers. Starting in the 1960s, he composed more than 35 film scores, including for “The Pawnbroker,” “In the Heat of the Night” and “In Cold Blood.”

He called scoring “a multifaceted process, an abstract combination of science and soul.”

Jones’ work on the soundtrack for “The Wiz” led to his partnership with Jackson, who starred in the 1978 movie. In an essay published in Time magazine after Jackson’s death, in 2009, Jones remembered that the singer kept slips of paper on him that contained thoughts by famous thinkers. When Jones asked about the origins of one passage, Jackson answered “Socrates,” but pronounced it “SO-crayts.” Jones corrected him, “Michael, it’s SOCK-ra-tees.”

“And the look he gave me then, it just prompted me to say, because I’d been impressed by all the things I saw in him during the rehearsal process, ‘I would love to take a shot at producing your album,’” Jones recalled. “And he went back and told the people at Epic Records, and they said, ‘No way — Quincy’s too jazzy.’ Michael was persistent, and he and his managers went back and said, ‘Quincy’s producing the album.’ And we proceeded to make ‘Off the Wall.’ Ironically, that was one of the biggest Black-selling albums at the time, and that album saved all the jobs of the people saying I was the wrong guy. That’s the way it works.”

Tensions emerged after Jackson’s death. In 2013, Jones sued Jackson’s estate, claiming he was owed millions in royalties and production fees on some of the superstar’s greatest hits. In a 2018 interview with New York magazine, he called Jackson “as Machiavellian as they come” and alleged that he lifted material from others.

Jones was hooked on work and play, and at times suffered for it. He nearly died from a brain aneurysm in 1974 and became deeply depressed in the 1980s after “The Color Purple” was snubbed by Academy Awards voters; he never received a competitive Oscar. A father of seven children by five mothers, Jones described himself as a “dog” who had countless lovers around the world. He was married three times, his wives including the actor Peggy Lipton.

“To me, loving a woman is one of the most natural, blissful, life-enhancing — and dare I say, religious — acts in the world,” he wrote.

He was not an activist in his early years, but changed after attending the 1968 funeral of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and later befriending the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Jones was dedicated to philanthropy, saying

"the best and only useful aspect of fame and celebrity is having a platform to help others."

His causes included fighting HIV and AIDS, educating children and providing for the poor around the world. He founded the Quincy Jones Listen Up! Foundation to connect young people with music, culture and technology, and said he was driven throughout his life "by a spirit of adventure and a criminal level of optimism."

"Life is like a dream, the Spanish poet and philosopher Federico Garcia Lorca said," Jones wrote in his memoir. "Mine's been in Technicolor, with full Dolby sound through THX amplification before they knew what these systems were."

Along with Rashida, Jones is survived by daughters Jolie Jones Levine, Rachel Jones, Martina Jones, Kidada Jones and Kenya Kinski-Jones; son Quincy Jones III; brother Richard Jones and sisters Theresa Frank and Margie Jay.

## Germany's top diplomat in Kyiv as Ukraine girds for impact of US election on the war

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Germany's top diplomat arrived Monday in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on an unannounced visit, in what appeared to be a show of European support for Ukraine on the eve of a U.S. presidential election that could bring far-reaching changes in Washington's policy toward Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbor.

Germany is Ukraine's second biggest weapons supplier after the U.S., and Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock vowed that Berlin's backing would remain steadfast.

"Together with many partners around the world, Germany stands firmly by Ukraine's side," she said, German news agency dpa reported. "We will support the Ukrainians for as long as they need us so that they can continue on their path to a just peace."

The war is at a critical moment for Ukraine, with the Russian army making creeping gains on the battlefield and another hard winter ahead after Russia relentlessly battered the Ukrainian power grid.

Ahead of the U.S. vote, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy attempted to lock Ukraine's Western supporters into a long-term "victory plan," including a formal invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western long-range missiles to strike military targets in Russia, but the response was disappointing for Kyiv officials.

Russia is using its superior numbers to heap pressure on Ukrainian positions along the front line. Ukraine's top commander, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, said Saturday his troops are struggling to hold back "one of the most powerful (Russian) offensives" of the war.

Russia is now adding to its offensive push what Western intelligence sources say is a force of about 10,000 North Korean combat troops sent by Pyongyang under a pact with Moscow.

That has deepened Zelenskyy's frustration with Western help. On Saturday, he urged allies to stop "watching" and take steps before the North Korean troops reach the battlefield.

Zelenskyy said Kyiv knows at which Russian camps the North Korean troops are being trained but Ukraine can't strike them without permission from allies to use the Western-made long-range weapons to hit targets deep inside Russia.

Baerbock arrived in Kyiv hours after debris from drones intercepted by air defenses fell in two districts of the city, starting small fires, officials said. No people or property were harmed, according to the head of the Kyiv city administration, Serhii Popko.

A Russian glide bomb attack on Sunday night injured 15 people in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city in the northeast, regional police said.

Russia fired some 80 Shahed drones at Ukrainian cities overnight, Ukraine's air force said.



## Middle East latest: Israel ends agreement with UN agency providing aid in Gaza

By The Associated Press undefined

Israel said Monday it had terminated the agreement facilitating the work of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, the main aid provider in Gaza, in what appeared to be a step to implement legislation passed last month that would sever ties with the agency and prevent it from operating in Israel.

Israel says the agency, known as UNRWA, has been infiltrated by Hamas. UNRWA denies the allegations and says it takes measures to ensure its neutrality.

On Sunday, Israel said its troops had carried out a ground raid into Syria to seize a Syrian it accuses of working with Iran. It was the first time in the current war that Israel announced its troops operated in Syrian territory.

Despite growing pressure from the United States and others in the international community for a cease-fire in Gaza and Lebanon, intensified Israeli strikes against the Hezbollah militant group are expanding beyond Lebanon's border areas. Israel is also fighting a seemingly endless war against Hamas in northern Gaza.

Since the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah erupted last year, at least 2,900 people have been killed and 13,150 wounded in Lebanon, the Health Ministry reports, not including Friday's toll. Health authorities say that a quarter of those killed were women and children.

More than a year of Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza has killed more than 43,000 people, Palestinian health officials say. They do not distinguish between civilians and combatants, but say more than half of those killed were women and children. The war began after Palestinian militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducting 250 others.

Here's the latest:

Palestinian officials say Israeli settlers torched cars in Ramallah

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian officials said Israeli settlers were behind an attack in which several cars were torched overnight just a few kilometers (miles) away from the Palestinian Authority's headquarters in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

No one was wounded in the attack overnight into Monday in Al-Bireh, a city adjacent to Ramallah, where the Western-backed Palestinian Authority is headquartered. An Associated Press reporter counted 18 burned-out cars.

Settler attacks on Palestinians and their property have surged since the outbreak of the war in Gaza, which was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack into Israel.

But attacks in and around Ramallah, home to senior Palestinian officials and international missions, are rare.

The Palestinian Authority, which administers population centers in the territory, condemned the attack. Israeli police, who handle law enforcement matters involving settlers in the West Bank, said they were investigating.

Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war, and the Palestinians want it to form the main part of their future state. The territory's 3 million Palestinians live under seemingly open-ended Israeli military rule, with the Palestinian Authority exercising limited autonomy over less than half of the territory.

Over 500,000 Jewish settlers with Israeli citizenship live in scores of settlements across the West Bank, which most of the international community considers illegal.

Israel ends agreement with UN agency for Palestinian refugees

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israel said Monday it had terminated the agreement facilitating the work of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, the main aid provider in Gaza.

It appeared to be the first step in implementing legislation passed last month that would sever ties with the agency, which Israel says has been infiltrated by Hamas, and prevent it from operating in Israel.

The agency, known as UNRWA, denies the allegations and says it takes measures to ensure its neutrality.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it had notified the U.N. of the cancellation of an

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agreement dating back to 1967 that facilitates UNRWA's work. It said UNRWA "is part of the problem in the Gaza Strip and not part of the solution."

Aid groups have warned that the legislation could severely hamper UNRWA's work, creating further obstacles to addressing a severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Israel has said other U.N. agencies and aid groups can fill the gap, but those organizations say UNRWA is essential.

The agency provides education, health and other basic services to Palestinian refugees from the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation and their descendants, who now number nearly 6 million. Refugee families make up the majority of Gaza's population.

## Harris and Trump will both make a furious last-day push before Election Day

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A presidential campaign that has careened through a felony trial, an incumbent president being pushed off the ticket and multiple assassination attempts comes down to a final push across a handful of states on the eve of Election Day.

Kamala Harris will spend all of Monday in Pennsylvania, whose 19 electoral votes offer the largest prize among the states expected to determine the Electoral College outcome. The vice president and Democratic nominee will visit working-class areas including Allentown and end with a late-night Philadelphia rally that includes Lady Gaga and Oprah Winfrey.

Donald Trump plans four rallies in three states, beginning in Raleigh, North Carolina and stopping twice in Pennsylvania with events in Reading and Pittsburgh. The Republican nominee and former president ends his campaign the way he ended the first two, with a late Monday night event in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

About 77 million Americans already have voted early, but Harris and Trump are pushing to turn out many millions more supporters on Tuesday. Either result on Election Day will yield a historic outcome.

A Trump victory would make him the first incoming president to have been indicted and convicted of a felony, after his hush-money trial in New York. He will gain the power to end other federal investigations pending against him. Trump would also become the second president in history to win non-consecutive White House terms, after Grover Cleveland in the late 19th century.

Harris is vying to become the first woman, first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to reach the Oval Office, four years after she broke the same barriers in national office by becoming President Joe Biden's second in command.

The vice president ascended to the top of the Democratic ticket after Biden's disastrous performance in a June debate set into motion his withdrawing from the race. That was just one of a series of convulsions that have hit this year's campaign.

Trump survived by millimeters a would-be assassin's bullet at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. His Secret Service detail foiled a second attempt in September when a gunman had set up a rifle as Trump golfed at one of his courses in Florida.

Harris, 60, has played down the historic nature of her candidacy, which materialized only after the 81-year-old president ended his reelection bid after his June debate against the 78-year-old Trump accentuated questions about Biden's age.

Instead, Harris has pitched herself as a generational change, emphasized her support for abortion rights after the Supreme Court's 2022 decision ending the constitutional right to abortion services, and regularly noted the former president's role in the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. Assembling a coalition ranging from progressives like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York to Republican former Vice President Dick Cheney, Harris has called Trump a threat to democracy and late in the campaign even embraced the critique that Trump is accurately described as a "fascist."

Heading into Monday, Harris has mostly stopped mentioning Trump. She is promising to solve problems and seek consensus, while sounding an almost exclusively optimistic tone reminiscent of her campaign's opening days when she embraced "the politics of joy" and the campaign theme "Freedom."

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"From the very start, our campaign has not been about being against something, it is about being for something," Harris said Sunday evening at Michigan State University.

Trump, renewing his "Make America Great Again" and "America First" slogans, has made his hard-line approach to immigration and withering criticisms of Harris and Biden the anchors of his argument for a second administration. He's hammered Democrats for an inflationary economy, and he's pledged to lead an economic "golden age," end international conflicts and seal the U.S. southern border.

But Trump also has veered often into grievances over being prosecuted after trying to overturn Biden's victory and repeatedly denigrated the country he wants to lead again as a "failed nation." As recently as Sunday, he renewed his false claims that U.S. elections are rigged against him, mused about violence against journalists and said he "shouldn't have left" the White House in 2021 — dark turns that have overshadowed another anchor of his closing argument: "Kamala broke it. I will fix it."

The election is likely to be decided across seven states. Trump won Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin in 2016 only to see them flip to Biden in 2020. North Carolina, Georgia, Arizona and Nevada add the Sun Belt swath of the presidential battleground map.

Trump won North Carolina twice and lost Nevada twice. He won Arizona and Georgia in 2016 but saw them slip to Democrats in 2020.

Harris' team has projected confidence in recent days, pointing to a large gender gap in early voting data and research showing late-deciding voters have broken her way. They also believe in the strength of their campaign infrastructure. This weekend, the Harris campaign had more than 90,000 volunteers helping turn out voters — and knocked on more than 3 million doors across the battleground states. Still, Harris aides have insisted she remains the underdog.

Trump's team has projected confidence, as well, arguing that the former president's populist appeal will attract younger and working-class voters across racial and ethnic lines. The idea is that Trump can amass an atypical Republican coalition, even as other traditional GOP blocks — notably college-educated voters — become more Democratic.

## **Volcanic eruption burns houses in Indonesia, killing at least 10 people**

By JAKOBUS HERIN Associated Press

MAUMERE, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency said Monday that at least 10 people have died as a series of volcanic eruptions widens on the remote island of Flores.

The eruption at Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki around midnight spewed thick brownish ash as high as 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) into the air and hot ashes hit several villages, burning down houses including a convent of Catholic nuns, said Firman Yosef, an official at the Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki monitoring post.

He said volcanic material was thrown up to 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) from its crater, blanketing nearby villages and towns with tons of volcanic debris and forcing residents to flee.

Rescuers were still searching for more bodies buried under collapsed houses, said Abdul Muhari, the National Disaster Management Agency's spokesperson. Muhari said all the bodies, including a child, were found within a 4-kilometer (2.4-mile) radius of the crater.

He said at least 10,000 people have been affected by the eruption in six villages of Wulanggintang District, and four villages in Ile Bura district. Some have fled to relatives' houses while the local government is readying schools to use as temporary shelters.

The country's volcano monitoring agency increased the volcano's alert status to the highest level and more than doubled the exclusion zone to a 7-kilometer (4.3-mile) radius after midnight on Monday as eruptions became more frequent.

A nun in Hokeng village died and another was missing, said Augusta Palma, the head of the Saint Gabriel Foundation that oversees convents on the majority-Catholic island.

"Our nuns ran out in panic under a rain of volcanic ash in the darkness," Palma said.

Photos and videos circulated on social media showed tons of volcanic debris covering houses up to their

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rooftops in villages like Hokeng, where hot volcanic material set fire to houses.

Lewotobi Laki-laki is one of a pair of stratovolcanoes in the East Flores district of East Nusa Tenggara province known locally as the husband — “Laki-laki” means man — and wife mountains. Its mate is Lewotobi Perempuan, or woman.

About 6,500 people were evacuated in January after Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki began erupting, spewing thick clouds and forcing the government to close the island’s Frans Seda Airport. No casualties or major damage were reported, but the airport has remained closed since then due to seismic activity.

In a video conference on Monday, Muhammad Wafid, the head of Geology Agency at the Energy and Mineral Resources ministry said there was a different character between January’s eruption and Monday’s eruption due to a blockage of magma in the crater, which reduced detectible seismic activity while building up pressure.

“The eruptions that occurred since Friday were due to the accumulation of hidden energy,” Wafid said.

It’s Indonesia’s second volcanic eruption in as many weeks. West Sumatra province’s Mount Marapi, one of the country’s most active volcanos, erupted on Oct. 27, spewing thick columns of ash at least three times and blanketing nearby villages with debris, but no casualties were reported.

Lewotobi Laki-laki is one of the 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia, an archipelago of 280 million people. The country is prone to earthquakes, landslides and volcanic activity because it sits along the “Ring of Fire,” a horseshoe-shaped series of seismic fault lines around the Pacific Ocean. \_\_\_\_\_

Associated Press writers Niniek Karmini and Edna Tarigan in Jakarta contributed to this report.

## **Pakistan shuts primary schools for a week in Lahore due to dangerous air quality**

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Dangerously poor air quality on Monday forced Pakistani authorities in the cultural capital of Lahore to close primary schools for a week, government officials said, after the air-quality index hit a record high over the weekend.

The measures in Lahore were part of a larger effort to protect children from respiratory-related and other diseases in the city of 14 million people. The government said everyone in Lahore was required to wear a face mask.

Fifty percent of employees must also work from home as part of a “green lockdown” in the city, the government said, adding that barbecuing food without filters was banned and motorized rickshaws restricted. Wedding halls must close at 10 p.m. and artificial rain is likely to be used to combat the pollution.

The air-quality index in Lahore exceeded 1,000 over the weekend, a record high in Pakistan.

Toxic gray smog has sickened tens of thousands of people, mainly children and elderly people, since last month when the air quality started worsening in Lahore, the capital of eastern Punjab province bordering India.

The government has also banned construction work in certain areas and fined owners of smoke-emitting vehicles. Schools will remain closed for a week because of the pollution, according to a government notification.

The concentration of PM 2.5, or tiny particulate matter, in the air approached 450, considered hazardous, the Punjab Environment Protection Department said.

Lahore was once known as a city of gardens, which were ubiquitous during the Mughal era from the 16th to 19th centuries. But rapid urbanization and surging population growth have left little room for greenery.

## **Here’s what to watch as Election Day approaches in the U.S.**

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Election Day is nearly upon us. In a matter of hours, the final votes in the 2024 presidential election will be cast.

In a deeply divided nation, the election is a true toss-up between Democrat Kamala Harris and Repub-

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ican Donald Trump.

We know there are seven battleground states that will decide the outcome, barring a major surprise. But major questions persist about the timing of the results, the makeup of the electorate, the influx of misinformation — even the possibility of political violence. At the same time, both sides are prepared for a protracted legal battle that could complicate things further.

Here's what to watch on the eve of Election Day 2024:

History will be made either way

Given all the twists and turns in recent months, it's easy to overlook the historical significance of this election.

Harris would become the first female president in the United States' 248-year history. She would also be the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to hold the office. Harris and her campaign have largely played down gender and race fearing that they might alienate some supporters. But the significance of a Harris win would not be lost on historians.

A Trump victory would represent a different kind of historical accomplishment. He would become the first person convicted of a felony elected to the U.S. presidency, having been convicted of 34 felony counts in a New York hush-money case little more than five months ago.

Trump, who is still facing felony charges in at least two separate criminal cases, argued that he is the victim of a politicized justice system. And tens of millions of voters apparently believe him — or they're willing to overlook his extraordinary legal baggage.

How long will it take to know the winner?

Election Day in the United States is now often considered election week as each state follows its own rules and practices for counting ballots — not to mention the legal challenges — that can delay the results. But the truth is, nobody knows how long it will take for the winner to be announced this time.

In 2020, The Associated Press declared President Joe Biden the winner on Saturday afternoon — four days after polls closed. But even then, The AP called North Carolina for Trump 10 days after Election Day and Georgia for Biden 16 days later after hand recounts.

Four years earlier, the 2016 election was decided just hours after most polls closed. The AP declared Trump the winner on election night at 2:29 a.m. (it was technically Wednesday morning on the East Coast).

This time, both campaigns believe the race is extremely close across the seven swing states that are expected to decide the election, barring a major surprise: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

The size of the map and the tightness of the race make it hard to predict when a winner could be declared.

Where can I find early clues about how the contest might unfold?

Look to two East Coast battleground states, North Carolina and Georgia, where the results could come in relatively quickly. That doesn't mean we'll get the final results in those states quickly if the returns are close, but they are the first swing states that might offer a sense of what kind of night we're in for.

To go deeper, look to urban and suburban areas in the industrial North and Southeast, where Democrats have made gains since 2020.

In North Carolina, Harris' margins in Wake and Mecklenburg Counties, home to the state capital of Raleigh and the state's largest city, Charlotte, respectively, will reveal how much Trump will need to squeeze out of the less-populated rural areas he has dominated.

In Pennsylvania, Harris needs heavy turnout in deep blue Philadelphia, but she's also looking to boost the Democrats' advantage in the arc of suburban counties to the north and west of the city. She has campaigned aggressively in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties, where Biden improved on Clinton's 2016 winning margins. The Philadelphia metro area, including the four collar counties, accounts for 43 percent of Pennsylvania's vote.

Elsewhere in the Blue Wall, Trump needs to blunt Democratic growth in Michigan's key suburban counties outside of Detroit, especially Oakland County. He faces the same challenge in Wisconsin's Waukesha County outside of Milwaukee.

Where are the candidates?

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Trump will likely spend the very early hours of Election Day in Michigan, where he is scheduled to hold a final late-night rally in Grand Rapids as has become his tradition.

The Republican candidate plans to spend the rest of the day in Florida, where he is expected to vote in person -- despite previously saying he would vote early. He's scheduled to hold a campaign watch party in Palm Beach Tuesday night.

Harris plans to attend an Election Night party at Howard University in Washington, a historically Black university where she graduated with a degree in economics and political science in 1986 and was an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Aside from Howard, she has no public schedule announced for Election Day.

Harris said Sunday that she had "just filled out" her mail-in ballot and it was "on its way to California." Who's left to show up on Election Day?

On the eve of Election Day, it's unclear which voters will show up to cast ballots on Tuesday.

More than 77 million people participated in early voting — either in person or through the mail. So many people already cast ballots that some officials say the polls in states like Georgia might be a "ghost town" on Election Day.

One major reason for the surge is that Trump has generally encouraged his supporters to vote early this time, a reversal from 2020 when he called on Republicans to vote only in-person on Election Day. The early vote numbers confirm that millions of Republicans have heeded Trump's call in recent weeks.

The key question, however, is whether the surge of Republicans who voted early this time will ultimately cannibalize the number of Republicans who show up on Tuesday.

There are also shifts on the Democratic side. Four years ago, as the pandemic lingered, Democrats overwhelmingly cast their ballots early. But this time around, without the public health risk, it's likely that more Democrats will show up in person on Election Day.

That balance on both sides is critical as we try to understand the early returns. And it's on the campaigns to know which voters they still need to turn out on Tuesday. On that front, Democrats may have an advantage.

Trump's campaign and the Republican National Committee have outsourced much of their get-out-the-vote operation to outside groups, including one funded largely by billionaire Trump ally Elon Musk that's facing new questions about its practices. Harris' campaign, by contrast, is running a more traditional operation that features more than 2,500 paid staffers and 357 offices in battleground states alone.

Could there be unrest?

Trump has been aggressively promoting baseless claims in recent days questioning the integrity of the election. He falsely insists that he can lose only if Democrats cheat, even as polls show that show the race is a true toss-up.

Trump could again claim victory on election night regardless of the results, just as he did in 2020.

Such rhetoric can have serious consequences as the nation saw when Trump loyalists stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 in one of the darkest days in modern American history. And unfortunately, there is still a potential of further violence this election season.

The Republican National Committee will have thousands of "election integrity" poll monitors in place on Tuesday searching for any signs of fraud, which critics fear could lead to harassment of voters or election workers. In some key voting places, officials have requested the presence of sheriff deputies in addition to bulletproof glass and panic buttons that connect poll managers to a local 911 dispatcher.

At the same time, Trump allies note that he has faced two assassination attempts in recent months that raise the possibility of further threats against him. And police in Washington and other cities are preparing for the possibility of serious Election Day unrest.

As always, it's worth noting that a broad coalition of top government and industry officials, many of them Republicans, found that the 2020 election was the "most secure" in American history."

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## A presidential campaign unlike any other ends on Tuesday. Here's how we got here

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's the election that no one could have foreseen.

Not so long ago, Donald Trump was marinating in self-pity at Mar-a-Lago after being impeached twice and voted out of the White House. Even some of his closest allies were looking forward to a future without the charismatic yet erratic billionaire leading the Republican Party, especially after his failed attempt to overturn an election ended in violence and shame. When Trump announced his comeback bid two years ago, the New York Post buried the article on page 26.

At the same time, Kamala Harris was languishing as a low-profile sidekick to President Joe Biden. Once seen as a rising star in the Democratic Party, she struggled with both her profile and her portfolio, disappointing her supporters and delighting her critics. No one was talking about Harris running for the top job — they were wondering if Biden should replace her as his running mate when he sought a second term.

But on Tuesday, improbable as it may have seemed before, Americans will choose either Trump or Harris to serve as the next president. It's the final chapter in one of the most bewildering, unpredictable and consequential sagas in political history. For once, the word "unprecedented" has not been overused.

"If someone had told you ahead of time what was going to happen in this election, and you tried to sell it as a book, no one would believe it," said Neil Newhouse, a Republican pollster with more than four decades of experience. "It's energized the country and it's polarized the country. And all we can hope is that we come out of it better in the end."

History was and will be made. The United States has never elected a president who has been convicted of a crime. Trump survived not one but two assassination attempts. Biden dropped out in the middle of an election year and Harris could become the first female president. Fundamental tenets about democracy in the most powerful nation on earth will be tested like no time since the Civil War.

And that's not to mention the backdrop of simultaneous conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, hacking by foreign governments, an increasingly normalized blizzard of misinformation and the intimate involvement of the world's richest man, Elon Musk.

For now, the only thing the country can agree on is that no one knows how the story will end.

Trump rebounded from disgrace to the Republican nomination

Republicans could have been finished with Trump after Jan. 6, 2021.

That's the day he fired up his supporters with false claims of voter fraud, directed them to march on the U.S. Capitol while Congress was ceremonially certifying Biden's election victory, and then stood by as rioting threatened lawmakers and his own vice president.

But not enough Republicans joined with Democrats to convict Trump in an impeachment trial, clearing a path for him to run for office again.

Trump started planning a comeback even as some leaders in his party hoped he would be eclipsed by Ron DeSantis, the Florida governor, or Nikki Haley, the former South Carolina governor who served as Trump's ambassador to the United Nations.

In the year after Trump announced that he would run against Biden, he faced criminal charges four times. Two of the indictments were connected to his attempts to overturn his election defeat. Another involved his refusal to return classified documents to the federal government after leaving office. Trump has pleaded not guilty to all the charges, and none of those cases have been resolved.

However, a fourth indictment in New York led to Trump becoming the first president in U.S. history to be criminally convicted. A jury found him guilty on May 30 of falsifying business records over hush money payments to a porn star who claimed they had an affair.

None of it slowed Trump, who practically ignored his opponents during the primary as he barreled toward the Republican presidential nomination. A mugshot from one of his arrests was adopted by his followers as a symbol of resisting a corrupt system.

Trump's candidacy capitalized on anger over inflation and frustration about migrants crossing the south-

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ern border. He also hammered Biden as too old for the job even though he's only four years younger than the president.

But Democrats also thought Biden, 81, would be better off considering retirement than a second term. So when Biden struggled through a presidential debate on June 27 — losing his train of thought, appearing confused, stammering through answers — he faced escalating pressure within his party to drop out of the race.

As Biden faced a political crisis, Trump went to an outdoor rally in Butler, Pennsylvania on July 13. A young man evaded police, climbed to the top of a nearby building and fired several shots with a semiautomatic rifle.

Trump grabbed at his ear and dropped to the stage. While Secret Service agents crowded around him, he lurched to his feet with a streak of blood across his face, thrust his fist in the air and shouted "fight, fight, fight!" An American flag billowed overhead.

It was an instantly iconic moment. Trump's path to the White House seemed clearer than ever — perhaps even inevitable.

Harris gets an unexpected opportunity at redemption

The vice president was getting ready to do a puzzle with her nieces on the morning of July 21 when Biden called. He had decided to end his reelection bid and endorse Harris as his replacement.

She spent the rest of the day making dozens of phone calls to line up support, and she had enough to secure the nomination within two days.

It was a startling reversal of fortune. Harris had flamed out when running for president four years earlier, dropping out before the first Democratic primary contest. Biden resuscitated her political career by choosing her as his running mate, and she became the first woman, Black person and person of South Asian descent to serve as vice president.

But Harris' struggles did not end there. She fumbled questions about immigration, oversaw widespread turnover in her office and faded into the background rather than use her historic status as a platform.

All of that started to change on June 24, 2022, when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the nationwide right to abortion enshrined by Roe v. Wade. Harris became the White House's top advocate on an issue that reshaped American politics.

She also proved to be more nimble than before. Shortly after returning from a weeklong trip to Africa, her team orchestrated a spur-of-the-moment venture to Nashville so Harris could show support for two Tennessee lawmakers who had been expelled for protesting for gun control.

Meanwhile, Harris was networking with local politicians, business leaders and cultural figures to gain ideas and build connections. When Biden dropped out, she was better positioned than many realized to seize the moment.

The day after she became the candidate, Harris jetted to Wilmington, Delaware to visit campaign headquarters. Staff members had spent the morning printing "Kamala" and "Harris for President" signs to tape up next to obsolete "Biden-Harris" posters.

There were 106 days until the end of the election.

The battle between Trump and Harris will reshape the country

While speaking to campaign staff in Wilmington, Harris used a line that has become a mantra, chanted by supporters at rallies across the country. "We are not going back," she declared.

It's a fitting counterpoint to Trump's slogan, "make America great again," which he has wielded since launching his first campaign more than eight years ago.

The two candidates have almost nothing in common, something that was on display on Sept. 10, when Harris and Trump met for the first time for their only televised debate.

Harris promised to restore abortion rights and use tax breaks to support small businesses and families. She said she would "be a president for all Americans."

Trump took credit for nominating the justices that helped overturn Roe, pledged to protect the U.S. economy with tariffs and made false claims about migrants eating people's pets. He called Harris "the



worst vice president in the history of our country.”

Harris was widely viewed as gaining the upper hand. Trump insisted he won but refused a second debate. The race remained remarkably close.

Pundits and pollsters have spent the final weeks straining to identify any shift in the candidates' chances. Microscopic changes in public opinion could swing the outcome of the election. It might take days to count enough votes to determine who wins.

The outcome, whenever it becomes clear, could be just another surprise in a campaign that's been full of them.

## **Boeing machinists are holding a contract vote that could end their 7-week strike**

By DAVID KOENIG Associated Press

Unionized factory workers at Boeing are voting Monday whether to accept a contract offer or to continue their strike, which has lasted more than seven weeks and shut down production of most Boeing passenger planes.

A vote to ratify the contract would clear the way for the aerospace giant to resume airplane production and bring in much-needed cash. If members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers vote for a third time to reject Boeing's offer, it would plunge the company into further financial peril and uncertainty.

In its latest proposed contract, Boeing is offering pay raises of 38% over four years, as well as ratification and productivity bonuses. IAM District 751, which represents Boeing workers in the Pacific Northwest, endorsed the proposal, which is slightly more generous than one the machinists voted down nearly two weeks ago.

“It is time for our members to lock in these gains and confidently declare victory,” the union district said in scheduling Monday's vote. “We believe asking members to stay on strike longer wouldn't be right as we have achieved so much success.”

Union officials said they think they have gotten all they can through negotiations and a strike, and that if the current proposal is rejected, future offers from Boeing might be worse. They expect to announce the result of the vote Monday night.

Boeing has adamantly rejected requests to restore traditional pensions that the company froze nearly a decade ago. Pensions were a key issue for workers who voted down previous offers in September and October.

If machinists ratify the latest offer, they would return to work by Nov. 12, according to the union.

The strike began Sept. 13 with an overwhelming 94.6% rejection of Boeing's offer to raise pay by 25% over four years — far less than the union's original demand for 40% wage increases over three years.

Machinists voted down another offer — 35% raises over four years, but still no revival of pensions — on Oct. 23, the same day Boeing reported a third-quarter loss of more than \$6 billion. However, the offer received 36% support, up from 5% for the mid-September proposal, making Boeing leaders believe they were close to a deal.

Boeing says average annual pay for machinists is \$75,608 and would rise to \$119,309 in four years under the current offer.

In addition to a slightly larger pay increases, the proposed contract includes a \$12,000 contract ratification bonus, up from \$7,000 in the previous offer, and larger company contributions to employees' 401(k) retirement accounts.

Boeing also promises to build its next airline plane in the Seattle area. Union officials fear the company may withdraw the pledge if workers reject the new offer.

The strike drew the attention of the Biden administration. Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su intervened in the talks several times, including last week.

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The labor standoff — the first strike by Boeing machinists since an eight-week walkout in 2008 — is the latest setback in a volatile year for the company.

Boeing came under several federal investigations after a door plug blew off a 737 Max plane during an Alaska Airlines flight in January. Federal regulators put limits on Boeing airplane production that they said would last until they felt confident about manufacturing safety at the company.

The door plug incident renewed concerns about the safety of the 737 Max. Two of the plane's crashed less than five months apart in 2018 and 2019, killing 346 people. The CEO whose effort to fix the company failed announced in March that he would step down. In July, Boeing agreed to plead guilty to conspiracy to commit fraud for deceiving regulators who approved the 737 Max.

As the strike dragged on, new CEO Kelly Ortberg announced about 17,000 layoffs and a stock sale to prevent the company's credit rating from being cut to junk status. S&P and Fitch Ratings said last week that the \$24.3 billion in stock and other securities will cover upcoming debt payments and reduce the risk of a credit downgrade.

The strike has created a cash crunch by depriving Boeing of money it gets when delivering new planes to airlines. The walkout at Seattle-area factories stopped production of the 737 Max, Boeing's best-selling plane, and the 777 or "triple-seven" jet and the cargo-carrying version of its 767 plane.

Ortberg has conceded that trust in Boeing has declined, the company has too much debt, and "serious lapses in our performance" have disappointed many airline customers. But, he says, the company's strengths include a backlog of airplane orders valued at a half-trillion dollars.

## **Trump talks about reporters being shot and says he shouldn't have left White House after 2020 loss**

By JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

LITITZ, Pa. (AP) — Donald Trump delivered a profane and conspiracy-laden speech two days before Tuesday's presidential election, talking about reporters being shot and suggesting he "shouldn't have left" the White House after his 2020 loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

In remarks Sunday that bore little resemblance to the speech he's been delivering at his recent rallies, the former president repeatedly cast doubt on the integrity of the vote and resurrected old grievances after trying to overturn his 2020 election defeat. Trump intensified his verbal attacks on what he cast as a "demonic" Democratic Party and the American media, steering his rally in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, at one point to the topic of violence against members of the press.

He noted the ballistic glass that is used to protect him at outdoor events after a gunman's assassination attempt in July and pointed to openings between the panels.

"I have this piece of glass here," he said. "But all we have really over here is the fake news. And to get me, somebody would have to shoot through the fake news. And I don't mind that so much."

It was the second time in recent days that Trump has talked about guns being pointed at people he considers enemies. He suggested former Rep. Liz Cheney, a prominent Republican critic, wouldn't be willing to support foreign wars if she had "nine barrels shooting at her."

Facing criticism for suggesting violence against the media, Trump's campaign later played down his comments.

"The President's statement about protective glass placement has nothing to do with the Media being harmed, or anything else," Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung said in a statement. Instead he claimed that Trump was suggesting that reporters were in "great danger themselves, and should have had a glass protective shield, also. There can be no other interpretation of what was said. He was actually looking out for their welfare, far more than his own!"

Trump also revived falsehoods about elections and argued that he can only lose to Democrat Kamala Harris if he is cheated, even though polls suggest a very tight race.

"It's a crooked country," Trump railed to his crowd on a chilly airport tarmac, returning to the grievance that had defined the early days of his campaign. "They'll want to put you in jail because you want to

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make it straight. Think of it, think of it. They cheat in elections and you call them on it and they want to put you in jail.”

Trump was indicted for his efforts to overturn the 2020 election in both Washington and Georgia.

Some of his allies, notably former chief strategist Steve Bannon, have encouraged Trump to prematurely declare victory on Tuesday night after polls close even if the race is too early to call. That's what Trump did four years ago, kicking off months of denial and lies that culminated in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

For much of this year, Trump had run a relatively disciplined campaign, emphasizing the issues his aides believe can deliver him victory, even as he clung to false theories about voter fraud and frequently went on digressions, stirring controversy. But that discipline is increasingly collapsing.

Trump in recent weeks has joked about golfer Arnold Palmer's genitalia, continued using gendered or sexist language in his efforts to win over women and staged a rally at New York's Madison Square Garden with speakers who made crude and racist insults that continue to dominate the headlines.

The darker and more profane tone of his campaign has come as the former president, who has long been a fan of the masculine pageantry of the WWE, has been entering his rallies to the ominous tolling bell music once used by the wrestler known as "The Undertaker."

Trump had nonetheless been delivering what was a fairly consistent stump speech most days, aided by a series of videos that kept him on script, even as he veered from subject to subject in a discursive style he has labeled "the weave." But outside the Lancaster airport, he completely abandoned his planned remarks, skipping his usual points on the economy, immigration and rote criticisms of Harris.

Trump's remarks in Pennsylvania were not planned according to a person familiar with them, who noted Trump is known to ad-lib. While it was unclear exactly what had set Trump off, his campaign had released a memo earlier in the day criticizing new polling from The New York Times again showing the race extremely close in the seven major swing states.

Trump had spoken by phone before he took the stage with two reporters who had mentioned polling, including one who had asked him if he thought there was any way he could lose.

Trump has been frustrated that the campaign remains locked in a close fight to the finish. He thinks Harris is an unworthy opponent and he cannot understand why he isn't dominating, said one Republican familiar with the dynamics of the campaign who, like others, was granted anonymity to discuss it.

Another Republican blamed last-minute anxiety -- and Trump having to trust a system that he believes is rigged against him.

Still, several Trump allies applauded his speech, saying that they were glad he was shining a light on concerns about fraud in the race's final stretch.

Harris pushed back at Trump's characterizations of U.S. elections, telling reporters on Sunday that Trump's comments are "meant to distract from the fact that we have and support free and fair elections in our country." Those "good systems" were in place in 2020, Harris said, and "he lost."

The vice president said she trusts the upcoming vote tally and urged voters, "in particular people who have not yet voted to not fall for this tactic, which I think includes suggesting to people that if they vote, their vote won't matter."

Trump, for his part, acknowledged that he was sidestepping his usual approach with his conspiratorial speech. He repeatedly talked about disregarding the advice of his aides, repeating their feedback in a mocking voice and insisting that he had to talk about election fraud despite their objections.

In his next appearance a few hours later at an airport in Kinston, North Carolina, Trump returned to much of his usual script, alternating between prepared remarks and familiar stories.

At one point, he said, "hopefully, we get rid of Mitch McConnell pretty soon," undercutting the Senate Republican leader who endorsed Trump earlier this year despite blaming him for the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol.

"Can you believe he endorsed me?" Trump added a minute later with a laugh. "That must have been a painful day in his life."

He took the stage a third time Sunday night in Macon, Georgia, sticking more closely to his prepared

remarks and focusing heavily on immigration.

Trump told his supporters that in two days, they were going to "save our country" and that they were "on the verge of the four greatest years in American history."

"You watch. It's going to be so good. It's going to be so much fun. It'll be nasty a little bit at times, and maybe at the beginning, in particular," he said. "But it's going to be something."

## Trump wants to narrow his deficit with women but he's not changing how he talks about them

By JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

GASTONIA, N.C. (AP) — Donald Trump says he will be the "protector" of women, whether they like it or not.

He's campaigned with men who use sexist and crude language and who have expressed alarm at the idea that wives might vote differently from their husbands.

And the former Republican president has suggested that Democrat Kamala Harris, who is trying to become the first woman to win the White House, would get "overwhelmed" and "melt down" facing male authoritarian leaders he considers tough.

In the final days of his campaign, Trump has presented a gendered world view that his critics consider dated and paternalistic, even as he acknowledges that some of that language has gotten him "into so much trouble" with a crucial group of voters.

Trump and some of his most prominent allies have peddled outright sexism.

Former Fox News host Tucker Carlson, at an event with the Republican presidential nominee, likened Trump to an angry father providing tough love to a "bad little girl" who, as Carlson put it, was "in need of a vigorous spanking."

Charlie Kirk, founder of the conservative youth organization Turning Point, which is playing a key role in the campaign's get-out-the-vote operation, has said that any man who votes against Trump is "not a man." Kirk also has said wives who covertly vote for Harris "undermine their husbands" — describing a man "who probably works his tail off to make sure that she can go and have a nice life and provide to the family."

On Saturday night, Trump laughed along with a crude joke about Harris, nearly a week after a speaker at his Madison Square Garden rally suggested the vice president was like a prostitute controlled by "pimp handlers." As Trump repeated his claim, made without evidence, that Harris lied about working at McDonalds in her youth, someone in the crowd yelled, "She worked on the corner."

Trump laughed, looked around and pointed toward a section of the crowd.

"This place is amazing," he said to cheers. "Just remember, it's other people saying it. It's not me."

Trump has faced a persistent gender gap since Harris entered the race in July. Women are far more likely to say they're supporting Harris than Trump — by a double-digit margin in some surveys.

That could be enough to prove decisive in what both sides expect to be an extremely close race that ends Tuesday.

Women generally vote at higher rates than men. In 2020, they made up 53% of the electorate, according to AP VoteCast. Among the nearly 67.2 million Americans who have already voted, about 53% are women, versus 44% men, according to TargetSmart, a political data firm.

At the same time, Trump has been aggressively courting men. Trump's team has spent months trying to reach younger men, in particular, with a series of interviews on popular male-centric podcasts and appearances at football games and mixed martial arts fights. His campaign has been dominated by machismo, evident for example when former pro wrestler Hulk Hogan ripped off his shirt as he took the stage at the Republican National Convention and later at the Madison Square Garden rally.

The song "It's A Man's Man's Man's World" often plays at Trump's events.

"This is not a time for them to get overly masculine with this bromance thing that they've got going," said Nikki Haley, who competed with Trump for the GOP nomination this year, in a recent Fox News interview. "Women will vote. They care about how they're being talked to. And they care about the issues."

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Trump has not campaigned with Haley, who was U.N. ambassador during his administration, despite her offers to appear with him.

Trump was always expected to face challenges with women this year after nominating three of the Supreme Court justices who voted to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, ending the constitutionally guaranteed right to abortion and ushering in a wave of restrictions across Republican-led states.

But his efforts to win women back have often landed flat.

Speaking Saturday in Gastonia, North Carolina, at his first of nearly a dozen rallies during the race's final weekend, Trump acknowledged the blowback he has received for saying that, as president, he would "protect" women. He continued, nonetheless, to repeat the line as he insisted women love him and that he was right.

"I believe that women have to be protected. Men have to be, children, everybody. But women have to be protected where they're at home in suburbia," he said. "When you're home in your house alone and you have this monster that got out of prison and he's got, you know, six charges of murdering six different people, I think you'd rather have Trump."

Trump's campaign believes his focus on crime and illegal immigration will help him win over "security moms." At his rallies, he has featured the stories of mothers whose children were killed by people in the country who are in the United States illegally. That includes Alexis Nungaray, whose 12-year-old daughter, Jocelyn, was killed by two suspected Venezuelan gang members.

The campaign also believes that Trump's frequent denunciation of transgender rights holds sway.

In Salem, Virginia, on Saturday, Trump brought to the stage female athletes from Roanoke College, where a transgender woman had asked and then withdrew her request to join the women's swimming team.

In a statement, Trump campaign spokesperson Karoline Leavitt defended Trump's approach. "Women deserve a President who will secure our nation's borders, remove violent criminals from our neighborhoods, and build an economy that helps our families thrive – and that's exactly what President Trump will do," she said.

Several attendees at his rallies said they welcome Trump's promise to be a "protector."

"I want protection. I mean, we all do, right? We don't want to feel like we're not protected," said Kim Saunders, 52, a small-business owner who lives in Williamsburg, Virginia. "It's that scary feeling. So for me, it makes me feel really good to have someone protect me and a man protect me."

She said she could not understand why women would support Harris, but thinks men are drawn to Trump because "he is that alpha male. And for me, I love the alpha male. I grew up with a dad that was an alpha male."

Harris, meanwhile, has seized on Trump's remarks, highlighting them in speeches and online.

The vice president has tried to address her own side of the gender gap, appearing on podcasts and doing interviews particularly geared toward Black men, a traditionally Democratic constituency where Trump appears to be making inroads. She was asked in an interview with CNN on Saturday whether she believes women will make the difference in this election.

"I believe all Americans are going to make the difference. And I intend to be a president for all Americans," she said.

Trump has pushed back on a suggestion by top Harris surrogate Mark Cuban that Trump does not surround himself with strong, intelligent women. Trump notes that he hired women to lead his 2016 and 2024 campaigns.

But as he has tried to undercut Harris, who is the first woman to be elected vice president, Trump has repeatedly turned to gendered language.

"She certainly can't handle (Russian President Vladimir) Putin, President Xi of China. She will get overwhelmed, melt down and millions of people will die," he said Saturday.

On Saturday night, he repeated his claim that he is the "father of fertilization," awkwardly and falsely taking credit for a fertility procedure that was briefly outlawed in Alabama by a state Supreme Court ruling due to the overturning of *Roe*.

And at recent rallies, Trump, who was found liable for sexual abuse and has been accused by more than

two dozen women of sexual misconduct, has noted female supporters in the audience and mused about how he cannot call them beautiful anymore.

"You have to be very careful. Everything you say. You know, like there's some women that are very beautiful in the audience. I would never say that," Trump said. "If I said they were beautiful, that's the end of my political career."

## Oklahoma storms injure at least 11 and leave thousands without power

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Severe storms and tornadoes battered Oklahoma early Sunday, tossing cars and ripping roofs off buildings in the middle of the night and leaving tens of thousands of homes and businesses without power. Among numerous injuries, 11 people required hospitalization, authorities said.

Much of the damage was reported in and around the state capital of Oklahoma City, near the state's center, but also scattered elsewhere around the state. The early morning storms set off tornado warnings that extended south to the Arkansas state line. Heavy rains caused flash flooding in some areas and one lightning-sparked house fire was reported.

More than 99,000 Oklahoma homes and businesses lost power during the overnight storms. By late Sunday afternoon, that number was reduced to around 24,000. No fatalities had been reported.

Richard Thompson, forecast chief for the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center in Oklahoma, said he believes six or more tornadoes hit the state overnight. Meanwhile, forecasters warned state residents to brace for more heavy rain and possible severe weather through Monday.

"We're not done with it yet," he said.

A tornado watch for much of the central and southeast part of Oklahoma was in effect until 8 p.m. Sunday. Other areas were under thunderstorm or flood watches.

In the town of Choctaw, east of Oklahoma City, firefighters and police officers went door to door Sunday morning to ask about injuries.

"It leveled a complete neighborhood in Choctaw," the town's mayor, Chad Allcox, told The Associated Press. He added that debris hindered search and rescue efforts. "Power lines are down everywhere ... a lot of the roads are blocked, hard to get through. Very large trees blocking roadways."

Oklahoma City Fire Department spokesman Scott Douglas told the AP that heavy rain and the lingering threat of tornadoes in the early morning darkness complicated early search and rescue efforts. He described a first sweep of hard-hit areas around 1:30 a.m.

"It was a heavy downpour. We were trying to sweep the area with another possibility of a tornado coming through," he said. "So that was in the back of our minds, too."

Emergency workers had to free two people from an overturned mobile home, including a woman injured when an air conditioner landed on her leg, Douglas said.

The scale of the damage came into focus as daylight broke. Local television footage showed downed power lines, walls peeled off homes, overturned vehicles and neighborhood streets littered with debris.

Douglas said 11 people were transported to hospitals with injuries that were not life-threatening. "There were some other minor injuries, some walking wounded, that were going to get treatment on their own," Douglas said.

Allcox said early weather warnings and tornado sirens likely saved lives.

A handful of shelters — including one opened at a casino by the American Red Cross — are available for displaced residents or those without power, the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management said.

The Oklahoma Heart Hospital South also sustained damage, state health officials said.

At the University of Oklahoma, school officials had urged students and staff to seek shelter and move to the lowest floor as storms approached the campus after midnight. The National Weather Service office in Norman also issued urgent warnings, posting on social media: "If you're in the path of this storm, take cover immediately!"

Parts of Oklahoma remained at risk for more heavy rainfall and thunderstorms later Sunday.

## Spain flood survivors hurl mud at the royals and top government officials

By DAVID MELERO and JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

PAIPORTA, Spain (AP) — A crowd of enraged survivors hurled clots of mud left by storm-spawned flooding at the Spanish royal couple on Sunday during their first visit to the center of their nation's deadliest natural disaster in living memory.

Spain's national broadcaster reported that the barrage included a few rocks and other objects and that two bodyguards were treated for injuries. One could be seen with a bloody wound on his forehead.

It was an unprecedented incident for a royal house that carefully crafts an image of monarchs adored by their country of more than 48 million people.

Spanish fury has been unleashed against a state that appears overwhelmed and unable to meet the needs of people used to living under an effective government.

Officials also rushed Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez from the scene soon after his contingent started to walk the mud-covered streets of one of the hardest-hit areas, where over 60 people perished and thousands of lives were shattered. The disaster fueled by climate change killed at least 205 people in eastern Spain.

"Get out! Get out!" and "Killers!" the crowd in the town of Paiporta shouted, among other insults. Bodyguards opened umbrellas to protect the royals and other officials from the tossed muck.

Police had to step in, some officers on horseback, to keep back the crowd of several dozen, some wielding shovels and poles.

Queen Letizia broke into tears sympathetically after speaking to several people, including one woman who wept in her arms. Later, one of the queen's bodyguards had a bloody wound on his forehead and there was a hole in the back window of the prime minister's official car.

But even after being forced to seek protection, King Felipe VI, with flecks of mud on his face, remained calm and made several efforts to speak to individual residents. He insisted on trying to speak with people as he tried to continue his visit. He spoke to several people, patting two young men on their backs and sharing a quick embrace, with mud stains on his black raincoat.

Still, one woman smacked an official car with an umbrella and another kicked it before it sped off.

While far from awakening the passion that the British hold for their royals, Felipe and Letizia's public events are usually greeted by crowds of fans.

The 56-year-old Felipe took the throne when his father, Juan Carlos, abdicated in 2014 after he was tarnished by self-made financial and personal scandals. Felipe immediately cut a new figure, renouncing his personal inheritance and increasing the financial transparency of his royal house. He and the 52-year-old Letizia, a former journalist, dedicate a significant part of their public agenda to cultural and scientific causes.

Visits to sites of national tragedies are also part of the royal duties for monarchs seen as a stabilizing force in a parliamentary monarchy restored following the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975.

The king later told regional authorities at the command post of emergency response efforts that they had to give "hope to those affected by the flood and attend to their needs, guaranteeing that the state is there for them."

Public rage over the haphazard management of the crisis has been building. Felipe heard some jeers when he took part in a tribute to the dead of a deadly 2017 terror attack in Barcelona, but that was nothing comparable to Sunday's reception.

The queen had small glops of mud on her hands and arms as she spoke to women.

"We don't have any water," one woman told her.

Many people still don't have drinking water five days after the floods struck. Internet and mobile phone coverage remains patchy. Most people only got power back on Saturday. Stores and supermarkets are in ruins and Paiporta, population 30,000, still has many city blocks completely clogged with piles of detritus, countless totaled cars and a ubiquitous layer of mud.

Thousands have had their homes destroyed by a tsunami-like wave of muck and indignation at mismanagement of the disaster has begun.

The floods had already hit Paiporta when the regional officials issued an alert to mobile phones. It sounded two hours too late.

More anger has been fueled by the inability of officials to respond quickly to the aftermath. Most of the cleanup of the layers and layers of mud and debris that has invaded countless homes has been done by residents and thousands of volunteers.

"We have lost everything!" someone shouted.

Shouts Sunday included demands aimed at regional Valencia President Carlo Mazón, whose administration is in charge of civil protection, to step down, as well as "Where is Pedro Sánchez?"

"I understand the indignation and of course I stayed to receive it," Mazón said on X. "It was my moral and political obligation. The attitude of the king this morning was exemplary."

Spanish national broadcaster RTVE reported that the barrage aimed at the royals included a few rocks and other hard objects were tossed and that two bodyguards were treated for injuries, and the monarchs and officials called off another stop Sunday at a second hard-hit village, Chiva, about half an hour to the east of Valencia city.

Sánchez said that recovery efforts won't be derailed by the incident.

"I want to express all my government's solidarity and its acknowledgement of the anguish, suffering, uncertainty and the needs of the residents of Paiporta and the region of Valencia," Sánchez said, while adding that he believes the majority of people "reject the types of violence that unfortunately we saw today."

The mud-slinging scene occurred as thousands more Spanish soldiers, national police officers, and Civil Guard gendarmes arrived, or are set to arrive, at the disaster sites.

## **Federal judge lets Iowa keep challenging voter rolls although naturalized citizens may be affected**

By JOHN HANNA, SCOTT McFETRIDGE and MICHAEL GOLDBERG Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A federal judge ruled Sunday that Iowa can continue challenging the validity of hundreds of ballots from potential noncitizens even though critics said the effort threatens the voting rights of people who've recently become U.S. citizens.

U.S. District Judge Stephen Locher, an appointee of President Joe Biden, sided with the state in a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in the Iowa capital of Des Moines on behalf of the League of Latin American Citizens of Iowa and four recently naturalized citizens. The four were on the state's list of questionable registrations to be challenged by local elections officials.

The state's Republican attorney general and secretary of state argued that investigating and potentially removing 2,000 names from the list would prevent illegal voting by noncitizens. GOP officials across the U.S. have made possible voting by noncitizen immigrants a key election-year talking point even though it is rare. Their focus has come with former President Donald Trump falsely suggesting that his opponents already are committing fraud to prevent his return to the White House.

In his ruling Sunday, Locher pointed to a U.S. Supreme Court decision four days prior that allowed Virginia to resume a similar purge of its voter registration rolls even though it was impacting some U.S. citizens. He also cited the Supreme Court's recent refusal to review a Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision on state electoral laws surrounding provisional ballots. Those Supreme Court decisions advise lower courts to "act with great caution before awarding last-minute injunctive relief," he wrote.

Locher also said the state's effort does not remove anyone from the voter rolls, but rather requires some voters to use provisional ballots.

In a statement on Sunday, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican, celebrated the ruling.

"Today's ruling is a victory for election integrity," Reynolds said. "In Iowa, while we encourage all citizens to vote, we will enforce the law and ensure those votes aren't cancelled out by the illegal vote of a non-citizen."

Rita Bettis Austen, legal director for the ACLU of Iowa, said some voters could be disenfranchised due to the ruling and Secretary of State Paul Pate's directive.



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"We are obviously disappointed with the court's decision not to outright block Secretary Pate's directive, which we still fear threatens to disenfranchise eligible voters simply because they are people who became citizens in the past several years," Austen said in a written statement. "Even the Secretary agrees that the vast majority of voters on his list are United States citizens."

Even still, Austen said the lawsuit forced Pate to back away from forcing everyone on the list to vote provisionally only. County auditors may permit a voter on the list to cast a regular ballot if they deem it appropriate, and voters can prove they are citizens with documentation, she added.

After Locher had a hearing in the ACLU's lawsuit Friday, Pate and state Attorney General Brenna Bird issued a statement saying that Iowa had about 250 noncitizens registered to vote, but the Biden administration wouldn't provide data about them.

Pate told reporters last month that his office was forced to rely upon a list of potential noncitizens from the Iowa Department of Transportation. It named people who registered to vote or voted after identifying themselves as noncitizens living in the U.S. legally when they previously sought driver's licenses.

"Today's court victory is a guarantee for all Iowans that their votes will count and not be canceled out by illegal votes," Bird said in the statement issued after Sunday's decision.

But ACLU attorneys said Iowa officials were conceding that most of the people on the list are eligible to vote and shouldn't have been included. They said the state was violating naturalized citizens' voting rights by wrongfully challenging their registrations and investigating them if they cast ballots.

Pate issued his directive Oct. 22, only two weeks before the Nov. 5 election, and ACLU attorneys argued that federal law prohibits such a move so close to Election Day.

The people on the state's list of potential noncitizens may have become naturalized citizens after their statements to the Department of Transportation. Pate's office told county elections officials to challenge their ballots and have them cast provisional ballots instead. That would leave the decision of whether they will be counted to local officials upon further review, with voters having seven days to provide proof of their U.S. citizenship.

In his ruling, Locher wrote that Pate backed away from some of his original hardline positions at an earlier court hearing. Pate's attorney said the Secretary of State is no longer aiming to require local election officials to challenge the votes of each person on his list or force voters on the list to file provisional ballots even when they have proven citizenship at a polling place.

Federal law and states already make it illegal for noncitizens to vote, and the first question on Iowa's voter registration form asks whether a person is a U.S. citizen. The form also requires potential voters to sign a statement saying they are citizens, warning them that if they lie, they can be convicted of a felony, punishable by up to five years in prison.

Locher's ruling also came after a federal judge had halted a similar program in Alabama challenged by civil rights groups and the U.S. Department of Justice. Testimony from state officials in that case showed that roughly 2,000 of the more than 3,200 voters who were made inactive were actually legally registered citizens.

In Iowa's case, noncitizens who are registered are potentially only a tiny fraction of the state's 2.2 million registered voters.

But Locher wrote that it appears to be undisputed that some portion of the names on Pate's list are registered voters who are not U.S. citizens. Even if that portion is small, an injunction effectively would force local election officials to let ineligible voters cast ballots, he added.

Democrats and Republicans have been engaged in a sprawling legal fight over this year's election for months. Republicans have filed dozens of lawsuits challenging various aspects of vote-casting after being chastised repeatedly by judges in 2020 for bringing complaints about how the election was run only after votes were tallied. Democrats have their own team of dozens of staffers fighting GOP cases.

Immigrants gain citizenship through a process called naturalization, which includes establishing residency, proving knowledge of basic American history and institutions as well as taking an oath of allegiance to the United States.

## Israel says it carried out ground raid into Syria, seizing a Syrian citizen connected to Iran

By MELANIE LIDMAN and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military said Sunday it has carried out a ground raid into Syria, seizing a Syrian citizen involved in Iranian networks. It was the first time in the current war that Israel announced its troops operated in Syrian territory.

Israel has carried out airstrikes in Syria multiple times over the past year, targeting members of Lebanon's Hezbollah and officials from Iran, the close ally of both Hezbollah and Syria. But it has not previously made public any ground forays into Syria.

The Israeli military said the seizure was part of a special operation "that took place in recent months," though it did not say exactly when it occurred. Syria did not immediately confirm the announcement, but a pro-government Syrian radio station, Sham FM, reported Sunday that Israeli forces carried out a "kidnapping operation" over the summer targeting a man in the south of the country.

Israel has waged an escalating campaign of bombardment in Lebanon for the past six weeks, as well as a ground invasion along the countries' shared border, vowing to cripple Hezbollah. On Saturday, an Israeli military official said naval forces carried out a raid in a northern Lebanese town, seizing a man they called a senior Hezbollah operative.

The army identified the man as Ali Soleiman al-Assi, saying he lives in the southern Syrian region of Saida. It said the man had been under military surveillance for many months and was involved in Iranian initiatives targeting areas of the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights near the border with Syria.

Body camera video of the raid released by the army showed soldiers seizing a man in a white tank top inside a building. The man was brought to Israel for interrogation, the military said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the border with Lebanon on Sunday, saying his focus was trying to keep Hezbollah from rearming itself through the "oxygen lifeline" of Iranian weapons transferred to Lebanon via Syria. Israel says its campaign in Lebanon aims to push Hezbollah away from the border and put an end to more than a year of fire by the group into northern Israel.

Israel's strikes in Lebanon have killed more than 2,500 people over the past year. In Israel, 69 people have been killed by Hezbollah projectiles.

On the U.S. presidential campaign trail this weekend, Vice President Kamala Harris acknowledged progressives and members of the state's significant population of Arab Americans who are angry at the Biden administration for its continuation of the U.S. alliance with Israel as the Netanyahu government presses its war against Hamas in Gaza.

"I have been very clear that the level of death of innocent Palestinians is unconscionable," Harris told reporters.

In East Lansing, Michigan, she addressed the issue soon after beginning her remarks. "As president I will do everything in my power to end the war in Gaza, to bring home the hostages, end the suffering in Gaza, ensure Israel is secure and ensure the Palestinian people can realize their right to freedom, dignity and self-determination," she said.

Some students in East Lansing voiced their opposition Sunday with audible calls for a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war. At least one attendee was escorted out after the cease-fire calls.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces continued an offensive in the northern Gaza Strip, where the military has said it is battling Hamas fighters who regrouped there.

Shell fire hit Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, injuring patients, including children, hospital director Hossam Abu Safiya said in a statement to the media. He said the shells hit the hospital's nursery, dormitory and water tanks just after a delegation from the World Health Organization ended a visit.

Kamal Adwan and two other nearby hospitals have been hit by Israel several times during the fighting. Earlier this month, Israeli troops stormed Kamal Adwan, detaining a large number of people, including much of the staff, Abu Safiya said at the time of the raid. The military said those detained included members of Hamas, without providing evidence, and said weapons were found in the facility.

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But the Israel Defense Forces in a statement denied striking Kamal Adwan on Sunday, blaming "an explosive device planted by the terrorist organizations in Gaza" for the attack.

"Attacks on civilians, including humanitarian workers, and what remains of Gaza's civilian facilities and infrastructure must stop," UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said in a statement Saturday. "The entire Palestinian population in North Gaza, especially children, is at imminent risk of dying from disease, famine, and the ongoing bombardments."

In southern Gaza, an Israeli strike hit a group of people gathered outside in an eastern district of Khan Younis, killing at least eight Palestinians, including four children and a woman, the territory's Health Ministry's emergency services said. The city's Nasser Hospital, which received most of the bodies, confirmed the figures.

Palestinian officials said an Israeli drone strike on Saturday hit a clinic in northern Gaza where children were being vaccinated for polio, wounding six people including four children. The Israeli military denied responsibility.

Dr. Munir al-Boursh, director general of the Gaza Health Ministry, told The Associated Press that a quadcopter struck the Sheikh Radwan clinic in Gaza City early Saturday afternoon, just a few minutes after a United Nations delegation left the facility.

UNICEF and WHO, which are jointly carrying out the polio vaccination campaign, expressed concern over the reported strike. Rosalia Bollen, a spokesperson for UNICEF, said the strike occurred when a "humanitarian pause" agreed to by Israel to allow vaccinations was in effect.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesperson, said that "contrary to the claims, an initial review determined that the (Israeli military) did not strike in the area at the specified time."

It was not possible to resolve the conflicting accounts. Israeli forces have repeatedly raided hospitals in Gaza over the course of the war, saying Hamas uses them for militant purposes, allegations denied by Palestinian health officials. Hamas fighters are also operating in the north, battling Israeli forces.

Northern Gaza has been encircled by Israeli forces and largely isolated for the past year. Israel has been carrying out another offensive there in recent weeks that has killed hundreds of people and displaced tens of thousands.

A scaled-down campaign to administer a second dose of the polio vaccine began Saturday in parts of northern Gaza. It had been postponed from Oct. 23 due to lack of access, Israeli bombings and mass evacuation orders, and the lack of assurances for humanitarian pauses, a U.N. statement said.

Administration of the first doses was carried out in September across the Gaza Strip, including the north.

At least 100,000 people have been forced to evacuate from areas of north Gaza toward Gaza City in the past few weeks, but around 15,000 children under the age of 10 remain in northern towns, including Jabaliya, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun, which are inaccessible, according to the U.N.

The final phase of the polio vaccination campaign had aimed to reach an estimated 119,000 children in the north with a second dose of the oral polio vaccine, the agencies said, but "achieving this target is now unlikely due to access constraints."

They say 90% of children in every community must be vaccinated to prevent the spread of the disease.

The campaign was launched after the first polio case was reported in Gaza in 25 years — a 10-month-old boy, now paralyzed in the leg. The World Health Organization said the presence of a paralysis case indicates there could be hundreds more who have been infected but aren't showing symptoms.

The war began on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. 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.

## US says Iranian-American held in Iran as tensions high following Israeli attack on country

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An Iranian-American journalist who once worked for a U.S. government-funded broadcaster is believed to have been detained by Iran for months now, authorities said Sunday, further raising the stakes as Tehran threatens to retaliate over an Israeli attack on the country.

The imprisonment of Reza Valizadeh was confirmed to The Associated Press by the U.S. State Department as Iran marked the 45th anniversary of the takeover of the American Embassy and hostage crisis on Sunday. It also followed a threat by Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei a day earlier to provide "a crushing response" to Israel and the U.S. as long-range B-52 bombers reached the Middle East in an attempt to deter Tehran.

Valizadeh had worked for Radio Farda, an outlet under Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty that's overseen by the U.S. Agency for Global Media. In February, he wrote on the social platform X that his family members had been detained in an effort to make him return to Iran.

In August, Valizadeh apparently posted two messages suggesting he had returned to Iran despite Radio Farda being viewed by Iran's theocracy as a hostile outlet.

"I arrived in Tehran on March 6, 2024. Before that, I had unfinished negotiations with the (Revolutionary Guard's) intelligence department," the message read in part. "Eventually I came back to my country after 13 years without any security guarantee, even a verbal one."

Valizadeh added the name of a man who he claimed belonged to Iran's Intelligence Ministry. The AP could not verify if the person worked for the ministry.

Rumors have been circulating for weeks that Valizadeh had been detained. The Human Rights Activists News Agency, which monitors cases in Iran, said that he had been detained on arrival to the country earlier this year but later released.

He was then rearrested and sent to Evin prison, where he now faces a case in Iran's Revolutionary Court, which routinely holds closed-door hearings in which defendants face secret evidence, the agency reported. Valizadeh had faced arrest in 2007 as well, it said.

The State Department told the AP that it was "aware of reports that this dual U.S.-Iranian citizen has been arrested in Iran" when asked about Valizadeh.

"We are working with our Swiss partners who serve as the protecting power for the United States in Iran to gather more information about this case," the State Department said. "Iran routinely imprisons U.S. citizens and other countries' citizens unjustly for political purposes. This practice is cruel and contrary to international law."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty separately said that Valizadeh "has been detained in Iran."

"We have had no official confirmation of the charges against him," it said in a statement. "Reza, a U.S.-Iranian national, left RFE/RL in November 2022. We are profoundly concerned about the continued arrest, harassment and threats against media professionals by the Iranian regime."

Iran has not acknowledged detaining Valizadeh. Iran's mission to the United Nations did not respond to a request for comment.

The Voice of America, another U.S. government-funded media outlet overseen by the Agency for Global Media, first reported that the State Department was acknowledging Valizadeh's detention in Iran.

Since the 1979 U.S. Embassy crisis, in which dozens of hostages were released after 444 days in captivity, Iran has used prisoners with Western ties as bargaining chips in negotiations with the world. In September 2023, five Americans detained for years in Iran were freed in exchange for five Iranians in U.S. custody and for \$6 billion in frozen Iranian assets to be released by South Korea.

Valizadeh is the first American known to be detained by Iran since then.

Meanwhile, Iranian state television broadcast video Sunday of different cities across the country marking the anniversary of the embassy takeover.

Gen. Hossein Salami, the head of the Guard, also spoke in Tehran, where he repeated a pledge made

the day before by Khamenei.

"The resistance front and Iran will equip itself with whatever necessary to confront and defeat the enemy," he said, referring to militant groups like Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah backed by Tehran.

In Tehran, thousands of people at the gate of the former U.S. Embassy chanted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." Some burned flags of the countries and effigies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

They also carried images of killed top figures of Iran's allied militant groups, including Lebanese Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Palestinian Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar. The crowd in the state-organized rallies chanted that they were ready to defend the Palestinians.

## **Harris, Obamas and voting rights leaders work to turn out Black voters in run-up to Election Day**

By MATT BROWN and FREIDA FRISARO Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Concerts and carnivals hosted at polling precincts. "Souls to the Polls" mobilizations after Sunday service. And star-studded rallies featuring Hollywood actors, business leaders, musical artists and activists.

Such seemingly disparate efforts all have a single goal: boost Black voter turnout ahead of Election Day.

How Black communities turn out in the 2024 election has been scrutinized due to the pivotal role Black voters have played in races for the White House, Congress and state legislatures across the country.

Vice President Kamala Harris, who if elected would be the second Black president, has made engaging Black voters a priority of her messaging and policy platform. Meanwhile, former president Donald Trump has sought to make inroads with Democrats' most consistent voting bloc with unorthodox and at times controversial outreach.

A key strategy in Harris and Democrats' Black voter outreach includes dispatching the first Black president and his wife, the former first lady, to battleground states where winning may come down to how well the Obamas convince ambivalent or apathetic voters that they must not sit this one out.

Democratic efforts have ranged from vigorous door-knocking campaigns in Atlanta, Detroit and Philadelphia this weekend to swing state rallies. Michelle Obama rallied voters in Norristown, Pennsylvania on Saturday alongside Grammy award-winning artist Alicia Keys while Barack Obama stumped in Milwaukee on Sunday. The former first lady also conducted her own scrupulously nonpartisan rally on Tuesday where speakers evoked the South's Civil Rights history.

"I'm always amazed at how little so many people really understand just how profoundly elections impact our daily lives," Michelle Obama said. "Because that's really what your vote is, it is your chance to tell folks in power what you want."

Efforts to boost Black voter turnout often start at the community level. In Miami, members of local churches gathered Sunday at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center and marched to a nearby early voting center as part of a Souls to the Polls event.

"It helps a lot to encourage others to vote," said Regina Tharpe, a Miami resident. She had voted earlier, but said people "get excited when they see us walking down the street. It encourages them to get out."

Sharina Perez, a first-time voter, brought her mother, Celina DeJesus, to vote on the last day of early voting in Florida. She said a number of issues inspired her to vote. "It was for myself, my future, my mom's future and for the younger generation," she said.

Organizers focused on Black communities say they are often combating exhaustion and cynicism about politics, especially among younger Black voters and Black men. But they are cautiously optimistic that their efforts will bear fruit.

"If you want the people who are going to be most impacted to come out, you have to go where they are," said Jamarr Brown, executive director of Color of Change PAC, whose campaigns aimed at Black voters included live events in Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. The group has reached more than 8 million voters in those states through text messaging and digital in the last month,

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he said.

"We've been going to those precincts and communities, those new platforms and websites where there is so often misinformation targeting our communities," Brown said.

Other events have had a more free-flowing structure. The Detroit Pistons, for instance, hosted a "Pistonsland" festival in a majority Black neighborhood featuring musical performances from rappers including Lil Baby, carnival games, food trucks and other fanfare alongside the opportunity to cast a ballot. The nonpartisan carnival was constructed next to an early voting polling place.

"I don't like neither one," said Karl Patrick, a Detroit native who attended the festival. He strongly backed Harris, however, "because Trump wants to be a dictator." Not all of his close friends had come to the same conclusion — at least one of his friends was fervently backing the former president, he said.

Black voters are the most overwhelmingly Democratic voting demographic in the country. But the Trump campaign has made a more concerted pitch to win a greater share of Black voters this year, particularly Black men.

The Trump campaign has similarly zeroed in on economic arguments. Trump has repeatedly argued that undocumented immigrants take "Black jobs," despite economists finding the claim unfounded. The campaign believes the former president's broader pitch on the economy, crime and traditional values has appeal in Black communities.

"If Kamala wanted to turn our country around, then she would do it now," said Janiyah Thomas, a spokesperson for the Trump campaign. "We deserve more than token gestures — we deserve a leader who respects us, empowers us, and backs it up with action."

GOP Reps. Byron Donalds and Wesley Hunt have emerged as key surrogates in Trump's outreach to Black men. The campaign hosted a Black men's barbershop roundtable with Donalds in Philadelphia in October. The Black Conservative Federation, which hosted a gala Trump attended earlier this year, held a "closing argument" event Sunday with Donalds and Hunt.

Millions of Black voters, like many Americans, have already cast a ballot in the election, including in Georgia and North Carolina.

Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Georgia, spoke about that state's turnout at a Tuesday brunch and bus tour launch hosted by the Black Music Action Coalition.

"The truth of the matter is that Trump has been advising his people who always vote on Election Day to get out early. So they're the ones that are making these numbers look so big. On our behalf, Black people, we have been slightly underperforming," Johnson said.

Early Black voter turnout slightly lagged in North Carolina compared to 2020, though increased turnout at the close of early voting shrunk the gap. Whether Black voter turnout breaks records in 2020 hinges on Election Day. Many veteran Black leaders are confident the myriad strategies will bring voters out.

"Now obviously, there's always a group of people who still don't believe that their vote makes a difference and they lag behind," said the Rev. Wendell Anthony, a Detroit pastor and the president of the city's NAACP chapter. But so far, he added, "the indicators to us are such that those people are going to turn out. They're not going to miss this this historic moment."

## **In dash across Michigan, Harris contrasts optimism with Trump's rhetoric without uttering his name**

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, ISABELLA VOLMERT and BILL BARROW Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Two days out from Election Day, Kamala Harris dashed through four stops across battleground Michigan on Sunday without uttering Donald Trump's name, while urging voters not to be fooled by the GOP nominee's disparagement of the electoral system that he falsely claims is rigged against him.

The vice president said she trusts the upcoming vote tally and urged voters, "in particular people who have not yet voted to not fall for this tactic, which I think includes suggesting to people that if they vote, their vote won't matter."

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At a Michigan State University rally, Harris got a rousing response when she asked who had already voted and then gave students another job – to encourage their friends to cast ballots in a state that allows Election Day voter registration.

And instead of her usual speech riffs about Trump being unstable, unhinged and out for unchecked power, Harris sought to contrast her optimistic tone with the darker message of the Republican opponent she did not name.

It was all in service of trying to boost her standing in one of the Democratic “blue wall” states in the Midwest considered her smoothest potential path to an Electoral College majority.

“We have an opportunity in this election to finally turn the page on a decade of politics driven by fear and division,” she said in a oblique reference to Trump. “We are done with that. We are exhausted with that. America is ready for a fresh start, ready for a new way forward where we see our fellow American not as an enemy, but as a neighbor.”

Harris also avoided direct mention of Trump during her 11-minute morning talk at Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ. But her comments nonetheless served as a clear juxtaposition with the Republican nominee.

“There are those who seek to deepen division, sow hate, spread fear and cause chaos,” she said. She spoke at the same time Trump was in Pennsylvania declaring the U.S. a “failed nation” and saying that he “shouldn’t have left” the White House after the 2020 election, which he denies losing to Democrat Joe Biden.

As Trump referred to Harris’ party as “demonic,” Harris quoted the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah and told her friendly audience she saw ready to “chart a new way forward.”

Addressing what was a largely student crowd in East Lansing, Harris promised to seek consensus.

“I don’t believe people who disagree with me are the enemy,” she said. “In fact, I’ll give them a seat at the table because that’s what strong leaders do.”

That was enough for Alexis Plonka, a Michigan State junior who will be voting in her first presidential election. Plonka, who said she has family members who support Trump, applauded the vice president for not referencing the former president directly.

“I think one of the things that turns people off from Trump a lot is the fact that he is so against people that don’t agree with him and that he’s not willing to work with them,” she said.

The approach reflects the wide net Harris has cast since taking the Democratic Party mantle in July after 81-year-old President Joe Biden ended his reelection bid. Casting Trump as erratic and unfit for office, she has attracted supporters ranging from progressive champion Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez of New York to Republican former Rep. Liz Cheney and her father, former Vice President Dick Cheney.

Still, Harris is looking to capitalize on core Democratic constituencies — including young voters like those she addressed at Michigan State — in part by emphasizing her support for abortion rights and Trump’s role in ending a woman’s right to terminate a pregnancy. One of the loudest cheers she received in East Lansing on Sunday evening came when she declared that government should not tell women what to do with their bodies.

Speaking to reporters Sunday afternoon, Harris pushed back at Trump’s characterizations of U.S. elections, charges that the former president elevated again as he campaigned in Pennsylvania. Harris said his latest comments were “meant to distract from the fact that we have and support free and fair elections in our country.” Those “good systems” were in place in 2020, Harris said, and “he lost.”

Harris used her last Michigan swing to acknowledge progressives and members of the state’s significant population of Arab Americans who are angry at the Biden administration for its continuation of the U.S. alliance with Israel as the Netanyahu government presses its war against Hamas in Gaza.

“I have been very clear that the level of death of innocent Palestinians is unconscionable,” Harris told reporters.

In East Lansing, she addressed the issue soon after beginning her remarks: “As president I will do everything in my power to end the war in Gaza, to bring home the hostages, end the suffering in Gaza, ensure Israel is secure and ensure the Palestinian people can realize their right to freedom, dignity and

self-determination.”

Some students in East Lansing voiced their opposition Sunday with audible calls for a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war. At least one attendee was escorted out after those cease-fire calls.

After attending church in Detroit, Harris greeted customers and picked up lunch at Kuzzo’s Chicken and Waffles, where she had collard greens at the Detroit restaurant owned by former Detroit Lions player Ron Bartell, a Detroit native. Later, Harris stopped by Elam Barber Shop, a Black-owned business in Pontiac, where she took part in a moderated conversation with local leaders and Black men.

As she returned to Detroit at the end of the day, Harris hopped on a Zoom call from the airport tarmac with “Win With Black Women,” the group that jumped into action for her on the night she first joined the race. Harris thanked the women for their organizing work and urged them to make one final push to “mobilize our Facebook groups, our family group chats and everyone we know” to turn out the vote.

Michigan, along with Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, is critical to Harris’ fortunes. Barack Obama swept the region in 2008 and 2012. But Trump flipped Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin in 2016, prompting considerable criticism from Democrats who said nominee Hillary Clinton took the states for granted. Biden returned the three to the Democrats’ column in 2020.

Losing any of the three would put pressure on Harris to notch victories among the four Sun Belt battleground states: North Carolina, Georgia, Arizona and Nevada.

## **Bolivia’s Evo Morales tells AP he’ll press on with a hunger strike until his rival accepts dialogue**

By JUAN KARITA and ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

LAUCA Ñ, Bolivia (AP) — Bolivia’s transformative and divisive former President Evo Morales said Sunday that he would press on with a hunger strike until the government of his protégé-turned-rival agreed to a political dialogue. His act of dissent aims to defuse street protests that have paralyzed the nation in recent weeks over what Morales’ supporters condemn as his political persecution.

Morales, a larger-than-life figure still towering over Bolivian politics five years after his fraught ouster, spoke on his third day without food from the misty tropics of Chapare, Bolivia’s rural coca-growing region that serves as his stronghold.

“My fight is to improve the situation in the country and to start a dialogue without conditions on two fronts, one economic and one political,” Morales told The Associated Press from the office of the coca growers’ federation that he long has led.

The ex-president said he began his hunger strike Friday in hopes of “international organizations or friendly governments” facilitating talks with his political nemesis, President Luis Arce.

Tensions have surged over the past three weeks since pro-Morales supporters set up crippling roadblocks aimed at rebuking Arce — Morales’ former economy minister with whom he’s now vying to lead Bolivia’s governing socialist party into next year’s elections.

Protesters have choked off major highways in defiance of an attempt by Arce’s government to revive a 2016 statutory rape case against Morales, an ethnic Aymara who was the first member of an Indigenous community to become the president of Latin America’s only Indigenous-majority nation.

Morales has denied any wrongdoing. “My crime is being Indigenous,” he said on Sunday.

The AP reached Morales after an arduous 11-hour journey by car, motorcycle and foot over hills and through the highlands, circumventing road blockades, crisscrossing routes littered with debris and toppled trees and squeaking through over a dozen security checkpoints, in some cases manned by profiteers.

Roadblocks are a common protest tactic in Bolivia, where the mountainous terrain means a few strategically positioned checkpoints can isolate major cities and bring the whole nation to a halt.

That’s exactly what happened earlier this month, marooning hundreds of thousands of residents in the highlands, raising fears of food and gasoline shortages and hiking up the prices of basic goods in major cities, including La Paz, the capital.

“I see people rising up even more,” said Eusebio Urbano, a farmer protesting in support of Morales at



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one of the road blockades Sunday. "I don't know what this government thinks. ... They don't try to solve anything. We have to keep pushing until it leaves."

Under public pressure to quell the unrest, Arce's government sent some 3,000 police officers armed with tear gas and backed by helicopters to break up the blockades by force.

Eduardo Del Castillo, a senior Cabinet minister, said security forces had arrested dozens of protesters in clearing the main road linking Cochabamba, Bolivia's third-biggest city, with La Paz. Authorities transferred over 50 of the demonstrators to pre-trial detention in the capital on charges related to violating public order, he said.

"What happened was very inhumane," Morales said of the crackdown, adding that his refusal to eat was also aimed at pressuring authorities to release the 66 detainees. "These are humble people who were presented as terrorists."

It was the latest turn in Bolivia's long-running political crisis, which escalated last week when gunmen ambushed Morales' convoy in what the former president claimed was a government-led assassination attempt. Officials in Arce's government denied this, alleging that police opened fire because Morales' van had barreled through a security checkpoint.

"They've been using any tactic they can, politically, legally, morally and now, physically, to end my life," Morales said.

From there, protests in defense of Morales only intensified. On Friday, Arce's government accused his demonstrators of occupying military barracks in Chapare, a flashpoint for conflict since the U.S.-backed war on drugs in the 1990s. Authorities said that Morales' more radical loyalists seized weapons and held some 200 soldiers hostage Friday.

Morales and his supporters rejected reports of a violent hostage situation, with the leader's Kausachun Coca radio station airing footage that showed protesting union members and soldiers negotiating calmly while munching on coca leaves.

"Please, it's no a take-over of military barracks," Morales said. "They are holding vigils until their economic and political demands are met."

Del Castillo, the minister, said Sunday that the government is, in principle, open to negotiating a resolution to the political crisis with Morales. But he said authorities didn't trust Morales' motives.

"Morales doesn't care about the country, he cares about himself," Del Castillo said. "He's looking for new confrontations."

The crisis stems from a bitter rift at the highest rungs of Bolivia's long-dominant Movement Toward Socialism party, which deepened last month when authorities announced their intention to arrest Morales on charges that he fathered a daughter with a 15-year-old girl in 2016 when he was 56 years old and president.

Morales and his supporters have decried the case as a political witch hunt aimed at blocking his candidacy in the 2025 election.

Arce insists that the current constitution — which permits just two consecutive terms — forbids Morales, who held power from 2006-2019, from running next year, anyway. It was Morales' quest for a fourth term that led to his ouster, which he and his supporters view as a coup.

"It is a betrayal of the people, of the party activists, of the revolution," Morales said of Arce's efforts to undercut him.

In neighboring Argentina, the government of far-right President Javier Milei on Saturday announced it had lodged a complaint accusing Morales of child abuse committed during the former president's monthslong political exile in Argentina, from 2019 to 2020.

At that time, Morales' contested re-election sparked mass protests that prompted him to resign under pressure from the military and flee to Mexico before seeking asylum in Argentina.

Now, years later, the charismatic populist — who continues to evince intense support from the Indigenous population — has seized upon growing public discontent with his chosen successor.

"It's not that I, Evo, want to be president. The people have asked me to return," Morales said. "During my administration there was stability. When there is economic and political stability, there is happiness."

Many in the country have soured on Arce over the collapse of Bolivia's once-prosperous economy built

on cheap dollars and fuel. They look back fondly on the tenure of Morales, credited with lifting millions out of poverty and drastically narrowing Bolivia's wealth divide during the nation's natural gas boom.

"Now with more experience, we are ready to save Bolivia," Morales said. Aware that the economic model that led to Bolivia's remarkable growth had quite literally run out of gas, Morales said he would reverse the nation's economic downturn by having Bolivia join BRICS, a group of emerging economies seeking to counter Western dominance of the world order, and collaborating more closely with China.

The former president, now 65, isn't sure how long his hunger strike will last. But he said he's prepared for the deprivation.

"I do a lot of sports," Morales said. "Today I woke up at 4 a.m. and did 1,015 sit-ups."

## Moldova's pro-Western president wins 2nd term in runoff overshadowed by Russian meddling claims

BY STEPHEN McGRATH and VADIM GHIRDA Associated Press

CHISINAU, Moldova (AP) — Moldova's pro-Western President Maia Sandu has won a second term in a pivotal presidential runoff against a Russia-friendly opponent, in a race that was overshadowed by claims of Russian interference, voter fraud, and intimidation in the European Union candidate country.

With nearly 99% of votes counted in the second round of the presidential election held Sunday, Sandu had 55% of the vote, according to the Central Electoral Commission, or CEC, compared to 45% for Alexandr Stoianoglo, a former prosecutor general who was backed by the pro-Russia Party of Socialists.

The result will be a major relief for the pro-Western government, which strongly backed Sandu's candidacy, and her push for closer Western ties on Moldova's path toward the EU.

"Moldova, you are victorious! Today, dear Moldovans, you have given a lesson in democracy, worthy of being written in history books. Today, you have saved Moldova!" Sandu said after claiming victory after midnight.

She went on to claim that her country's vote had faced an "unprecedented attack" through alleged schemes including dirty money, vote-buying, and electoral interference "by hostile forces from outside the country" and criminal groups.

"You have shown that nothing can stand in the way of the people's power when they choose to speak through their vote," she added.

Speaking before the final vote count, Stoianoglo told the media that "everyone's voice deserves respect" and that he hopes "from now on, we will put an end to the hatred and division imposed on us." It isn't clear if he has publicly commented on his electoral defeat.

When polls closed locally at 9 p.m. (1900 GMT), turnout stood at more than 1.68 million people — about 54% of eligible voters, according to the CEC. Moldova's large diaspora, which cast ballots in record numbers of more than 325,000 voted, heavily in favor of Sandu in the runoff.

In the first round held Oct. 20, Sandu obtained 42% of the ballot but failed to win an outright majority over the second place Stoianoglo. The presidential role carries significant powers in areas such as foreign policy and national security and has a four-year term.

European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen congratulated Sandu on her victory, by writing on X: "It takes a rare kind of strength to overcome the challenges you've faced in this election."

Allegations of vote-buying and Russian interference

Moldova's diaspora played a key role in the presidential vote and in a nationwide referendum held on Oct. 20, when a narrow majority of 50.35% voted to secure Moldova's path toward EU membership. But the results of the ballots including Sunday's vote were overshadowed by allegations of a major vote-buying scheme and voter intimidation.

Instead of winning the overwhelming support that Sandu had hoped, the results in both races exposed Moldova's judiciary as unable to adequately protect the democratic process.

On Sunday, Moldovan police said they had "reasonable evidence" of organized transportation of voters — illegal under the country's electoral code — to polling stations from within the country and from

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overseas, and are "investigating and registering evidence in connection with air transport activities from Russia to Belarus, Azerbaijan and Turkey."

"Such measures are taken to protect the integrity of the electoral process and to ensure that every citizen's vote is cast freely without undue pressure or influence," police said.

Moldova's foreign ministry said on Sunday afternoon that polling stations in Frankfurt, Germany, and Liverpool and Northampton in the U.K. had been targeted by false bomb threats, which "intended only to stop the voting process."

Stanislav Secrieru, the president's national security adviser, wrote on X: "We are seeing massive interference by Russia in our electoral process," which he warned had a "high potential to distort the outcome" of the vote.

Secrieru later added that the national voter record systems were being targeted by "ongoing coordinated cyberattacks" to disrupt links between domestic polling stations and those abroad, and that cybersecurity teams were "working to counter these threats and ensure system continuity."

Moldova's Prime Minister Dorin Recean said that people throughout the country had received "anonymous death threats via phone calls" in what he called "an extreme attack" to scare voters in the former Soviet republic, which has a population of about 2.5 million people.

After casting her ballot in Chisinau, Sandu told reporters: "Thieves want to buy our vote, thieves want to buy our country, but the power of the people is infinitely greater."

Outside a polling station in Romania's capital, Bucharest, 20-year-old medical student Silvana Zestrea said the runoff would be a "definitive step" toward Moldova's future.

"People need to understand that we have to choose a true candidate that will fulfill our expectations," she said. "Because I think even if we are a diaspora now, none of us actually wanted to leave."

Moldovan police expose a scheme allegedly plotted by a convicted oligarch

In the wake of the two October votes, Moldovan law enforcement said that a vote-buying scheme was orchestrated by Ilan Shor, an exiled oligarch who lives in Russia and was convicted in absentia last year of fraud and money laundering. Shor denies any wrongdoing.

Prosecutors say \$39 million was paid to more than 130,000 recipients through an internationally sanctioned Russian bank to voters between September and October. Anti-corruption authorities have conducted hundreds of searches and seized over \$2.7 million (2.5 million euros) in cash as they attempt to crack down.

In one case in Gagauzia, an autonomous part of Moldova where only 5% voted in favor of the EU, a physician was detained after allegedly coercing 25 residents of a home for older adults to vote for a candidate they did not choose. Police said they obtained "conclusive evidence," including financial transfers from the same Russian bank.

On Saturday, at a church in Comrat, the capital of Gagauzia, Father Vasiliu told The Associated Press that he had urged people to go and vote because it's a "civic obligation" and that they do not name any candidates.

"We use the goods the country offers us — light, gas," he said. "Whether we like what the government does or not, we must go and vote. ... The church always prays for peace."

On Thursday, prosecutors raided a political party headquarters and said 12 people were suspected of paying voters to select a candidate in the presidential race. A criminal case was also opened in which 40 state agency employees were suspected of taking electoral bribes.

Moldova's EU future at stake

Cristian Cantir, a Moldovan associate professor of international relations at Oakland University, told AP that whatever the outcome of the second round, it "will not deflate" geopolitical tensions. "On the contrary, I expect geopolitical polarization to be amplified by the campaign for the 2025 legislative elections."

Moldovan law enforcement needs more resources and better-trained staff working at a faster pace to tackle voter fraud, he added, to "create an environment in which anyone tempted to either buy or sell votes knows there will be clear and fast consequences."

Savlina Adasan, a 21-year-old economics student in Bucharest, said she voted for Sandu and cited con-

cerns about corruption and voters uninformed about the two candidates.

"We want a European future for our country," she said, adding that it offers "many opportunities, development for our country ... and I feel like if the other candidate wins, then it means that we are going 10 steps back as a country."

A pro-Western government has been in power in Moldova since 2021, and a parliamentary election will be held in 2025. Moldova watchers warn that next year's vote could be Moscow's main target.

In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Moldova applied to join the EU. It was granted candidate status in June of that year, and in summer 2024, Brussels agreed to start membership negotiations. The sharp westward shift irked Moscow and significantly soured relations with Chisinau.

## Israel investigates leaks that appear to have bolstered Netanyahu as Gaza truce talks stalled

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — An Israeli court on Sunday loosened a gag order on a case investigating leaks of classified information suspected to involve one of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's media advisers. Critics say the leaks were aimed at giving Netanyahu political cover as Gaza cease-fire talks ground to a halt.

Netanyahu has denied any wrongdoing, downplaying the affair and publicly calling for the gag order to be lifted. Netanyahu has said the person in question "never participated in security discussions, was not exposed to or received classified information, and did not take part in secret visits."

On Sunday, an Israeli court allowed the publication of the name of the central suspect in the case, Eli Feldstein, whom Israeli media said was one of Netanyahu's media advisers. Israeli media reports say the case concerns the leak of classified information to two European media outlets, allegedly by Feldstein, who may not have been formally employed and did not have security clearance. The media reported Feldstein joined Netanyahu as an adviser weeks after the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks and previously worked as an adviser to far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir.

The court did not release the names of three other suspects who are also being investigated in connection with the leak.

The leaked documents are said to have formed the basis of a widely discredited article in the London-based Jewish Chronicle — which was later withdrawn — suggesting Hamas planned to spirit hostages out of Gaza through Egypt, and an article in Germany's Bild newspaper that said Hamas was drawing out the talks as a form of psychological warfare on Israel.

Israeli media and other observers expressed skepticism about the articles, which appeared to support Netanyahu's demands in the talks and absolve him of blame for their failure. Netanyahu made no mention of the case in a visit to Israel's northern border with Israel Sunday, according to a video released by his office.

The articles came out as Netanyahu was calling for lasting Israeli control over the Philadelphi corridor along the Gaza-Egypt border, a demand that was first made public over the summer. Hamas rejected the demand and accused Netanyahu of deliberately sabotaging the talks, which have been mediated by the United States, Qatar and Egypt.

The articles also seemed to provide political cover as Netanyahu faced intense criticism from the families of the hostages and much of the Israeli public, who blame him for the failure to reach a deal. The criticism reached a fever pitch in early September, with mass protests and calls for a general strike, after Hamas killed six hostages as Israeli troops closed in on them.

A court document confirmed that an investigation by police, the military and the Shin Bet internal security agency is underway and that a number of suspects have been arrested for questioning. It said the affair poses "a risk to sensitive information and sources" and "harms the achievement of the goals of the war in the Gaza Strip."

The leak led to a scandal at the Jewish Chronicle, where prominent columnists resigned in protest over

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the discredited articles. The London-based newspaper removed the article in question and others by a freelance journalist, saying it was "not satisfied with some of his claims."

The Bild article suggested Hamas was not serious about the negotiations and was using psychological warfare to stoke Israeli divisions. Netanyahu cited it in a meeting with his Cabinet after it was published.

He again defended the article in a statement released over the weekend, saying it had "exposed the Hamas methods of exerting psychological pressure from home and abroad on the Israeli government and public by blaming Israel for the failure of the talks to release the hostages."

Netanyahu has sought to blame Hamas, whose Oct. 7, 2023, attack into Israel ignited the war, for the failure of the talks. Hamas, which is still holding scores of hostages, has said it will only release them in exchange for a lasting cease-fire, a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the release of a large number of Palestinian prisoners.

Hamas says those demands have not changed following last month's killing of its top leader Yahya Sinwar, as the United States, Egypt and Qatar seek to restart the negotiations.

Netanyahu, often described by critics as image-obsessed, is on trial for corruption in three separate cases, two of which involve accusations that he gave favors to media moguls in exchange for positive coverage.

His office has downplayed the latest affair and accused the judiciary of bias, citing the many other leaks over the course of the war. It has also denied the leak in question had any impact on the cease-fire talks.

"The document only helped the effort to return the hostages, and certainly did not harm it," Netanyahu's office said in a statement Saturday, adding that he only learned about the document when it was publicized.

His critics say the allegations are far more serious.

Yoav Limor, writing in the pro-Netanyahu daily Israel Hayom, called it "one of the gravest affairs Israel has ever known."

"The damage it caused extends beyond the realm of national security and gives rise to suspicion that the prime minister's bureau acted to scuttle a hostage deal, contrary to the war's objectives."

## **AP Top 25: Oregon a unanimous No. 1 ahead of 1st CFP rankings, followed by Georgia, Ohio State**

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Oregon was the unanimous choice for No. 1 in The Associated Press college football poll on Sunday, strengthening its bid for the top spot in the College Football Playoff selection committee's first rankings of the season.

The Ducks are No. 1 in the AP Top 25 for the third straight week, and unanimous for the first time, following its 21-point road win against Michigan.

Georgia, which received one No. 1 vote last week, remained No. 2 after overcoming Carson Beck's three interceptions and pulling away late to beat Florida.

Ohio State earned a one-spot promotion to No. 3 with its win at Penn State, the Buckeyes' eighth in a row in the series. No. 4 Miami, which beat Duke, and No. 5 Texas, which was idle, each moved up a spot. Penn State, which had been in the top five in the previous four polls, slipped to No. 6.

The CFP's expansion to 12 teams this season means losses by top teams to other top teams aren't a certain disqualifier in the race for the national championship. The CFP's first rankings of the season will be released Tuesday and updated weekly until the bracket is announced Dec. 8.

Tennessee held its place at No. 7 despite scuffling well into the fourth quarter against three-win Kentucky and winning 28-18.

Indiana jumped five spots to No. 8, its highest ranking since it was No. 7 in 2020 — and best in a non-pandemic season since the Hoosiers were No. 4 during their 1967 Rose Bowl season. The Hoosiers rolled past Michigan State 47-10 on the road to go 9-0 for the first time in program history; every win this season has been by double digits.

No. 9 BYU and No. 10 Notre Dame were idle.

SMU's 48-25 win over Pittsburgh earned the Mustangs a promotion from No. 20 to No. 13. — the biggest

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upward movement this week. They haven't been ranked so high since they were No. 3 on Oct. 1, 1985, two years before the NCAA levied the "death penalty" that shut down the program in 1987 for egregious rules violations. The school also chose not to field a team in 1988.

## Poll points

Clemson and Iowa State, tied for No. 11 last week, took the biggest falls after losing at home. The Tigers plummeted eight spots to No. 19 with their 33-21 loss to Louisville. The Cyclones dropped six spots to No. 17 with their 23-22 loss to Texas Tech. Texas A&M, Kansas State and Pittsburgh each fell five spots.

Army, at No. 18, has its highest ranking since it was No. 10 at midseason in 1960.

Boise State, at No. 12, has its best ranking since it was No. 8 in the 2011 final poll.

Indiana is ahead of Notre Dame for the first time since the final poll in 1979, when the Hoosiers were No. 19 and the Irish were unranked. The schools are separated by 200 miles in Indiana.

## In-and-out

Vanderbilt's 17-7 win at Auburn allowed the Commodores to return to the poll, at No. 24, after a one-week absence.

Louisville, which had been ranked every week in September, is back at No. 25 following its upset at Clemson.

Illinois, 24th last week, saw its seven-week run in the Top 25 end with its 25-17 loss to Minnesota at home.

Missouri, which had been in the poll every week and as high as No. 6, dropped out after an open date. The Tigers hung on at No. 25 last week despite a 34-0 loss to Alabama.

## Conference call

SEC — 8 (Nos. 2, 5, 7, 11, 14, 15, 16, 24).

ACC — 5 (Nos. 4, 13, 19, 23, 25).

Big Ten — 4 (Nos. 1, 3, 6, 8).

Big 12 — 4 (Nos. 9, 17, 21, 22).

AAC — 1 (No. 18).

Mountain West — 1 (No. 12).

Pac-12 — 1 (No. 20).

Independent — 1 (No. 10).

## Ranked vs. ranked

— No. 2 Georgia at No. 16 Mississippi: Bulldogs haven't traveled to Oxford since they lost 45-14 there in 2016. Georgia routed Ole Miss 52-17 at home last year.

— No. 11 Alabama at No. 14 LSU: LSU's 32-31 overtime win over 'Bama prompted a field-storming two years ago, the last time the Crimson Tide visited Death Valley. Both teams are coming off open dates.

## Mud-caked volunteers clean flood debris in a Spanish town as authorities struggle to respond

By JOSEPH WILSON and TERESA MEDRANO Associated Press

CHIVA, Spain. (AP) — Mud cakes her boots, splatters her leggings and the gloves holding her broom. Brown specks freckle her cheeks.

The mire covering Alicia Montero is the signature uniform of the impromptu army of volunteers who, for a third day Friday, shoveled and swept out the muck and debris that filled the small town of Chiva in Valencia after flash floods swept through the region. Spain's deadliest natural disaster in living memory has left at least 205 people dead with untold numbers still missing, and countless lives in tatters.

As police and emergency workers continue the grim search for bodies, authorities appear overwhelmed by the enormity of the disaster, and survivors are relying on the esprit de corps of volunteers who have rushed in to fill the void.

While hundreds of people in cars and on foot have been streaming in from Valencia city to the suburbs to help, Montero and her friends are locals of Chiva, where at least seven people died when Tuesday's

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storm unleashed its fury.

"I never thought this could happen. It moves me to see my town in this shape," Montero tells The Associated Press. "We have always had autumn storms, but nothing like this."

She says she barely avoided the floods when she was driving home Tuesday, and that if she had got on the road five minutes later she believes she would have been swept away like dozens of cars still stranded on the highway that crosses a flood plain between her town and the city of Valencia, about 30 kilometers (18 miles) to the east.

Tractors roar through Chiva's narrow streets, only briefly stopping or slowing to allow people to toss broken doors, shattered furniture and other debris into the beds before churning their way up, away from the epicenter of the destruction.

Residents and volunteers meanwhile shovel and sweep out the layers of mud that coat the floors of the ruined shops and homes, the air abuzz with frenetic energy. People carry buckets of water from a large ornamental pool in a town square to wash away the mire. Three young boys take a break to kick a soccer ball around on the slippery street.

Newcomers are easy to spot because they are clean, but a few steps down Chiva's slippery cobblestones and they are quickly marked with mud.

"How many hours have we been at it? Who knows?" Montero says, while taking a breather from cleaning near a gorge that was filled with a crushing wall of water just days earlier.

"We work, stop to eat a sandwich they give us, and keep on working."

Death by mud

"As much mud in the streets as if the waters had but newly retired from the face of the earth," is Charles Dickens' description of 19th century London in his novel "Bleak House."

In Chiva and other parts of Valencia — Paiporta, Masanasa, Barrio de la Torre, Alfafar — mud has become synonymous with death and destruction. The mire flowed into houses and crawled into cars, smashing some vehicles apart and easily lifting and moving others.

The storm this week unleashed more rain on Chiva in eight hours than the town had experienced in the preceding 20 months. The deluge powered a flood that knocked down two of the four bridges in the town, and made a third unsafe to cross. The waters have now receded and the Civil Guard divers are gone, but police keep searching the gorge, smashed homes and underground garages, concerned that the mud could be hiding more bodies.

"Entire houses have disappeared. We don't know if there were people inside or not," Mayor Amparo Fort told RNE radio.

Citizens fill the void left by authorities

There are so many people coming to help the hardest-hit areas that the authorities have asked them not to drive or walk there, because they are blocking the roads needed by the emergency services.

"It is very important that you return home," said regional President Carlos Mazón, who thanked the volunteers for their goodwill. The regional government has asked volunteers to gather at a large cultural center in the city Saturday morning to organize work crews and transport.

Electricity was at last restored for Chiva's 20,000 residents on Thursday night, and there is still no running water. Local governments have been distributing water, food and basic necessities in towns across Valencia affected by the flash floods, and the Red Cross is using its vast network of aid to help those affected.

In Chiva, the Civil Guard police officers have been searching collapsed houses and the gorge for bodies, and directing traffic. Firefighters are helping ensure buildings were safe. Some 500 soldiers have been deployed in the Valencia region to deliver water and essential goods to those in need, and more are on the way.

But so far no military units are in Chiva, where the wave of solidarity among average citizens underscores the dearth of official help. The vibe is one of townsfolk just getting on with it.

A man weeps inside the Astoria Cinema, which has been transformed into a supply depot. The theater is filled with piles of water bottles and fruit. People make sandwiches. One group of young men arrive and drop off bottled water before picking up shovels and brooms and joining the fray.

Just across a square at the town hall, a sign says everyone is allowed to take two bottles of water a day. Volunteers hand out baguette sandwiches.

Cleaning out the bakery that has been in her family for five generations, María Teresa Sánchez hopes it can survive, but she is not sure if her 100-year-old oven can be salvaged.

“Chiva will take a long time to recover from this,” she said. “But it is true that we have not felt alone. We are helping each other. And at the end that is really what we embrace, that spirit of being a town that is isolated and nobody has come to help, yet see how we are all out in the street? That is the shining light to this story.”

## Takeaways from AP’s report on three hospitals in northern Gaza raided by Israeli troops

By ISABEL DEBRE , JULIA FRANKEL and LEE KEATH Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — One of the most startling aspects of Israel’s campaign against Hamas in Gaza has been the destruction wreaked on the territory’s health sector. Over the past 13 months, the Israeli military has besieged and raided at least 10 hospitals, saying the attacks are a military necessity because Hamas uses the facilities as command and control bases.

The Associated Press examined the raids late last year on three hospitals in northern Gaza — al-Awda, Indonesian and Kamal Adwan hospitals — interviewing more than three dozen patients, witnesses and medical and humanitarian workers as well as Israeli officials.

Israel has presented little or even no evidence of a significant Hamas presence at the three. The AP presented a dossier listing the incidents reported by those it interviewed to the Israeli military spokesman’s office. The office said it could not comment on specific events. All three hospitals have come under fire or been raided again in recent weeks.

Today there are no fully functional hospitals in all of Gaza – just 16 out of 39 hospitals are partly operational, according to the World Health Organization, most offering little more than first aid. Israeli attacks in and around medical sites have killed 765 Palestinians and wounded 990 others, WHO says. That number doesn’t include patients who doctors say died for lack of treatment or oxygen during Israeli sieges, whose number is not known.

Here is some of what the AP found:

### AL-AWDA HOSPITAL:

—The Israeli military has never made any claims of a Hamas presence at al-Awda Hospital. When asked what intelligence led troops to besiege and raid the hospital last year, the military spokesman’s office did not reply.

—As fighting raged around the hospital, a shell blasted its operating room on Nov. 21, killing three doctors and a relative of a patient, according to international charity Doctors Without Borders.

—After troops surrounded the facility, staff said approaching the hospital could be deadly because of Israeli sniper fire. Three hospital administrators said two pregnant women walking to the facility to give birth were shot on Dec. 12 and bled to death in the street. Medics told of recovering their bodies later.

—Mohammed Salha, an administrator at the time who is now the hospital’s acting director, said that the next day he watched gunfire kill his cousin and her 6-year-old son as she brought the boy for treatment of wounds. Another pregnant woman, Shaza al-Shuraim, described walking to the hospital while in labor, accompanied by her mother-in-law and brother-in-law. Even as they waved white flags, a burst of gunfire killed her mother-in-law.

—The hospital’s director, Ahmed Muhanna, was seized by Israeli troops after they stormed the facility. His whereabouts remain unknown. One of Gaza’s leading doctors, orthopedist Adnan al-Bursh, was also detained during the raid and died in Israeli custody in May.

### INDONESIAN HOSPITAL:

—The Indonesian Hospital is the largest hospital north of Gaza City. Before raiding the site, Israel claimed an underground Hamas command-and-control center lay underneath it. It released blurry satellite images



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of what it said was a tunnel entrance in the yard and a rocket launchpad nearby, outside the hospital compound.

—After its raid late last year, the military did not mention or show any evidence of an underground facility or tunnels. Asked if any tunnels were found, the military spokesman's office did not reply.

—The military released images of two vehicles found in the compound — a pickup truck with military vests and a bloodstained car belonging to an abducted Israeli, suggesting he had been brought to the hospital on Oct. 7. Hamas has said it brought wounded hostages to hospitals for treatment.

—Despite continued Israeli suggestions that hospitals are linked to Hamas tunnel networks, the military has shown only a single tunnel from all hospitals it raided — one accessing Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

—The Israeli assault in November and December left Indonesian's top floors charred, its walls pockmarked by shrapnel, its gates strewn with piled-up rubble.

—As Israeli troops surrounded the hospital, shelling hit its second floor on Nov. 20, killing 12 people and wounding dozens, according to staff. Israel said troops responded to "enemy fire" from the hospital but denied using shells.

—During the siege, doctors and medics estimated a fifth of incoming patients died. At least 60 corpses lay in the courtyard. With few supplies, doctors said they performed dozens of amputations on infected limbs that could not be treated.

## KAMAL ADWAN HOSPITAL:

—While Israeli troops surrounded Kamal Adwan in November, at least 10 patients died for lack of water, oxygen and medicine, according to Hossam Abu Safiya, a pediatrician who after the siege became the hospital's director.

—As they stormed the hospital on Dec 12, troops allowed police dogs to attack staff, patients and others, multiple witnesses said. Ahmed Atbail, a 36-year-old sheltering at the hospital, said he saw a dog bite off one man's finger. The Israeli military said it was unaware of the incident.

—Witnesses said the troops ordered boys and men from their mid-teens to 60 to line up outside crouched in the cold, blindfolded and nearly naked for hours of interrogation. After releasing some, it opened fire on them as they walked back into the hospital, wounding five, three witnesses said.

—Three witnesses said an Israeli military bulldozer plowed into buildings in the hospital compound and crushed tents that had been sheltering displaced people. Most had evacuated, but Abu Safiya said he found the bodies of four people who had been crushed.

—Asked about the incident, the Israeli military spokesman's office said bodies were discovered that had been buried previously, unrelated to the military's activities.

—The military said Hamas used the hospital as a command center but produced no evidence. It said soldiers uncovered weapons but showed footage only of a single pistol.

—The military said it arrested dozens of suspected militants, including the hospital director Dr. Ahmed al-Kahlout. The military released footage of him under interrogation saying he was a Hamas agent and that militants were based in the hospital. His colleagues said he spoke under duress.

## North Carolina sees turnout record with more than 4.2M ballots cast at early in-person voting sites

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina had already surpassed its early-voting record set in 2020, but the State Board of Elections announced Sunday that more than 4.2 million voters cast ballots at early in-person voting sites, with turnout in western counties hit by Hurricane Helene outpacing the rest of the state.

Early in-person voting, which ended Saturday, has become increasingly popular in the presidential battleground state over several election cycles. People can simultaneously register to vote and cast ballots at early voting sites.

Four years ago, a record 3.63 million people voted at hundreds of sites in all 100 counties during the early-voting period. This year, the state exceeded that total by Thursday, days before the period ended, the board said.

Including absentee voting, 4,465,548 voters — or 57% of the state's 7.8 million registered voters — cast ballots in the general election as of Sunday morning, officials said, noting that turnout may be slightly higher because of a lag between when ballots are cast and when data is uploaded.

Turnout in the 25 western counties affected by Hurricane Helene was stronger than the rest of the state at 58.9% — about 2% higher than statewide turnout, officials said.

"I am proud of all of our 100 county boards of elections and the thousands of election workers who are making this happen in their communities," state board Executive Director Karen Brinson Bell said in a statement. "And I am especially proud of the workers and voters of Western North Carolina. You are an inspiration to us all."

This year's strong early turnout has come partly in response to a push by state and national Republicans to get people to vote early. Their message marks a sharp contrast to the 2020 election, when former President Donald Trump — without any evidence to back the claim — said mail-in voting was rife with fraud.

In addition to president, North Carolina residents are choosing a new governor, attorney general and several other statewide positions, along with members of the U.S. House and state General Assembly.

## **Mpox cases in Congo may be stabilizing. Experts say more vaccines are needed to stamp out virus**

By MARIA CHENG and RUTH ALONGA Associated Press

GOMA, Congo (AP) — Some health officials say mpox cases in Congo appear to be "stabilizing" — a possible sign that the main epidemic for which the World Health Organization made a global emergency declaration in August might be on the decline.

In recent weeks, Congo has reported about 200 to 300 lab-confirmed mpox cases every week, according to WHO. That's down from nearly 400 cases a week in July. The decline is also apparent in Kamituga, the mining city in the eastern part of Congo where the new, more infectious variant of mpox first emerged.

But the U.N. health agency acknowledged Friday that only 40% to 50% of suspected infections in Congo were being tested — and that the virus is continuing to spread in some parts of the country and elsewhere, including Uganda.

While doctors are encouraged by the drop in infections in some parts of Congo, it's still not clear what kinds of physical contact is driving the outbreak. Health experts are also frustrated by the low number of vaccine doses the central African nation has received — 265,000 — and say that delivering the vaccine to where it's needed in the sprawling country is proving difficult. WHO estimates 50,000 people have been immunized in Congo, which has a population of 110 million.

Scientists also say there needs to be an urgent, broader vaccination effort for the entire continent to halt mpox's spread and avoid further worrisome genetic mutations, like the one detected earlier this year in Congo after months of low-level circulation.

"If we miss this opportunity, the likelihood of another significant outbreak increases substantially," said Dr. Zakary Rhissa, who heads operations in Congo for the charity Alima.

So far this year, there have been roughly 43,000 suspected cases in Africa and more than 1,000 people have died, mostly in Congo.

"We've seen how past outbreaks, such as the one in Nigeria in 2017, can lead to larger global events if not effectively contained," he said. The 2017 epidemic ended up leading to the 2022 global outbreak of mpox that affected more than 100 countries.

Rhissa said the decline in cases in Kamituga — where mpox initially spread among sex workers and miners — is an opening to put more programs in place for vaccination, surveillance and education.

Georgette Hamuli, an 18-year-old sex worker, hadn't been aware of mpox until immunization teams arrived last week in the poor neighborhood where she works in Goma, the biggest city in eastern Congo.

"They told us we're highly exposed to the the risk of infection," she said. "We insist on condoms with our clients, but some refuse ... if they don't want to use a condom, they double the amount they pay."

Hamuli said she and other friends who are sex workers each received 2,000 Congolese francs (\$0.70)

from a charity to get vaccinated against mpox — but it wasn't the money that swayed her.

"The vaccine is also necessary," she said. "I think we're now protected."

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated Congo needs at least 3 million mpox vaccines to stop the virus, and another 7 million for the rest of Africa. So far, WHO and partners have allocated 900,000 vaccines to nine African countries affected by mpox and expect 6 million vaccines to be available by the end of this year.

Mpox epidemics in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda had their origins in Congo, and a number of cases in travelers have also been identified in Sweden, Thailand, Germany, India and Britain.

Fewer than half of the people who are most at risk in Congo have been vaccinated, according to Heather Kerr, Congo director for the the International Rescue Committee.

"We only have a tiny amount of vaccines, and nothing for the kids," she said.

The vaccines for Congo are largely coming from donor countries like the U.S and through UNICEF, which mainly uses taxpayer money to buy the shots.

"We're getting a charitable approach where we only see very small donations of vaccines to Africa," said Dr. Chris Beyrer, director of the Global Health Institute at Duke University. "What we need is a public health approach where we immunize populations at scale."

Drugmaker Bavarian Nordic, which makes the most widely used mpox vaccine, said it would sell shots destined for Africa at the lowest price possible.

The advocacy group Public Citizen published an analysis showing that UNICEF paid \$65 per dose of the Jynneos mpox vaccine made by Bavarian Nordic, far higher than nearly all other vaccines used in public health programs.

Dr. Salim Abdool Karim, an infectious diseases expert at South Africa's University of KwaZulu-Natal, said mpox outbreaks typically peak and disappear quickly because of how the virus spreads. This time, however, he said there are two complicating factors: the virus' transmission via sex and the continued spillover from infected animals.

"We're in new territory with mpox this time," he added. "But we're never going to solve this until we vaccinate most of our people."

## Harris appears on 'Saturday Night Live' as mirror image of Maya Rudolph with election looming

By AAMER MADHANI, COLLEEN LONG, ZEKE MILLER AND WILL WEISSERT Associated Press  
NEW YORK (AP) — Kamala Harris made a surprise appearance on "Saturday Night Live" in the final days before the presidential election, playing herself as the mirror-image double of Maya Rudolph's version of her in the show's cold open.

The first lines the candidate spoke as she sat across from Rudolph, their outfits identical, were drowned out by cheers from the audience.

"It is nice to see you Kamala," Harris told Rudolph with a broad grin she kept throughout the sketch. "And I'm just here to remind you, you got this."

In sync, the two said supporters need to "Keep Kamala and carry-on-ala," declared that they share each other's "belief in the promise of America" and delivered the signature "Live from New York it's Saturday night!"

Harris made the surprise trip to New York before Tuesday's election, taking a brief break from the battleground states where she has been campaigning. With the appearance on NBC's sketch comedy show, the Democratic nominee was hoping to generate buzz and appeal to a nationwide audience.

Harris had left Charlotte, North Carolina and was scheduled to head to Detroit, but once in the air, aides said she would be landing elsewhere. The appearance was only confirmed by Harris' team moments before the live airing began.

The vice president arrived at 30 Rockefeller Plaza in Manhattan, where "SNL" tapes, shortly after 8 p.m., enough time for a quick rehearsal before the show aired live at 11:30 p.m. It was the final "SNL" episode

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before Election Day.

She left immediately after the opening segment and told reporters, "It was fun!" as she boarded her plane for Michigan.

Host John Mulaney and musical guest Chappell Roan shifted the show away from politics. Neither addressed the election.

Some expected Roan, the 26-year-old singer who has become a major star in recent months, to make a political statement in her first appearance on the show. She has previously been harshly critical of the Democratic Party and declined to endorse Harris in her campaign against Republican Donald Trump, although Roan has said several times she plans to vote for her.

Roan sang her hit "Pink Pony Club," on an all-pink set bathed in pink light and made no remarks.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., also made a surprise appearance, in a game-show sketch where the gag was that no one remembered him despite his being Hillary Clinton's running mate in 2016.

"It's been less than eight years. What's my name?," he said, as the contestants stood silent and flummoxed.

Rudolph first played Harris on the show in 2019 and has reprised her role this season, doing a spot-on impression of the vice president, including calling herself "Momala" — a reference to the affectionate nickname that Harris' stepchildren gave her.

Fellow former cast member Andy Samberg appeared again as Harris' husband, second gentleman Doug Emhoff. Standup comic Jim Gaffigan played Harris' running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. Dana Carvey, best known on the show for playing President George H.W. Bush in the late 1980s, stood in for President Joe Biden.

Rudolph's performance has won critical and comedic acclaim, including from Harris herself.

"Maya Rudolph — I mean, she's so good," Harris said last month on ABC's "The View." "She had the whole thing, the suit, the jewelry, everything!"

Jason Miller, a senior adviser to Trump, expressed surprise that Harris would appear on "SNL" given what Miller characterized as her unflattering portrayal on the show. Asked if Trump had been invited to appear, Miller said: "I don't know. Probably not."

Politicians nonetheless have a long history on "SNL," including Trump, who hosted the show in 2015. But appearing so close to Election Day is unusual.

Clinton was running in the 2008 Democratic presidential primary when she appeared next to Amy Poehler, who played her on the show and was known for launching into a trademark, exaggerated cackle. The real Clinton wondered during her appearance, "Do I really laugh like that?"

Harris repeated that line in response to Rudolph's portrayal of her laugh in Saturday's episode.

Clinton returned in 2016, when she was running against Trump, who won that election.

The first sitting president to appear on "SNL" was Republican Gerald Ford, who did so less than a year after the show debuted. Ford appeared in April 1976 on an episode hosted by his press secretary, Ron Nessen, and declared, "Live from New York, it's Saturday Night."

Then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama appeared alongside Poehler impersonating Clinton in 2007. Republican Bob Dole was on the show in November 1996 -- a mere 11 days after losing that year's election to Bill Clinton. Dole consoled Norm Macdonald, who played the Kansas senator.

Then there was Tina Fey's 2008 impression of vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin — and in particular her joke that "I can see Russia from my house." It was so good that Fey won an Emmy and Palin herself appeared on the show that October, in the weeks before the election.

## Iran's help has transformed Yemen's Houthi rebels into a potent military force, UN experts say

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Yemen's Houthi rebels have been transformed from a local armed group with limited capabilities to a powerful military organization with support from Iran, Iraqi armed groups, Lebanon's Hezbollah militants and others, U.N. experts said in a new report.

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The Iranian-backed Houthis have exploited the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and worked to enhance their status in Iran's self-described "Axis of Resistance" to gain popularity in the region and beyond, the experts monitoring sanctions against the Houthis said in the 537-page report to the U.N. Security Council.

To support Iranian-backed Hamas militants, whose surprise attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, sparked the war in Gaza, the Houthis have been attacking vessels in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, disrupting global shipping in a key geopolitical area.

Despite Houthi claims that they would target ships linked to Israel, the panel said its investigations revealed the rebels have been targeting vessels indiscriminately.

Its analysis of data from the International Maritime Organization, the U.S. and the United Kingdom revealed that at least 134 attacks were carried out from Houthi-controlled areas against merchant and commercial vessels and U.S. and U.K. warships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden between Nov. 15, 2023, and July 31, 2024.

"The group's shift to actions at sea increased their influence in the region," the U.N. experts said. "Such a scale of attacks, using weapon systems on civilian vessels, had never occurred since the Second World War."

In their attacks, the experts said, the Houthis used a new and previously undisclosed ballistic missile, the Hatem-2.

The five-member U.N. panel includes experts on arms, finance, regional affairs, international humanitarian law and armed groups. The experts hail from India, Egypt, Switzerland, Belgium and Cabo Verde. Confidential sources told the panel that the Houthis are coordinating operations with al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula and strengthening ties to the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab militant group in Somalia.

The Houthis have been engaged in a civil war with Yemen's internationally recognized government, backed by a Saudi-led coalition, since 2014, when they took control of the capital Sanaa and most of the north. Hopes for peace talks to end the war vanished after the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks.

The U.N. experts said the Yemen conflict, which started as an internal fight and expanded into a regional confrontation, "has now escalated into a major international crisis."

According to the experts, the number of Houthi fighters is estimated at 350,000 now, compared with 220,000 in 2022 and 30,000 in 2015.

"The panel observes the transformation of the Houthis from a localized armed group with limited capabilities to a powerful military organization, extending their operational capabilities well beyond the territories under their control," the report said.

The experts said the transformation has been possible due to the transfer of military materiel and training provided by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force, Hezbollah and Iraqi specialists and technicians.

Military experts, Yemeni officials and even officials close to the Houthis indicated that the rebel group couldn't produce complex weapons systems such as ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, surveillance and attack drones, portable air defense systems, and thermal sights, which they have used without foreign support, the U.N. experts said.

"The scale, nature and extent of transfers of diverse military materiel and technology provided to the Houthis from external sources, including financial support and training of its combatants, is unprecedented," the experts said.

The panel said it observed similarities between multiple military items used by the Houthis and those produced and operated by Iran or its allies in the Axis of Resistance, which includes Hezbollah and Hamas and armed groups in Iraq and Syria.

It said joint operations centers have been set up in Iraq and Lebanon with Houthi representatives "aimed at coordinating joint military actions of the Axis of Resistance."

Inside Yemen, the panel said the Houthis have been intensifying military operations against the government. "The internal military situation is fragile, and any internal or external trigger could lead to the resumption of military confrontations," it said.

The Houthis also have been recruiting large numbers of Yemeni youths and children as well as exploit-

ing Ethiopian migrants, forcing them to join the fight against the government and engage in trafficking narcotics, it said.

"Exploiting high illiteracy rates, particularly in tribal areas, they have reportedly mobilized boys as young as 10 or 11, often despite parental opposition," they said. "Recruitment sermons and weekly classes on jihad are reportedly delivered in schools."

Child recruitment reportedly increased after the war in Gaza started and the U.S. and U.K. airstrikes in Yemen, the experts said. Yemen's government said it received 3,298 reports of child recruitment in the first half of 2024, with youngsters reportedly used as human shields, spies and in combat — and for planting landmines and explosives, reconnaissance and as cooks.

## Mexico City's floating gardens have fed people for hundreds of years. Now they're threatened

By MARIANA MARTÍNEZ BARBA and JULIÁN TREJO BAX Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Cassandra Garduño squinted in the sunlight, her pink boots smudged by dirt as she gazed out over her family's chinampa — one of the islands first built up by the Aztecs with fertile mud from the bottom of a lake that, later drained, would one day become Mexico City.

Food from these islands has fed people for hundreds of years, but the chinampas are under threat from urbanization. The produce grown here doesn't fetch much money, and many families are abandoning the ancient practice to rent out or sell their land for more lucrative uses such as soccer fields.

"People don't want to farm anymore," said Garduño. "They don't see it as a necessity, they don't want to produce, and people don't want to buy the products."

Some of those remaining, like Garduño, are banding together to preserve and promote the traditional use of the chinampas.

"None of this can exist without human hands, the hands of those who worked here and created the chinampa a thousand years ago," she said on a recent morning as the smell of celery growing nearby filled the air.

The gardens crisscrossed by canals in the capital's southern Xochimilco borough are built up from layers of dredged soil, held together by tall, thin ahuejotes — a kind of willow tree — planted around their perimeter. Xochimilco has more than 2,500 acres of protected land owned by generations of local chinamperos, as those who farm the islands are known.

Garduño's earliest memories of her family's chinampa came from peering through her grandparents' window at the plot of land and watching canoes weave in and out of the canals. Even then, she saw how the chinampas were deteriorating under pressure from urbanization and as some farmers began to drop the practice.

When her grandfather died in 2010 and her uncles didn't want to carry on, Garduño took it upon herself to learn and conserve generations of farming. Her neighbors and relatives were skeptical at first, but she bought land for her own chinampa from a friend's uncle in 2020 and now grows an assortment of produce, including sunflowers, eggplant, and the Mexican marigold "cempasuchil."

Now the 32-year-old Garduño is one of the growing collective called Chinampa Refuge, started by the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and she and other farmers encourage chinamperos to preserve their land. They follow ancient growing techniques but are trying new commercial approaches to compete with cheaper produce grown on massive farms elsewhere in Mexico. That includes a special tag — Etiqueta Chinampera — that tells buyers the produce came from a chinampa, and may tout things like water quality or the chinampa's status as a biodiversity refuge.

"Change comes with educating the new generations," said Garduño. "Talking about the origins and efforts to conserve and why it's important to do it."

Luis Zambrano, an ecologist from the National Autonomous University of Mexico who has worked in Xochimilco for decades, said the fields are largely self-sustaining. Nourished by the lake, they can produce three to five crops of vegetables a year without the need of chemicals or irrigation, he said.

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Moreover, the ecosystem of Xochimilco benefits the sprawling city. Many different species of birds and fish thrive there, and the extensive canals help reduce the city's overall temperature, he said.

But now, on weekends, it's common to see more soccer players boating to islands in their jerseys and cleats than farmers tending their crops. The soccer fields stretch for miles along the canals after what Zambrano called "a massive increase" over the past two to three years.

In Xochimilco, many people are reluctant to talk about transforming their chinampas to soccer fields. One landowner who declined to be identified for fear of legal or community backlash said keeping the chinampas productive required more work and financial investment and yielded less revenue. Instead, she has established multiple businesses on her land — a soccer field for weekend games, a food stand and kayaking tours for foreign visitors.

"If you do well (farming) you could earn \$5,000 to \$10,000 (100,000 to 200,000 pesos) a year," Garduño said. "In the tourist area you could have that within a couple of weekends."

But converting the agricultural fields carries ecological impact. While traditional farming methods avoid insecticides and fertilizers, the soccer fields are another story.

"It doesn't look that detrimental because there's no construction," said Zambrano. But "it's just as damaging because the amount of chemicals that are used, the amount of pollution that is generated is very, very large."

The chinampas are among the significant features that led Mexico City's historic center and Xochimilco to be recognized as a world heritage site by UNESCO. But any protective measures are up to federal, state and local authorities. Carlos Vasquez, director of the Natural Protected Areas under Mexico City's Environmental Department, said they are working on proposals to address the soccer fields.

"Many are counter to the conservation of the ecosystems," he said. "We're looking to regulate these activities."

After a long day's work out in the sun, Garduño and some neighboring farmers congregate under Garduño's makeshift hut for a feast of chicken and tortillas. They catch up on their tasks and outline what's left to do.

Juan Ávalos, 63, and his brother Salvador Gonzalez Ávalos, 55, have been working on chinampas all their lives. Their family has several plots in Xochimilco's San Gregorio neighborhood. A year ago, after some convincing by Garduño, the brothers joined Chinampa Refuge to adopt a more holistic approach to their farming.

Salvador said the approach is a continuous reminder of his family's legacy in maintaining the ancient practices — something they want to pass on to their grandchildren.

"That's something we need to work on as grandparents," he said. "That they integrate themselves with a taste for this earth."

## Federal Reserve is set to cut rates again while facing a hazy post-election outlook

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — No one knows how Tuesday's presidential election will turn out, but the Federal Reserve's move two days later is much easier to predict: With inflation continuing to cool, the Fed is set to cut interest rates for a second time this year.

The presidential contest might still be unresolved when the Fed ends its two-day meeting Thursday afternoon, yet that uncertainty would have no effect on its decision to further reduce its benchmark rate. The Fed's future actions, though, will become more unsettled once a new president and Congress take office in January, particularly if Donald Trump were to win the White House again.

Trump's proposals to impose high tariffs on all imports and launch mass deportations of unauthorized immigrants and his threat to intrude on the Fed's normally independent rate decisions could send inflation surging, economists have said. Higher inflation would, in turn, compel the Fed to slow or stop its rate cuts.

On Thursday, the Fed's policymakers, led by Chair Jerome Powell, are on track to cut their benchmark

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rate by a quarter-point, to about 4.6%, after having implemented a half-point reduction in September. Economists expect another quarter-point rate cut in December and possibly additional such moves next year. Over time, rate cuts tend to lower the costs of borrowing for consumers and businesses.

The Fed is reducing its rate for a different reason than it usually does: It often cuts rates to boost a sluggish economy and a weak job market by encouraging more borrowing and spending. But the economy is growing briskly, and the unemployment rate is a low 4.1%, the government reported Friday, even with hurricanes and a strike at Boeing having sharply depressed net job growth last month.

Instead, the central bank is lowering rates as part of what Powell has called "a recalibration" to a lower-inflation environment. When inflation spiked to a four-decade high of 9.1% in June 2022, the Fed proceeded to raise rates 11 times — ultimately sending its key rate to about 5.3%, also the highest in four decades.

But in September, year-over-year inflation dropped to 2.4%, barely above the Fed's 2% target and equal to its level in 2018. With inflation having fallen so far, Powell and other Fed officials have said they think high borrowing rates are no longer necessary. High borrowing rates typically restrict growth, particularly in interest-rate-sensitive sectors such as housing and auto sales.

"The restriction was in place because inflation was elevated," said Claudia Sahm, chief economist at New Century Advisors and a former Fed economist. "Inflation is no longer elevated. The reason for the restriction is gone."

Fed officials have suggested that their rate cuts would be gradual. But nearly all of them have expressed support for some further reductions.

"For me, the central question is how much and how fast to reduce the target for the (Fed's key) rate, which I believe is currently set at a restrictive level," Christopher Waller, an influential member of the Fed's Board of Directors, said in a speech last month.

Jonathan Pingle, an economist at Swiss bank UBS, said that Waller's phrasing reflected "unusual confidence and conviction that rates were headed lower."

Next year, the Fed will likely start to wrestle with the question of just how low their benchmark rate should go. Eventually, they may want to set it at a level that neither restricts nor stimulates growth — "neutral" in Fed parlance.

Powell and other Fed officials acknowledge that they don't know exactly where the neutral rate is. In September, the Fed's rate-setting committee estimated that it was 2.9%. Most economists think it's closer to 3% to 3.5%.

The Fed chair said the officials have to assess where neutral is by how the economy responds to rate cuts. For now, most officials are confident that at 4.9%, the Fed's current rate is far above neutral.

Some economists argue, though, that with the economy looking healthy even with high borrowing rates, the Fed doesn't need to ease credit much, if at all. The idea is that they may already be close to the level of interest rates that neither slows nor stimulates the economy.

"If the unemployment rate stays in the low 4's and the economy is still going to grow at 3%, does it matter that the (Fed's) rate is 4.75% to 5%?" said Joe LaVorgna, chief economist at SMBC Nikko Securities, asked. "Why are they cutting now?"

With the Fed's latest meeting coming right after Election Day, Powell will likely field questions at his news conference Thursday about the outcome of the presidential race and how it might affect the economy and inflation. He can be expected to reiterate that the Fed's decisions aren't affected by politics at all.

During Trump's presidency, he imposed tariffs on washing machines, solar panels, steel and a range of goods from China, which President Joe Biden maintained. Though studies show that washing machine prices rose as a result, overall inflation did not rise much.

But Trump is now proposing significantly broader tariffs — essentially, import taxes — that would raise the prices of about 10 times as many goods from overseas.

Many mainstream economists are alarmed by Trump's latest proposed tariffs, which they say would almost certainly reignite inflation. A report by the Peterson Institute for International Economics concluded that Trump's main tariff proposals would make inflation 2 percentage points higher next year than it otherwise



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would have been.

The Fed could be more likely to raise rates in response to tariffs this time, according to economists at Pantheon Macroeconomics, "given that Trump is threatening much bigger increases in tariffs."

"Accordingly," they wrote, "we will scale back the reduction in the funds rate in our 2025 forecasts if Trump wins."

## When polls close in battleground states on Election Day

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The results on Election Day will come down to seven states: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump have visited them the most. Together, these states are likely to deliver the Electoral College votes needed for the winning candidate to get a majority of 270.

It will be a game of hopscotch to keep up with key times in each of the states, which stretch across four different time zones.

A look at the Election Day timeline across the seven, with all listings in Eastern Standard Time:

Arizona

Polls open at 8 a.m. in Arizona, which Joe Biden carried in 2020 by 0.3%. He was only the second Democratic presidential candidate to do so in nearly 70 years. Polls will close at 9 p.m.

Arizona does not release votes until all precincts have reported or one hour after all polls are closed, whichever is first.

In 2020, The Associated Press first reported Arizona results at 10:02 p.m. ET on Nov. 3, Election Day, and declared Biden the winner at 2:51 a.m. ET on Nov. 4.

Georgia

Polls open at 7 a.m. in Georgia, which played a key role in 2020. Biden was the first Democrat in a White House race to carry the state since Bill Clinton in 1992, defeating Trump by less than one-quarter of a percentage point, a margin of 11,779 votes.

Since then, Trump's efforts to overturn those results have been at the heart of a criminal case in Fulton County. It is on hold while his legal team pursues a pretrial appeal to have District Attorney Fani Willis removed from the case and the indictment tossed. The Georgia Court of Appeals will hear those arguments after the election.

Georgia's polls close at 7 p.m.

In 2020, the AP first reported Georgia results at 7:20 p.m. ET on Nov. 3 and declared Biden the state's winner at 7:58 p.m. ET on Nov. 19, more than two weeks after Election Day.

Michigan

Polls open at 7 a.m. ET in Michigan, one of the "blue wall" states that went narrowly for Trump in 2016 after almost 30 years of voting for Democratic candidates. Biden won it back four years later. His margin was about 154,000 votes out of more than 5.5 million votes.

Michigan covers two time zones, but polls in most of the state close at 8 p.m. ET, with the rest at 9 p.m. ET.

In 2020, the AP first reported Michigan results at 8:08 p.m. ET on Nov. 3 and declared Biden the winner at 5:58 p.m. ET on Nov. 4.

Nevada

Polls open at 10 a.m. ET in Nevada, the smallest electoral vote prize of the battlegrounds. But it has one of the best track records as a presidential bellwether. The candidate who won Nevada has gone on to win the White House in 27 of the past 30 presidential elections.

Polls close at 10 p.m. ET. The state doesn't release results until the last person in line has voted, so there's usually been a wait between poll close and the first results.

In 2020, the AP first reported Nevada results at 11:41 p.m. ET on Nov. 3 and declared Biden the winner

at 12:13 p.m. ET on Nov. 7.

North Carolina

Polls open at 6:30 a.m. ET in North Carolina, which has been carried by Democrats only two times in presidential elections since 1968. But the state has stayed competitive for both major parties. Trump's 2020 victory in North Carolina, by about 1 percentage point, was his smallest winning margin in any state.

Polls close at 7:30 p.m. ET.

In 2020, the AP first reported results at 7:42 p.m. ET on Nov. 3 and declared Trump the winner at 3:49 p.m. ET on Nov. 13.

Pennsylvania

Polls open at 7 a.m. ET in Pennsylvania, another "blue wall" state. Biden's 2020 margin in Pennsylvania was about 80,000 votes out of more than 6.9 million votes. This year, it's the spot where Harris and Trump met for the first time at their sole debate in September in Philadelphia.

Polls close at 8 p.m. ET in a state with more electoral votes, 19, than any of the battlegrounds.

In 2020, the AP first reported results at 8:09 p.m. ET on Nov. 3 and declared Biden the winner at 11:25 a.m. ET on Nov. 7.

Wisconsin

Polls open at 8 a.m. ET in Wisconsin, the third "blue wall" state in this group. Wisconsin is no stranger to close elections; the margin of victory in the state was less than 1 percentage point in 2020, 2016, 2004 and 2000.

Polls close at 9 p.m. ET.

In 2020, the AP first reported Wisconsin results at 9:07 p.m. ET on Nov. 3 and declared Biden the winner at 2:16 p.m. ET on Nov. 4.

## Crashing waves in a hilltop village, a night of terror from Spain's floods

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

CHIVA, Spain (AP) — Irene Cuevas will never forget the sound of the waves crashing below her apartment's balcony.

If only there had been a flash of lightning in the darkness to let her glimpse what sounded like a roaring sea.

"It was a constant fear because we didn't have light to see by," Cuevas told The Associated Press. "We could hear the roar of the waves, which was unbelievable. The street was completely flooded and we were hoping for some lightning so that we could at least see what situation we were in. It was all waves, currents everywhere.

"We have that sound of the waves burned in our memory."

The devastating flash floods in eastern Spain this week that claimed over 200 lives and destroyed countless homes and livelihoods also seared a scar of terror in many survivors

Cuevas, a 48-year-old embryologist, is a resident of Chiva, a village perched on a hill about 30 kilometers (18 miles) from Valencia city, whose southern outskirts were likewise ravaged by the floods on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Chiva got more rain in eight hours than the town had experienced in the preceding 20 months. Cuevas was at home and saw how the gorge dividing her village suddenly overflowed with rushing water.

The tsunami-like wall of water claimed at least seven lives in Chiva, home to some 16,000 people, and the search goes on for more missing, either in collapsed houses or in the gorge.

"It was terrifying because that night it began to rain and the water began to overflow the gorge and started carrying away cars and trees," Cuevas said. "The underpasses of the bridges started to clog with debris, and the water started to flow through the entire village."

The gorge, called the "Barranco de Chiva," is normally dry, but it is fed into by several other runoff gorges

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and channels water to vineyards below.

The huge storm sent a blast of water that knocked down two of the four bridges crossing the gorge, while a third was left unsafe to cross. The sides of the gorge were eaten out, bringing down a sidewalk and several houses and tearing holes in others.

Cuevas, who moved to Chiva when she got married 18 years ago, lives one street over from the buildings bordering the gorge. She and other people living in her apartment building helped several neighbors from the building in front when they feared it would come down. The neighbors said their building trembled from the force of the water.

Cuevas and her fellow residents helped tie ropes or cords across the street so that the people on the other side could hang on as they waded through the rushing water. They then made it up the stairs and some 20 people spent a sleepless night in her second-floor apartment and the apartment above.

Amparo Cerda, Cuevas' upstairs neighbor, described herself as traumatized by her memories of the fury of the waves and the sound of "doors exploding" from the water's force.

It was as if their building had become a ship lost in a storm at sea in the pitch black night.

"There were waves in the gorge, waves in the street below where the water came in the other direction and ran into the water coming from the gorge," Cuevas said. "So right here, at this corner, just where the houses fell down, the two currents hit and produced terrifying waves."

"When the daylight came we could see the damage," Cuevas said. "We saw all the houses that had disappeared and there was a feeling of impotence because you didn't know where to start looking for people."

Five days have passed since that night of terror, and in Chiva and other localities, such as Paiporta, Barrio de la Torre, and Massanassa, citizens and volunteers are pitching in to clean up the mountains of debris and the thick brown layers of mud left by the water.

Five thousand more soldiers are arriving in the area this weekend to help the 2,500 already deployed. Thousands of police officers have also been sent in.

But for now it is the people themselves still leading the way.

"Now we need to clean up and try to get back to normal because there are more rains forecast for the weekend, and that won't help," Cuevas said. "We are trying to get everything ready for when the rains comes back. Because they will."

## Today in History: November 4, Obama wins presidency in historic election

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Nov. 4, the 309th day of 2024. There are 57 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 4, 2008, Democratic Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois was elected the first Black president of the United States, defeating the Republican candidate, Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Also on this date:

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; for some of the hostages, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan won election to the White House for the first time as he trounced President Jimmy Carter.

In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, California; attending were President George H.W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard Nixon — the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.

In 1995, Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel, was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a peace rally.

In 2007, King Tutankhamen's face was unveiled for the first time to the public more than 3,000 years

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after the pharaoh was buried in his Egyptian tomb.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Loretta Swit is 87. Blues musician Delbert McClinton is 84. Former first lady Laura Bush is 78. Author Charles Frazier is 74. Actor Ralph Macchio is 63. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst is 63. Actor Matthew McConaughey is 55. TV personality Bethenny Frankel is 54. Football Hall of Famer Orlando Pace is 49. Football Hall of Famer Devin Hester is 42.