

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 1 of 82

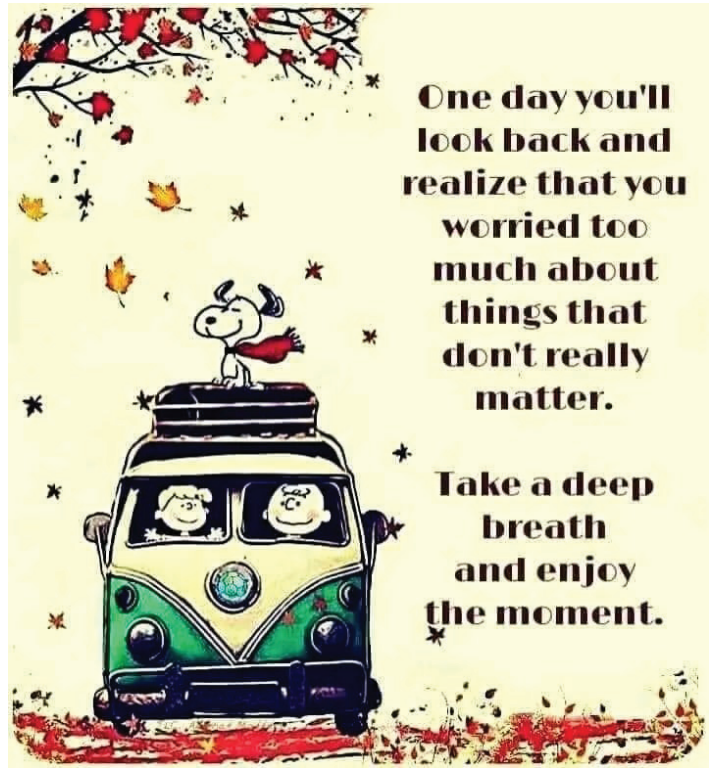
- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [1 Queen of Hearts](#)
- [2- Frosty Clue](#)
- [2- Pennington County Fatal Crash](#)
- [3- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [5- School Board Agenda](#)
- [6- SD News Watch: Western South Dakota voters share perspectives](#)
- [8- Groton Area advances to SoDak16](#)
- [12- Class A SoDak16 Pairings](#)
- [13- Notice of Sale](#)
- [14- American Legion Turkey Party Ad](#)
- [15- SD SearchLight: Statewide voter turnout in 2024 returns to presidential year average for South Dakota](#)
- [16- SD SearchLight: South Dakota breaks record for number of women elected to the state Legislature](#)
- [19- SD SearchLight: South Dakota Senate sees largest freshman class elected since 1990](#)
- [21- SD SearchLight: Fed cuts interest rates heading into end of Biden White House and looking to Trump's 2nd term](#)
- [23- SD SearchLight: Estimated 2M gallons of wastewater discharged in Sioux City, some reached Missouri River](#)
- [24- SD SearchLight: Immigration groups brace for a second Trump administration](#)
- [26- SD SearchLight: Biden promises a 'peaceful and orderly transition' to new Trump administration](#)
- [28- Weather Pages](#)
- [32- Daily Devotional](#)
- [33- Subscription Form](#)
- [34- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [35- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [36- News from the Associated Press](#)

## Queen of Hearts

The Queen of Hearts drawing was held Thursday. Ticket sales were \$785 with the jackpot at \$5,243. Katie McKiver's name was drawn and she pick the number one card which was the ace of clubs. She won the consolation prize of \$78.

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

© 2024 Groton Daily Independent



## Friday, Nov. 8

Senior Menu: Beef and broccoli stir fry, rice, cauliflower, five cup salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, locally grown roasted squash.

## Saturday, Nov. 9

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

## Sunday, Nov. 10

Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS), 3:16 p.m., GHS Conference Room

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

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

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:30 a.m., and at Groton, 10:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School Christmas Practice, 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

United Methodist Fall Dinner, 11 a.m.

## FROSTY CLUE

I/My.....

8. Participated in high school sports



### Pennington County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: Interstate 90, mile marker 53, two miles west of Rapid City, SD

When: 6:29 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024

Driver 1: 44-year-old male from Rapid City, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2007 Mazda 3

Seatbelt Used: Yes

Driver 2: 56-year-old male from Rapid City, SD, serious, life-threatening injuries

Vehicle 2: 2001 Ford F350

Seatbelt Used: Yes

Pennington County, S.D.- One person died and another was seriously injured Wednesday evening in a two-vehicle crash near Rapid City, SD.

The names of the persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2007 Mazda 3 was traveling eastbound in the westbound lanes of Interstate 90 near mile marker 53. The driver of a 2001 Ford F350 was traveling westbound in the same lane when the Mazda collided with the Ford head-on.

The driver of the Mazda died at the scene. The driver of the Ford sustained serious, life-threatening injuries.

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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 3 of 82

# 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.**

## Australia's Social Media Ban

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced legislation yesterday to ban social media for children under 16. The proposed law, set to be introduced in Parliament in the coming weeks, would require platforms, including Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and X, to bar access to children and teenage users. There are no exceptions for parental consent.

If approved, companies would have 12 months to implement blocking measures or face potential fines. Albanese said the platforms would bear responsibility, with no penalties for users, arguing the ban is necessary due to social media's harmful effects on young people's mental health. Critics contend an all-out ban will not work and argue that social media is a valuable tool for social support.

About 95% of teens use some kind of social media, spending an average of 4.8 hours daily—41% of high-use teens rate their mental health as poor or very poor. The US Surgeon General has called for tobacco-style warning labels on social media platforms.

## Federal Reserve Cuts Rates

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell announced a quarter-percentage-point cut in benchmark rates yesterday, bringing the range to between 4.5% and 4.75%. A further cut is potentially slated for the committee's final meeting of the year in December.

The meeting—which the Fed pushed back a day to create space from Election Day—comes amid cooling inflation and buoyant markets. Officials are looking to cut rates enough to slow recent rises in the unemployment rate, but not so quickly that inflation stops cooling. Since the bank's September rate cut, borrowing costs for mortgages and car loans have gone up—contrary to the Fed's goal. This is potentially due to optimistic market outlooks leading to bond sell-offs, which drive up Treasury yields—a key factor in mortgage rates.

Analysts and officials are also debating the potential impact of Trump's proposed tariffs on inflation, including a universal tariff of at least 10% on all imported goods. Watch an overview of the Federal Reserve here.

## FDA Drops Cold Medicines

The Food and Drug Administration proposed removing an ingredient in common over-the-counter cold medicines from store shelves yesterday.

Oral phenylephrine is found in hundreds of cold medicines, including Benadryl, NyQuil, Mucinex, and Sudafed. Since coming to market in the 1990s, it was thought to relieve congestion by reducing blood vessel swelling in nasal passages. Last year, however, an FDA advisory panel found the ingredient, while safe, is ineffective when administered orally. The medicines are widely popular, generating nearly \$1.8B in sales for CVS and Walgreens in 2022. More than 50% of US households used an oral decongestant over the past year.

The proposal now goes to public comment before companies may be forced to reformulate products. In the meantime, consumers can check to see if their cold medicines include other active ingredients (with or without phenylephrine). They may also consider nasal spray versions of phenylephrine, which are still considered effective.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 4 of 82

## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

2024 MLS Cup Playoffs Round One wraps this weekend; and National Women's Soccer League quarterfinals kick off tonight.

Warner Bros. Discovery streamer Max adds 7.2 million subscribers in Q3, bringing their worldwide total to 110.5 million.

"Moana 2" set to bring in at least \$125M in Thanksgiving Day opening weekend, which would be an all-time debut record for the holiday weekend.

New "Star Wars" film trilogy in the works from Lucasfilm and Disney; live-action films will be written and produced by "X-Men" writer and producer Simon Kinberg.

Three charged in connection with the Oct. 16 death of One Direction's Liam Payne.

## Science & Technology

Tech giant Palantir to partner with AI startup Anthropic, bringing Claude chatbot to US military, intelligence agencies.

Brain study reveals unique activity in people with schizophrenia when introduced to contradictory information; signals could act as a diagnostic tool.

Caterpillar fungus may help slow tumor development, researchers show; molecule cordycepin, used in Chinese medicine for centuries, disrupts cell signals that promote cancer growth.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed (S&P 500 +0.7%, Dow -0.0%, Nasdaq +1.5%); S&P 500, Nasdaq close at records in postelection rally.

AppLovin shares close up 46% after the online gaming and advertising company reports better-than-expected earnings and revenue.

Airbnb shares fall close to 5% in after-hours trading after company narrowly beats revenue estimates, underperforms analyst expectations.

Pinterest shares drop nearly 13% in after-hours trading after weak Q4 sales forecast.

Japanese automaker Nissan to cut 9,000 jobs worldwide—roughly 6% of around 133,000 total jobs—and halve CEO pay after reporting drops in quarterly operating profit and sales.

Caroline Ellison, former CEO of cryptocurrency hedge fund Alameda Research, begins two-year prison sentence.

## Politics & World Affairs

Control of US House still to be determined, with 25 races uncalled; tally as of this writing is 211-199 in favor of Republicans.

David McCormick (R) beats incumbent Sen. Bob Casey (D) in Pennsylvania, giving Republicans 53 Senate seats.

Susie Wiles to become White House's first female chief of staff.

More than 10,000 people forced to evacuate after fire near Los Angeles burns for second day; Mountain Fire has burned over 20,400 acres and is 0% contained as of this writing.

Canada orders TikTok's offices to shut down in the country over security risks; ban doesn't affect in-country access to the video-sharing app.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 5 of 82

## GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

### School Board Meeting

November 12, 2024 – 7:00 AM – GHS Conference Room

#### AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

#### POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of October 15, 2024 school board meetings as drafted.
2. Approval of October 2024 District bills for payment.
3. Approval of October 2024 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
4. Approval of October 2024 School Transportation Report.
5. Approval of October 2024 School Lunch Report.

#### OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Second reading and adoption of recommended policy changes JFB Education of Homeless Children (amendment), JFB-R(1) Education of Homeless Children – Dispute Resolution Process (new), JFB-E(1) Education of Homeless Children – Dispute Resolution Appeal to the Superintendent (new), JFB-E(2) Education of Homeless Children – Dispute Resolution Appeal to the School Board (new)
3. Continued discussion regarding football field complex.
4. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review FY2024 District Audit Report
2. First reading of recommended policy changes BB School Board Legal Status (Amendment), BBB School Board Elections (Amendment), GCDB/GDDDB Background Checks (Amendment), GCDB-E(2) Privacy Act Statement (Amendment), AFF Complaint Policy for Federal Programs (Delete), AC Nondiscrimination in Federal Programs (Amendment), GBEC Use of Alcohol, Drugs, and Controlled Substances, IGCD Advanced Placement and Dual Credit Courses, DK Payment Procedures, DN School Properties Disposal Procedure, IIA Instructional Material
3. First Reading of Recommended Job Descriptions: Elementary Principal, Food Service Director, Transportation Director
4. Executive Session pursuant SDCL1-25-2(1).
5. Approve hiring Stacey Wellnitz, Special Education Paraprofessional.
6. Approve hiring Troy Zoellner as Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2024-2025 season.
7. Approve hiring Chris Ehresmann as JH Wrestling Coach for the 2024-2025 season.
8. Approval of volunteer coaches for winter sports:
  - a. Wrestling: Teagan Block, Jeremy Krueger
  - b. Boys Basketball: Ryan Tracy
  - c. Girls Basketball: Justin Hanson

#### ADJOURN



## Western South Dakota voters share perspectives

**Bart Pfankuch**  
**South Dakota News Watch**

NEW UNDERWOOD, S.D. — Jennifer Galindo was one of the first voters to show up at the New Underwood Community Center when the eastern Pennington County polling place opened at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, and she was happy to have her part of the 2024 general election over with.

Galindo, who makes jewelry in Rapid City, said the election was of high importance but that the campaign for president in particular was marked by “childish” behavior from the candidates.

“When I was a kid growing up ... it didn't seem like it was so childish, like it's more about them than it is politics,” said Galindo, 51, a resident of New Underwood.

Galindo said she is a Republican who voted for Donald Trump for president, mainly due to the economy and rising prices that have hurt her and her children. She said the economy is so tight her 25-year-old son cannot afford his own apartment.

Galindo said she also voted in favor of legalizing recreational marijuana. “I would actually rather that my kids smoked rather than drank alcohol,” she said, adding that she also voted in favor of establishing a woman’s right to an abortion in South Dakota. “I feel it’s a woman’s individual business and that it’s none of my business,” she said.

### **Inflation and prices drew Trump support**

Just before the polls opened, about 20 voters huddled in the lobby of the community center and a few waited in a line outside in temperatures that hovered around 40 degrees. A poll worker said that more than 60 people had voted by 7:30 a.m., which she said was well above the pace recorded in the last general election in 2020.

Caleb Thomas, 22, a carpenter from New Underwood, said he voted for Trump because he's seeking a return to more conservative values in America.

“It’s the most important election I’ve voted in so far because we're kind of left with either what we've had the last four years, inflation, trying to take our guns away, trying to legalize abortions,” he said. “And the inflation, I mean, you can't afford to really do anything, especially as a single person.”

Thomas said he voted against Constitutional Amendment G, which would legalize abortion in South Da-



**Voters and poll workers interact during the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024 at the He Sapa New Life Wesleyan Church in Rapid City, S.D.** (Photo: Bart Pfankuch / South Dakota News Watch)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 7 of 82



**Jennifer Galindo, 51, voted on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024 at the New Underwood Community Center in Pennington County in western South Dakota. Galindo said she voted in favor of abortion rights and in support of legalizing cannabis.** (Photo:

Bart Pfankuch / South Dakota News Watch)

kota. But he voted in favor of Initiated Measure 29, which would legalize recreational marijuana in the state.

"It doesn't make sense to criminalize something that doesn't really have many negative effects," he said. "Medical (marijuana) is legal here, so I think recreational should probably be legal as well."

Inflation and the rising cost of living during the Biden Administration were also big factors that led Monte Sandal of New Underwood to vote for Trump.

Sandal, 55, owns a restaurant in New Underwood and a hot-tub servicing business in the Black Hills, and has about 25 employees overall.

Sandal said inflation has made it difficult to afford food products at his restaurant and the chemicals needed to service about 600 hot tubs he has under contract.

Sandal said Trump's demeanor has given him some pause, but that overall, he wants a business-focused president in the White House.

"I don't know if I'd want to sit down and have a beer with the guy," he said. "But you can't argue with his policies, because he's a businessman and I like a business way of thinking."

Sandal said he enjoys following politics and did significant research on the various statewide initiatives on the ballot this year. He said he voted in favor of work requirements for some Medicaid recipients, against legalizing recreational marijuana (which he said can be a gateway drug), and against enshrining the right to an abortion in the state constitution.

Despite voting against Amendment G, Sandal said he might support a legislative effort to expand abortion options in the case of rape or incest.

## **Trump 'too extreme, aggressive and radical'**

Thomas Richards, 38, a retail manager, said he voted for Kamala Harris for president because Trump is "too extreme, aggressive and radical."

Richards, who said he doesn't use cannabis, said he voted in favor of marijuana legalization, in part because he has seen Colorado benefit financially from taxation of it and because he doesn't believe it should be a felony to possess a substance that has medicinal value. Richards voted Tuesday at the He Sapa New Life Wesleyan Church in Rapid City.

"I feel like the whole cannabis thing should just be legal at this point," he said.

Richards also voted in favor of legalizing abortion in the state, largely because of South Dakota's restrictions against abortion in the case of rape or incest. "You shouldn't force a woman to have a child that was forced upon her," he said.

*This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, an independent, nonprofit news organization. Read more in-depth stories at [sdnewswatch.org](http://sdnewswatch.org) and sign up for an email every few days to get stories as soon as they're published. Contact Bart Pfankuch at [bart.pfankuch@sdnewswatch.org](mailto:bart.pfankuch@sdnewswatch.org).*

## Groton Area advances to SoDak16

Groton Area posted a 3-0 win over Webster Area in volleyball action played Thursday in Groton. The Tigers will advance to the SoDak16 on Tuesday.

Groton Area scored the final 10 points of the first set to take a 25-13 win. Rylee Dunker had four kills while Jaedyn Penning and Chesney Weber each had three kills, Faith Traphagen and Kella Tracy each had two kills and Taryn Traphagen had one kill in that set. Mallory Steiner had one kill while Kaite Braun had two ace serves and Allison Case had one ace serve.

Webster Area jumped out to a 14-7 lead in the second set before the Tigers staged a come back. Groton Area

tied the set at 17 and on a six point run, took a 20-17 lead and went on to win, 25-21. Taryn Traphagen led the Tigers in that set with six kills while Chesney Weber, Rylee Dunker and Jaedyn Penning each had two kills, Laila Roberts had a kill and an ace serve and Elizabeth Fliehs had one ace serve. Mallory Steiner led Webster Area with four kills while Karli Sannes had three kills, Erin Sannes had two kills, and Harley Johnson, Madison Block and Katie Braun each had one kill.

Groton Area jumped out to a 3-0 lead and went on to win the third set, 25-19. Rylee Dunker had four kills and a block, Taryn Traphagen had three kills and a block, Jaedyn Penning had two kills and two ace serves, Faith Traphagen had two kills, Emma Kutter had one kill and having one ace serve each were Talli Wright, Sydney Locke and Jerica Locke. Mallory Steiner and Erin Sannes each had two kills and a block in the final set while Katie Braun had a kill and an ace serve, Madison Block and Allison Case each had a kill and Jersey Johnson had an ace serve.

For the match, Groton Area was 105 of 118 in attacks with 43 kills while Webster Area had 67 digs. Leading attackers for Groton Area were Rylee Dunker who was 20 of 23 with 10 kills, Taryn Traphagen was 14 of 16 with eight kills and Jaedyn Penning was 25 of 25 with seven kills. Also having kills were Chesney Weber with five kills, Kella Tracy had two kills and Emma Kutter and Laila Roberts each had one kill.

In serves, Groton Area had seven ace serves with Jaedy Penning having two ace serves and having one each were Talli Wright, Laila Roberts, Sydney Locke, Elizabeth Fliehs and Jerica Locke.

Elizabeth Fliehs had 19 assists while Talli Wright had nine. Jerica Locke had 13 digs while Laila Roberts and Jaedyn Penning each had nine. Rylee Dunker had two solo blocks, Taryn Traphagen had one solo and two assisted blocks and Kella Tracy had two assisted blocks.

Mallory Steiner led Webster Area win kills with six while Erin Sannes had five, Karli Sannes four, Katie Braun and Madison Block each had two and Harley Johnson, Allison Case and Abby Lander Linden each had one. Katie Braun had two ace serves while Jersey Johnson and Allison Case each had one. Jersey Johnson had 18 digs while Allie Case had 16 and Katie Braun 10. Harley Johnson had 11 assists. Mallory Steiner and Karli Sannes each had one solo and three assisted blocks and Eric Sannes had three assisted blocks.



**Coach Chelsea Hanson gets the SoDak16 qualifier volleyball after the Tigers beat the Bearcats of Webster Area.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 9 of 82



**The GHS Band, under the direction of Desiree Yeigh, played at the Region 1A Volleyball Tournament.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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



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



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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 10 of 82



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



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



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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 11 of 82



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



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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 12 of 82

## Class A - SoDak 16

### #1 -



1 Miller 27-1

11/12  
TBD



16 Lakota Tech 22-12

### #2 -



2 Hamlin 23-1

11/12  
TBD



15 St. Thomas M... 27-13

### #3 -



3 Dell Rapids 28-3

11/12  
TBD



14 Aberdeen Ronc... 16-8

### #4 -



4 Dakota Valley 28-5

11/12  
TBD



13 Hanson 21-6

### #5 -



5 Baltic 24-3

11/12  
TBD



12 Sioux Falls  
Christian 24-12

### #6 -



6 Hill City 29-3

11/12  
TBD



11 Sioux Valley 23-6

### #7 -



7 Mount  
Vernon/Plankinton 26-5

11/12  
TBD



10 Groton Area 19-6

### #8 -



8 Mobridge-Pollo... 27-8

11/12  
TBD



9 Winner 25-6

## 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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 14 of 82

**Groton Post No. 39 American Legion**

# *Annual Turkey Party*

**Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024**

**Starting at 6:30 p.m.**

Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

Turkey, Ham and Bacon  
to be given away

**FREE ADMISSION**

**DOOR  
PRIZE!**

Lunch served  
by Auxiliary





## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Statewide voter turnout in 2024 returns to presidential year average for South Dakota

BY: JOHN HULT - NOVEMBER 7, 2024 3:41 PM

A few weeks before the general election, Secretary of State Monae Johnson said she expected a voter turnout as high as 75%.

That figure would have been a point higher than in 2020, the last presidential election year, and six points higher than the 2016 general election contest.

In the end, the 2024 turnout in South Dakota looked more like 2016, landing at 70%.

The county with the highest turnout was Jones, where just over 82% of registered voters cast a ballot. Oglala Lakota County, home to the Pine Ridge Reservation, had the lowest turnout, at 39%.

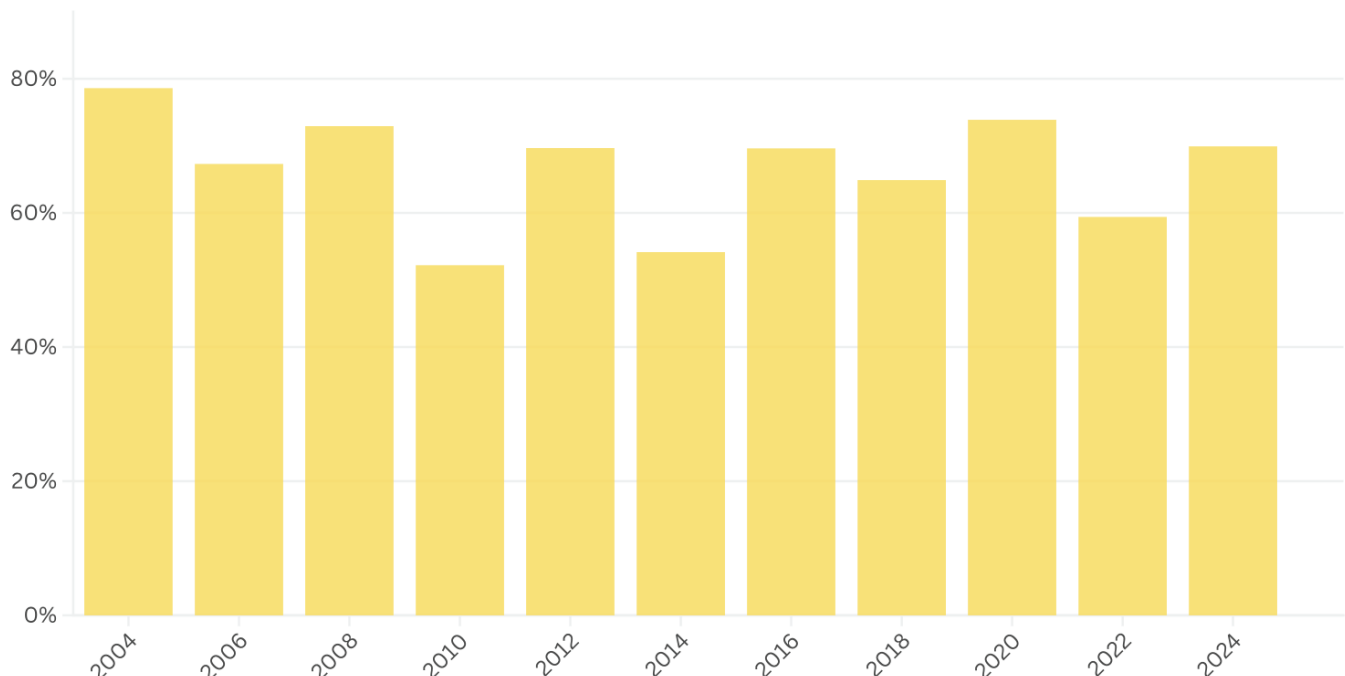
The same two counties were first and last in voter turnout in 2020, when Jones saw 86% of voters cast a ballot and Oglala Lakota saw a 41% turnout.

This year, Minnehaha led turnout with around 70% among the three largest counties by population. Brown County turnout stood at 67%, Pennington at 64%.

### South Dakota general election voter turnout



Turnout is calculated by dividing the number of ballots cast by the number of registered voters.



Source: [SD Secretary of State's Office](#)

Tribal areas typically see lower turnout than the rest of the state, in part to large distances between polling places and a greater share of residents without access to transportation.

Monique "Muffy" Mousseau is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe who lives and works in Rapid City for an LGBTQ+ advocacy organization called Uniting Resilience. She was one of four volunteers for the organization who offered free rides to voters on Election Day in her area. They covered around 15 square miles, she said, but "we got almost 50 calls from all across the state of South Dakota asking for rides to the polls."

Those calls came from as far away as Aberdeen, as well as from members of the Oglala Lakota, Cheyenne River and Standing Rock Sioux tribes, she said.

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



**Ricky Hannasch takes his ballot from a poll worker in order to vote in the Nov. 5, 2024 general election at St. Lambert's Catholic Church in Sioux Falls.** (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

## South Dakota breaks record for number of women elected to the state Legislature

**BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - NOVEMBER 7, 2024 2:39 PM**

A record number of women will serve in the South Dakota Legislature in 2025, based on unofficial election results from the Secretary of State's Office.

Thirty-nine female lawmakers plan to arrive in Pierre when the legislative session starts in January, besting the previous record from the 2023-2024 Legislature by eight.

The representation still doesn't reflect South Dakota's population. Thirty-seven percent of lawmakers next session will be female, while the state's population is 49.2% female, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The growth in female representation in South Dakota is part of a trend nationally, though most legislatures don't have gender parity. In 2023, women represented at least half of the lawmakers in two states, Nevada and Colorado.

Kelly Dittmar, the director of research for the Center for American Women and Politics and an associate professor of political science at Rutgers University, said an increase in female representation can have a tangible impact on the Legislature's culture and policies it discusses.

"There's lots of research showing that it makes a difference to have women in office in terms of the actual policy agenda that comes to the table," Dittmar said. "Not only what's on the agenda, but the voices and perspectives brought to debates around those policy items."



# Broton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 17 of 82

Women are more likely to be primary caregivers to children and the elderly, Dittmar said, and can offer a different perspective in legislative debates and votes on issues affecting those groups as a result. Women also have greater knowledge about female anatomy and health care, which can inform their male colleagues' decisions.

Thirty-three of the female lawmakers elected in South Dakota on Tuesday are Republican. Since the Republican Party holds a supermajority in the Capitol, those women will have more influence on policy decisions. Female representation in legislative staff, party leadership, local governance and lobbying help present a stronger voice on women's issues in state politics, Dittmar said. Gov. Kristi Noem was the first female elected as governor in the state.

The jump in female representation in South Dakota came despite voters' rejection of Amendment E. The ballot measure would have updated the state constitution to replace male pronouns (such as "he," "him" and "his") with neutral words and phrases such as "the governor," "the lieutenant governor," "the officer," "the elector," "the accused," and so on. The Legislature voted to put the measure on the ballot earlier this year. The measure failed with a 58% vote against.

Yankton Republican Sen. Jean Hunhoff, the longest-serving female lawmaker in the state, lost in her primary bid to another female candidate. She served 24 years in the Legislature. Republican Rep. Liz May from Kyle, who was re-elected Tuesday, is the second longest-serving female lawmaker in the state. If she serves out her full 2025-2026 term, she'll have served 12 years.



**Female lawmakers in the House of Representatives pose for a group photo in honor of International Women's Day on March 8, 2023.** (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

## 2025 South Dakota female lawmakers

12 women were elected to the Senate, making up 34% of the chamber:

Stephanie Sauder, R-Bryant

Joy Hohn, R-Hartford

Liz Larson, D-Sioux Falls

Sue Peterson, R-Sioux Falls

Sydney Davis, R-Burbank

Lauren Nelson, R-Yankton

Mykala Voita, R-Vonesteel

Tamara Grove, R-Lower Brule

Red Dawn Foster, D-Pine Ridge

Amber Hulse, R-Hot Springs

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 18 of 82

Helene Duhamel, R-Rapid City

Taffy Howard, R-Rapid City

27 women\* were elected to the House of Representatives, making up just under 39% of the chamber:

Brandei Schaeffbauer, R-Aberdeen

Josephine Garcia, R-Watertown

Mellissa Heermann, R-Brookings

Bethany Soye, R-Sioux Falls

Tesa Schwans, R-Hartford

Erin Healy, D-Sioux Falls

Bobbi Andera, R-Sioux Falls

Keri Weems, R-Sioux Falls

Amber Arlint, R-Sioux Falls

Taylor Rehfeldt, R-Sioux Falls

Kadyn Wittman, D-Sioux Falls

Karla Lems, R-Canton

Julie Auch, R-Lesterville

Jessica Bahmuller, R-Alexandria

Kaley Nolz, R-Mitchell

Lana Greenfield, R-Doland

Rebecca Reimer, R-Chamberlain

Peri Pourier, D-Pine Ridge

Liz May, R-Kyle

Jana Hunt, R-Dupree

Kathy Rice, R-Black Hawk

Terri Jorgenson, R-Piedmont

Trish Ladner, R-Hot Springs

Mary Fitzgerald, R-Spearfish

Nicole Uhre-Balk, D-Rapid City

Heather Baxter, R-Rapid City

Tina Mulally, R-Rapid City

\*Republican Joni Tschetter lost by nine votes to Democrat Erik Muckey in the District 15 House race in Sioux Falls. The results may be subject to a recount. If the outcome changes, it will increase female representation in the Legislature by one.

*Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota's Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.*

## South Dakota Senate sees largest freshman class elected since 1990

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - NOVEMBER 7, 2024 1:15 PM

Just over a quarter of South Dakota's senators this winter will swear in as state lawmakers for the first time. It's the largest freshman class the chamber has seen since 1990, when 10 freshmen senators were elected.

Between the 2000 and 2022 elections, an average of four freshman senators have been elected each election cycle, often ascending to the chamber after serving in the House.

"Generally, the Senate is the more experienced, seasoned body," said

Tony Venhuizen, a Republican representative from Sioux Falls who authors the "SoDak Governors" blog chronicling South Dakota's political history.

The representative, who ran unopposed in the general election, said usually "you know what to expect" of the chamber because even its new members have typically served either in the Senate or House previously.

By comparison, about a third of House members in each session since 2000 have been freshmen. That can make the House a more "unpredictable" body, Venhuizen said. The House will have a typical freshman class size in 2025, with new members accounting for about 29% of the chamber, based on unofficial election results.

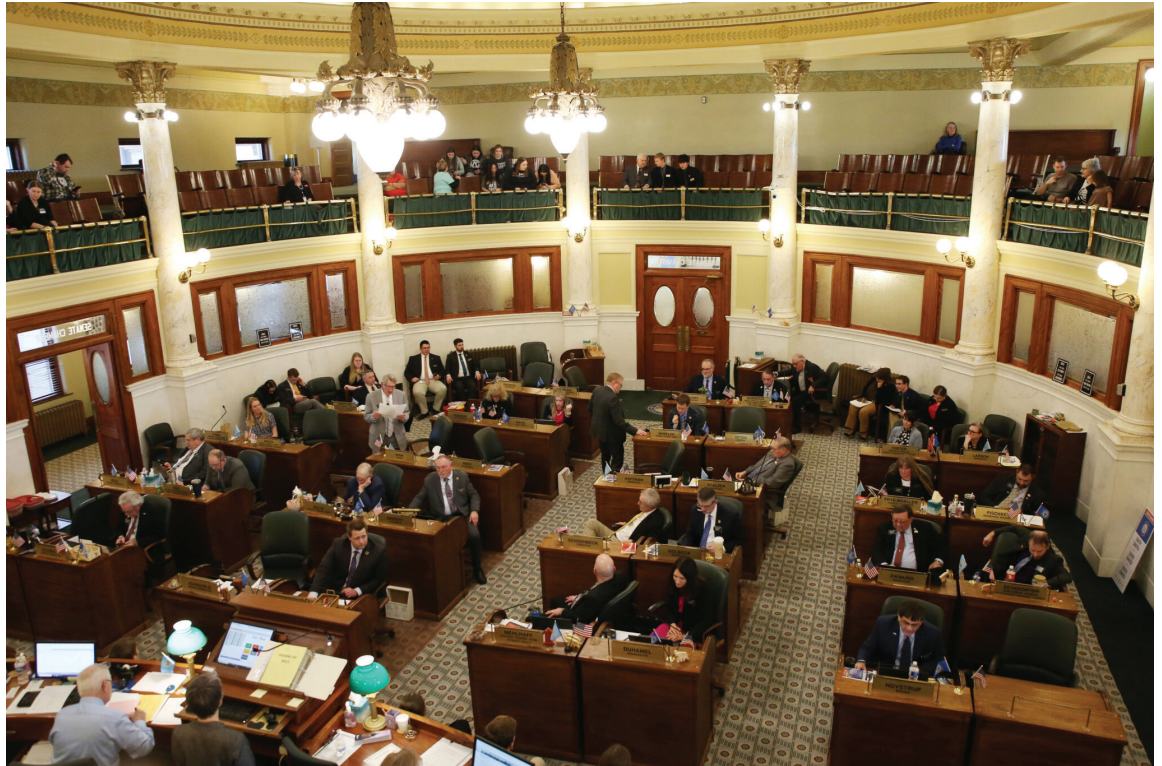
"This year, you'll see more of that dynamic in the Senate," Venhuizen said.

A comparable number of freshman lawmakers came to the Senate in 1990 and 1992, when South Dakotans elected 10 and nine freshmen, respectively. Outgoing Senate President Pro Tempore Lee Schoenbeck was one of seven freshman senators elected in 1994.

"There was a pile of new ones elected then," Schoenbeck said. Such a major shift is typically a sign of "some big issue sweeping across" the state, he said.

A shift towards Democrats was a factor in 1990. That year, Democrats strengthened their position in the Senate before taking control of the chamber in 1992. South Dakotans narrowly voted to reelect U.S. Sen. Larry Pressler in 1990 over Theodore 'Ted' Muenster, and selected George H.W. Bush for its presidential pick in 1992 with a 3% margin over Bill Clinton.

Republicans reclaimed the Senate in the 1994 election and have held the chamber ever since.



**The South Dakota Senate convenes on Feb. 5, 2024.** (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 20 of 82

The rise of new lawmakers in 2024 comes largely as a result of property rights related to a controversial carbon pipeline proposal. Several new legislators-elect campaigned on local control and property rights in eastern South Dakota during the Republican primary this summer, which saw voters oust 14 incumbents.

A carbon pipeline law supported by 11 of the incumbents who lost in June was tossed out by South Dakota voters in Tuesday's election, with a 59% vote against Referred Law 21. Pipeline opponents petitioned the law onto the ballot after Gov. Kristi Noem signed it in March.

Some of the newly elected Republican lawmakers also campaigned on the importance of property tax relief and online safety for minors, both of which were the topics of summer studies this year after a handful of legislative proposals on each issue failed to pass both chambers.

The growth in new Republicans will likely intensify the leadership struggle set between traditional Republicans and those who've staked out more conservative positions on pipelines, property taxes and online pornography. Democrats lost two of their meager number in the Legislature, coming away with three seats in the Senate and six in the House, based on unofficial results.

Republicans will meet Friday to elect their legislative leaders in closed-door caucus meetings.

Schoenbeck echoed Venhuizen, saying the influx of inexperienced senators will challenge the chamber because legislative rules and procedure will be "a foreign language." Schoenbeck did not run for reelection this year.

"It means you're going to have to go slower, and you're going to make some mistakes," Schoenbeck said. "That lack of knowledge of the rules and institutional perspective will slow things down, and some people will get frustrated and mad because rules matter."

Nine of the 10 senators-elect in the freshman class have not held an elected public service position before, based on their campaign websites.

Service on city councils, county commissions and school boards can be helpful for new lawmakers, Schoenbeck said, because those who have it understand budgets, constituent outreach and how to work with a representative body.

"When they haven't had any of that," Schoenbeck said, "it's going to be a whole new world."

The Senate will also see the return of four former lawmakers who served in the House, but did not serve in the Legislature the latest term. That includes Sens.-elect Jamie Smith, D-Sioux Falls, who served from 2017 to 2022; Paul Miskimins, R-Mitchell, who served from 2019 to 2022; Sam Marty, R-Prairie City, who served from 2015 to 2022; and Taffy Howard, R-Rapid City, who served from 2017 to 2022.

Ten freshman lawmakers were elected to the state Senate Tuesday, making up 29% of the chamber.

Senator-elect freshmen include:

Glen A Vilhauer, R-Watertown

Joy Hohn, R-Hartford

Lauren Nelson, R-Yankton

Mykala Voita, R-Bonesteel

Mark Lapka, R-Leola

Tamara Grove, R-Lower Brule

John Carley, R-Piedmont

Amber Hulse, R-Hot Springs

Curt Voight, R-Rapid City

Greg Blanc, R-Rapid City

The 20 Representative-elect freshmen include:

Christopher Reder, R-Warner

Kent Roe, R-Thomas

Dylan C. Jordan, R-Clear Lake

Josephine Garcia, R-Watertown

Matt Roby, R-Watertown

Tesa Schwans, R-Hartford

Bobbi L Andera, R-Sioux Falls

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 21 of 82

John Hughes, R- Sioux Falls  
Tony Kayser, R-Sioux Falls  
Erik Muckey, D-Sioux Falls\*  
Jeff Bathke, R-Mitchell  
Kaley Nolz, R-Mitchell  
Jim Halverson, R-Winner  
Kevin Van Diepen, R-Huron  
Jana Hunt, R-Dupree  
Travis Ismay, R-Newell  
Kathy Rice, R-Black Hawk  
Terri Jorgenson, R-Piedmont  
Nicole Uhre-Balk, D-Rapid City  
Heather Baxter, R-Rapid City

\*The District 15 House race may be recounted. Democrat Erik Muckey received nine more votes than Republican Joni Tschetter — both 25% of the vote — to head to Pierre in January, based on the Secretary of State's unofficial results.

*Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota's Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.*

## Fed cuts interest rates heading into end of Biden White House and looking to Trump's 2nd term

BY: CASEY QUINLAN - NOVEMBER 7, 2024 5:41 PM



**Federal Reserve Bank Chair Jerome Powell speaks at a news conference at the Federal Reserve's William McChesney Martin building on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024, in Washington. Powell said the Fed has decided to cut the benchmark interest rate by a quarter of a percent.**

(Photo by Kent Nishimura/Getty Images)

The Federal Reserve cut its key rate on Thursday — one of many factors that will decide what kind of economy Americans remember from President Joe Biden's final days in office and what President-elect Donald Trump is left with at the start of his second term.

The Federal Reserve cut the rate by a quarter of a percentage point, which was in line with economist expectations. The Federal Open Market Committee's vote was unanimous in favor of the cut. At its previous meeting in September, the Fed cut the rate by half a percentage point for the first time in four years as inflation continued to show signs of cooling and moved further toward its target rate of 2%.

Chair Jerome Powell said that the job market remains solid, that economic activity has continued to expand, and that consumer spending is resilient. He said inflation is close to the Fed's 2% goal, at 2.1% in September, and core inflation,

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 22 of 82

which excludes food and energy, is still elevated, at 2.7%.

"We continue to be confident that with an appropriate recalibration of our policy stance, strength in the economy and labor market can be maintained with inflation moving sustainably down to 2%," Powell said.

The Fed's new benchmark rate is 4.5% to 4.75%. It's the Fed's second cut since it paused rates last year following an aggressive rate-hiking campaign to tame inflation. The Fed raised rates 11 times between March 2022 and July 2023.

Dante DeAntonio, labor economist at Moody's Analytics, said the general public probably won't feel a significant change from an individual rate cut, but he expects that in the medium-term, the cuts will affect housing and consumer spending.

"I think generally speaking we should expect to see rates across the spectrum come down from credit card rates to auto loans to mortgages but that's not going to happen in a quick way – day-to-day or month-to-month, and it's not going to make a huge impact," he said.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released a less-than-stellar jobs report Friday, showing the labor market added only 12,000 jobs. But Powell said on Thursday that this was mostly reflective of strikes and major hurricanes, and that job growth would have been higher if not for these factors.

Trump's election on Tuesday could mean substantial changes for the economy and has implications for the Fed's own policy choices.

If Trump is able to fully enact ideas he floated while campaigning – such as heavy tariffs on imports from China and mass deportation of immigrants, could reduce households' purchasing power and harm labor supply, some policy experts, researchers and economists say.

Indivar Dutta-Gupta, who focuses on policy research and seminars at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy, said Trump's immigration policies could result in a large reduction of labor supply.

"The economy has benefited and native-born workers have benefited in recent years from the growth in workers coming in from abroad. One would expect that to slow and potentially net in the other direction," Dutta-Gupta said.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said that based on what we know now about Trump's proposals, the Fed will have to contend with an inflationary environment.

"The policies President Trump espoused on the campaign trail, which include higher broad-based tariffs, mass deportation of unauthorized immigrants already in the country, tax cuts that are largely deficit-financed, and the view that the president should have input into the decision making process of the Federal Reserve around interest rates – all of that is inflationary," he said.

This could mean that in the future, it's less likely the Fed would continue to cut rates and would potentially raise rates.

"It all depends on whether President Trump follows through on those things he said during the campaign and to what degree and over what period of time. But all of those things are directionally towards higher inflation, which means higher interest rates than otherwise would be the case," he added.

Trump has talked about the possibility of the president having greater "say" over the Fed's decisions on the campaign trail. During his first term in office, he was very vocal in his displeasure with some of the Fed's decisions on interest rates.

In October he said that although he should not be able to order the Fed to make the decisions he favors, "I think I have the right to put in comments as to whether or not the interest rates should go up or down."

Powell responded to questions about a second Trump administration's effect on the independence of the Fed on Thursday. When asked if the president can demote him or other leadership at the Fed, he said: "Not permitted under the law."

The Fed is designed to operate on data, not politics.

Powell said that the election will have no effects on the Fed's policy decisions in the near term. He added that the Fed doesn't yet know the timing or policy substance of the incoming administration.

"We don't guess, we don't speculate and we don't assume," he said.

*Casey Quinlan is an economy reporter for States Newsroom, based in Washington, D.C. For the past decade, they have reported on national politics and state politics, LGBTQ rights, abortion access, labor issues, education,*

Supreme Court news and more for publications including *The American Independent*, *ThinkProgress*, *New Republic*, *Rewire News*, *SCOTUSblog*, *In These Times* and *Vox*.

## Estimated 2M gallons of wastewater discharged in Sioux City, some reached Missouri River

BY: CAMI KOONS, IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH - NOVEMBER 7, 2024 4:09 PM

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources responded to a wastewater spill in Sioux City, where an estimated 2 million gallons of untreated wastewater spilled into the Bacon Creek Channel, which flows into the Missouri River.

No fish kills have been observed, and according to a press release, the creek channel was dry prior to the equipment failure at a nearby lift station where the spill occurred.

Scott Wilson, the supervisor for the DNR field office in Spencer that received the call, said the dry channel would have minimized the amount of untreated wastewater that could have reached the Missouri River.

It also means DNR does not have an estimated amount of discharge that entered the Missouri River. Wilson said there was no visible impact to the river but the department has advised recreational users to exercise caution downstream.

"Better safe than sorry," Wilson said.

The discharge began around 10:15 a.m. Wednesday and by 1 p.m., the lift station was again operational and the discharge was stopped, according to Wilson.

Wilson said the City of Sioux City has worked with the department and notified them quickly of the equipment failure. He said DNR will follow up with the city, "like we normally do."

*Cami Koons is an Iowa Capital Dispatch reporter covering agriculture and the environment. She previously worked at publications in Kansas and Missouri, covering rural affairs.*



**The Bacon Creek Channel was reported to be dry before an equipment failure caused a wastewater discharge into the channel which flows into the Missouri River.** (Photo via Google Maps)

## Immigration groups brace for a second Trump administration

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA - NOVEMBER 7, 2024 3:52 PM

WASHINGTON — Immigration advocates and civil rights groups are preparing to take on President-elect Donald Trump's campaign promises to crack down on immigration, from reviving controversial policies of his first term to enacting mass deportations.

Trump has pledged to end, immediately after retaking office, parole programs that have allowed immigrants to work and live in the country legally. In those humanitarian parole programs, as of 2021, there were more than 1 million immigrants with temporary protections.

What is likely to immediately follow is the re-implementation of his previous immigration policies, such as bans on allowing people from predominantly

Muslim countries into the United States and reinstating the "Remain in Mexico" policy that requires asylum seekers to remain in Mexico while they await their cases.

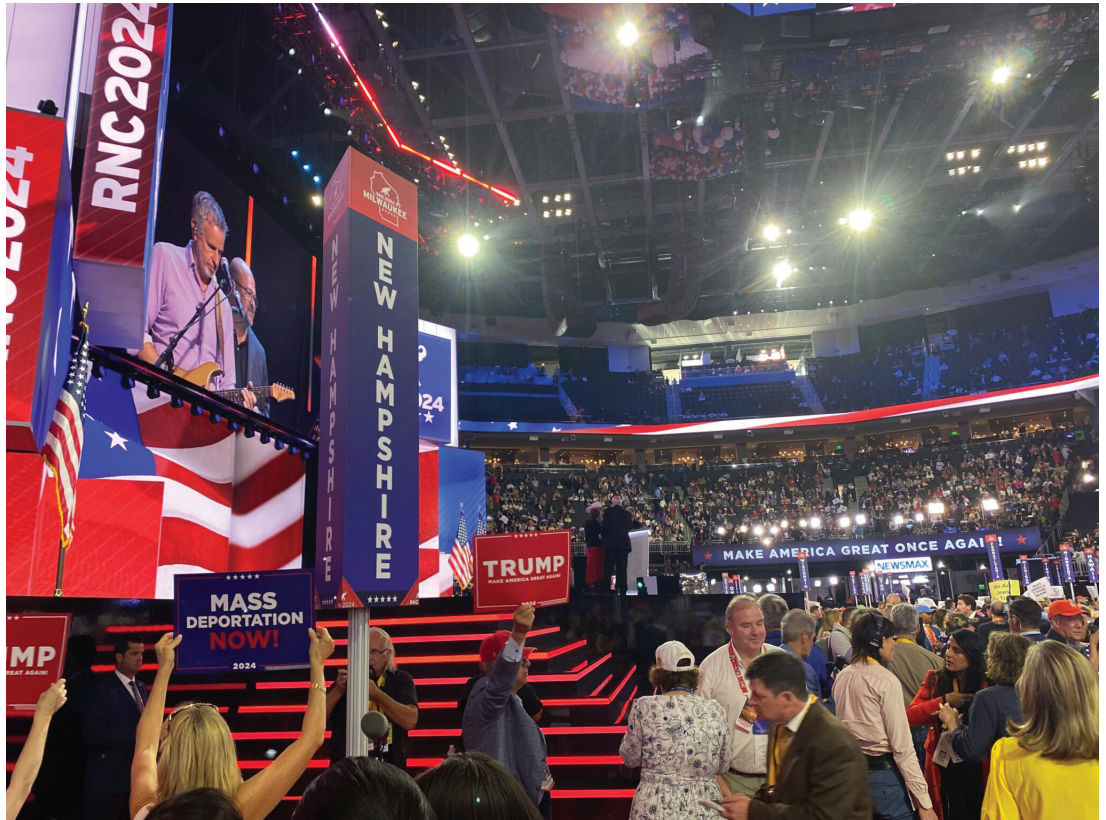
Immigration groups are preparing for those policies and the ones to follow ahead of Inauguration Day. Sirine Shebaya, executive director of the National Immigration Project, laid out a sobering reality.

"We recognize that many are feeling terrified about what the next four years will bring," she said in a statement. "While we cannot stop all the harms from coming to pass, we say to everyone facing harm: we are here to do everything in our power to support and protect each other."

The American Civil Liberties Union, which was at the forefront of challenging some of Trump's harshest immigration policies during his first term, said on social media it is prepared for legal challenges beginning on Trump's first day in office.

Greisa Martínez Rosas, executive director of the largest immigrant youth organization, United We Dream, said in a statement that with Trump promising to plan mass deportations, they are "clear eyed about the fight ahead."

"We will use and grow our power to new heights, building the largest pro-immigrant movement this country has ever seen, to fight back against white nationalism, and to enact a vision for the future that honors our values of a pluralistic democracy where everyone can live and thrive without fear," Martínez



**A woman holds a sign calling for "Mass deportation now!" at the 2024 Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. President-elect Donald Trump has pledged to conduct mass deportations of millions of immigrants in the country without authorization.** (Photo by Jennifer Shutt/

States Newsroom.)



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 25 of 82

Rosas said.

## Deportations

Some immediate deportations could include those already in Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody, which was 37,395 as of September.

It could also include expanding expedited removals, which means if a person lacking permanent legal status is in the country for two years without a court hearing or any type of authorization, they can be deported without a hearing before a judge.

That type of removal is limited to 100 miles from a border. However, during the first Trump administration, that zone was expanded to the rest of the country. A second Trump administration could do that again.

The Migration Policy Institute, an immigration think tank, has estimated that "the expansion of expedited removal to the U.S. interior could apply to as many as 288,000 people."

Tom Homan, who served as acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement from 2017 to 2018, told CBS News recently that mass deportation would be targeted.

"It's not gonna be a mass sweep of neighborhoods," he said. "They'll be targeted arrests. We'll know who we're going to arrest, where we're most likely to find 'em based on numerous, you know, investigative processes."

## Funding

At issue would also be the cost of mass deportations.

Trump's core campaign promise to enact mass deportations would be a costly undertaking that needs congressional approval — something that might be easier if the incoming president is granted control of both chambers.

The American Immigration Council, in a conservative estimate, found that it would cost \$968 billion to remove the roughly 13 million immigrants in the country without authorization over the next ten years.

It would cost the government \$89.3 billion in arrests, \$167.8 billion to detain massive amounts of people, \$34 billion on legal processing and \$24 billion on removals, according to the analysis.

That funding would need to be appropriated through Congress.

As of Thursday morning, it was unclear if Trump would deal with a divided Congress or united GOP control. Republicans have flipped the Senate, and though there are still too many House races left to project control of the chamber, the GOP was inching toward a thin majority.

## Economic impact

Economic experts have warned of the consequences of removing millions of workers.

Jeremy Robbins, the executive director of the American Immigration Council, tried to break down the economic effects of mass deportations.

"Should any president choose to pursue mass deportation, it would come at an extraordinary cost to the government while also devastating the economy," Robbins said in a Wednesday statement.

"It's critical that policymakers and the American public understand what this would involve: tens of billions of tax-payer dollars, already-strained industries devastated, millions of people locked up in detention, and thousands of families torn apart causing widespread terror and chaos in communities across the country."

In 2022, households led by undocumented immigrants paid \$75.6 billion in total taxes, according to the American Immigration Council. It's estimated that about 4.8% of the U.S. workforce consists of unauthorized immigrants, according to the Pew Research Center.

*Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her areas of coverage include politics and policy, lobbying, elections and campaign finance.*

## Biden promises a 'peaceful and orderly transition' to new Trump administration

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY - NOVEMBER 7, 2024 3:24 PM



**President Joe Biden delivers remarks on the results of the 2024 election in the Rose Garden at the White House on Nov. 7, 2024 in Washington, D.C.** (Photo by Andrew Harnik/Getty Images)

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Thursday reassured the nation that democracy won despite his party's resounding election losses, and promised his accomplishments will live on, in brief remarks from the White House.

"I know for some people, it's a time for victory, to state the obvious. For others, it's a time of loss. Campaigns are contests of competing visions. The country chooses one or the other. We accept the choice the country made," Biden said in just over six minutes of remarks to his staff and administration officials gathered in the Rose Garden just after 11

a.m. Eastern.

Former Republican President Donald Trump, now president-elect, handily won the 2024 presidential contest Tuesday against Vice President Kamala Harris, earning victories in closely watched swing states, including Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Trump as of early Thursday afternoon had 295 Electoral College votes, to 226 for Harris, with 270 needed for victory. He also led in the popular vote.

The Republicans also secured a Senate majority, gaining at least 52 seats while Democrats have 45. Control of the U.S. House remained unclear, though a trend toward GOP victory was emerging as ballots were still being counted.

Biden ran against Trump for the majority of the 2024 presidential race but dropped his reelection bid weeks after a disastrous presidential debate performance sparked a pressure campaign for him to step aside.

Biden phoned Trump Wednesday to congratulate him and arranged an in-person meeting to discuss the White House transition — a step that Trump did not take following his loss to Biden in 2020.

"I assured him I'd direct my entire administration to work with his team to ensure a peaceful and orderly transition. That's what the American people deserve," Biden said.

Biden also talked about his phone call Wednesday with Democratic nominee Harris, whom he described as a "partner and public servant."

"She ran an inspiring campaign, and everyone got to see something that I learned early on to respect

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 27 of 82

so much: her character. She has a backbone like a ramrod," Biden said.

The president said he told his team that "together, we've changed America for the better."

"Much of the work we've done is already being felt by the American people, with the vast majority of it will not be felt, will be felt over the next 10 years," Biden said, specifically citing the bipartisan infrastructure legislation he signed into law in November 2021.

Harris conceded the race Wednesday in a phone call to Trump.

In a speech to somber supporters at her alma mater Howard University in Washington, D.C., the same day, Harris told the crowd "I get it" when it comes to feeling a range of emotions following the outcome.

"But we must accept the results of this election. ... A fundamental principle of American democracy is that when we lose an election we accept the results," Harris said.

Following the 2020 presidential election, Trump and his allies challenged the results in dozens of ultimately unsuccessful lawsuits. Following his losses in court, Trump and a team of private lawyers continued to deny the election outcome and pressure state officials to manipulate slates of electors.

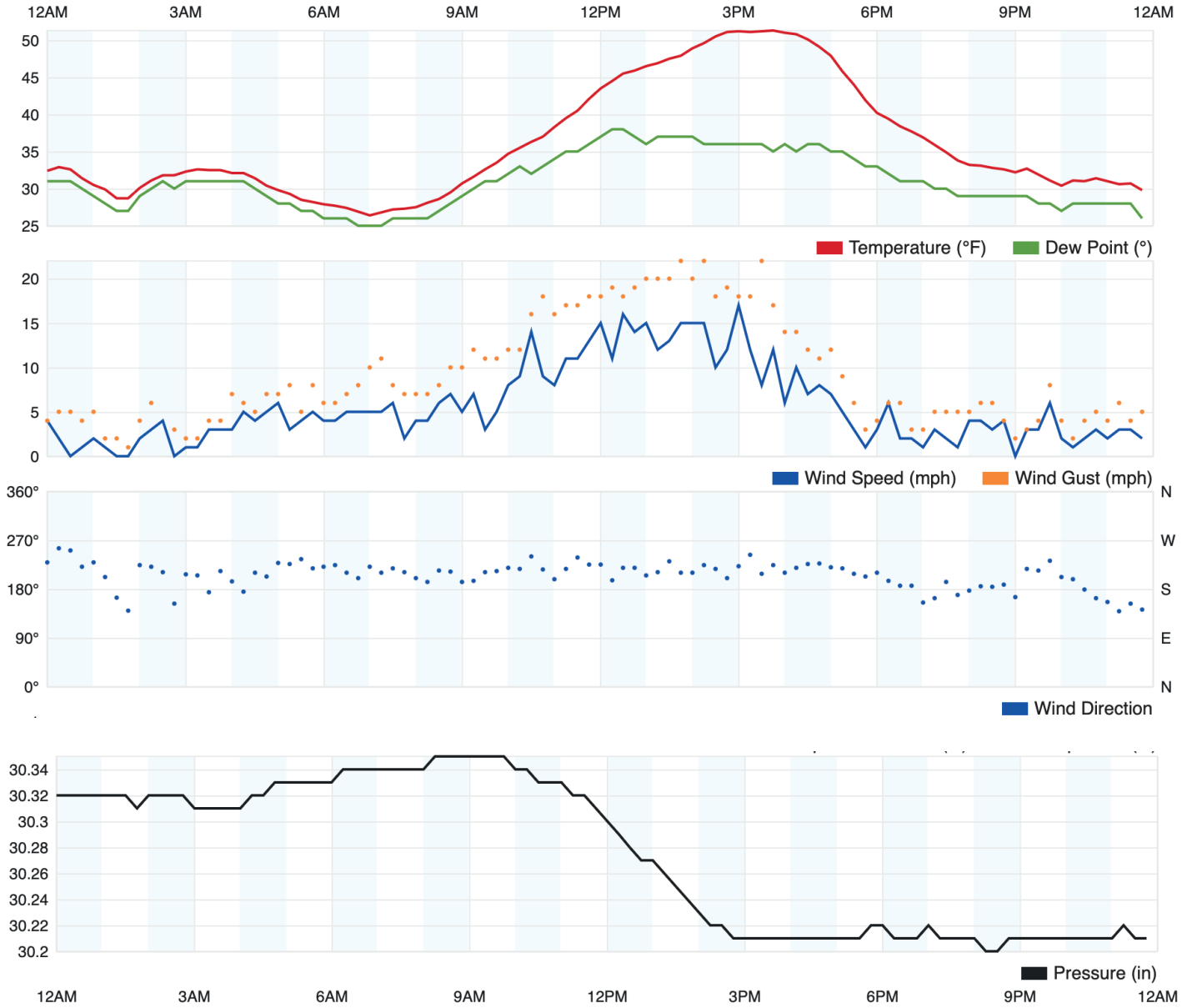
Trump's repeated denials of his loss — including a speech on Jan. 6, 2021 where he told his supporters he would never concede — culminated in a violent attack on the U.S. Capitol as Congress met that day to certify the election results.

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 28 of 82

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 29 of 82

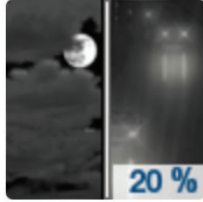
Today



High: 53 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 34 °F

Mostly Cloudy  
then Slight  
Chance Rain

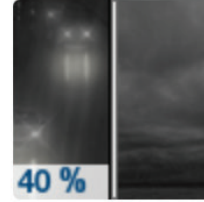
Saturday



High: 47 °F

Chance Rain  
then Rain

Saturday Night



Low: 36 °F

Chance Rain  
then Cloudy

Sunday



High: 54 °F

Mostly Sunny



## Dry Friday - Light Rain For Saturday

November 7, 2024  
1:09 PM

### Probability of Precipitation (%)

**Tonight**

Lows: 26-33°F

---

**Friday**

Highs: 52-56°F  
Light South Breeze

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



Dry conditions expected for Friday ahead of the next weather system. This system moves in late Friday, with light rain. Overall amounts of a few hundredths to about a quarter inch. Then we should be dry for Sunday

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 30 of 82

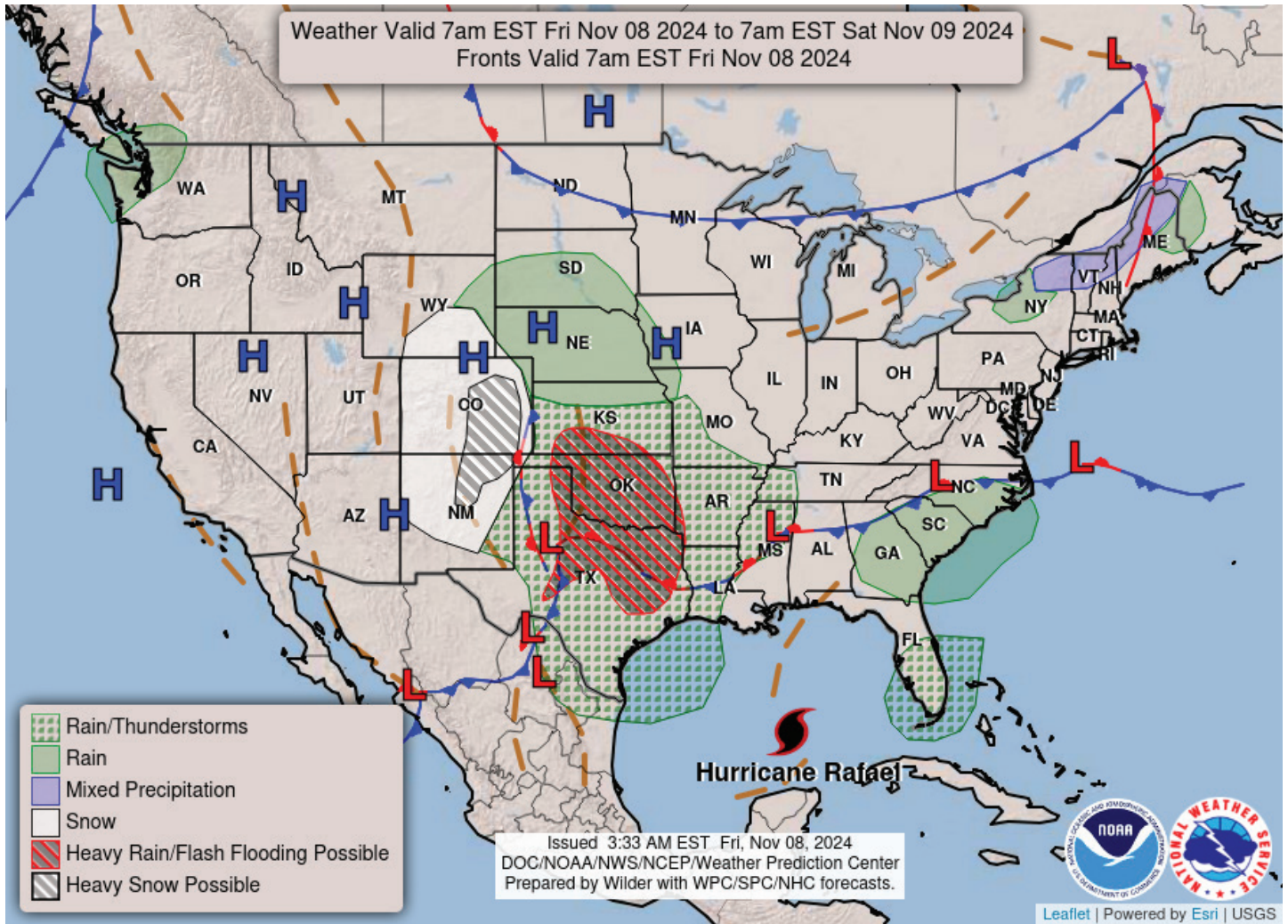
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 51 °F at 3:41 PM**  
**Low Temp: 26 °F at 7:00 AM**  
**Wind: 22 mph at 1:43 PM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 9 hours, 50 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 77 in 1999  
Record Low: -3 in 1936  
Average High: 46  
Average Low: 23  
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.26  
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.59  
Average Precip to date: 20.73  
Precip Year to Date: 20.47  
Sunset Tonight: 5:11:18 pm  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:22:28 am



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 31 of 82

## Today in Weather History

November 8th, 1985: Southern South Dakota saw heavy snow from the morning of the 8th through the evening on the 10th. Snowfall ranged from 5-10 inches over the area, with up to a foot or more in the Black Hills. The most significant amount was 18 inches in the higher elevations of the Black Hills. Winds gusting around 40 mph at times, combined with falling snow, produced near-blizzard conditions during the afternoon of the 9th through the early morning hours on the 10th, in the southwest. Some storm total snowfall amounts include; 16.0 inches near Presho; 11.5 inches in Kennebec; 9.0 inches in Murdo; and 4.0 inches in Timber Lake and near Onida.

1870: The U.S. Signal Corps Weather Service issued the first storm warning on this day. Professor Increase A. Lapham believed that warnings of deadly storms on the Great Lakes could be derived from telegraphed weather observations. As a result, a bill was introduced and signed into law to establish a national telegraphic weather service. The Signal Corps began taking observations of November 1st, 1870. On this date, Lapham would issue the first storm warning, a cautionary forecast for the Great Lakes.

1879: A tornado struck Crawford County, Arkansas, killing several people.

1913: The Great Lakes Storm of November 7-13, 1913, was a blizzard with hurricane-force winds that devastated the Great Lakes Region, sinking as many as 19 ships and stranding 19 others. This storm would be the deadliest and most destructive natural disaster ever to hit the Great Lakes.

1943 - An early season snowstorm raged across eastern South Dakota and Minnesota into northern Wisconsin. The storm produced 22 inches of snow at Fairbault and Marshall MN, 20 inches at Redwood Falls MN, and 10.1 inches at Minneapolis. Drifts fifteen feet high were reported in Cottonwood County MN. The storm produced up to two feet of snow in South Dakota smothering a million Thanksgiving day turkeys. (6th-8th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1953 - Residents of New York City suffered through ten days of smog resulting in 200 deaths. (The Weather Channel)

1966 - The temperature in downtown San Francisco reached a November record of 86 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms over Texas produced locally heavy rains in the Hill Country, with 3.50 inches reported at Lakeway, and 3.72 inches reported at Anderson Mill. Thunderstorms over Louisiana produced hail an inch in diameter at Clay and at Provencial. Blustery northwest winds, ushering cold air into western Kansas and into northwest Texas, gusted to 46 mph at Hill City KS. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Fair weather prevailed across much of the nation for Election Day. Midland TX equalled their record for November with an afternoon high of 89 degrees, and the record high of 87 degrees at Roswell NM was their fifth in eight days. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms developing along and ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from northern Louisiana into central Georgia. Thunderstorms spawned three tornadoes, and there were sixty-four reports of large hail or damaging winds. A late afternoon thunderstorm in central Georgia spawned a tornado which killed one person and injured eight others at Pineview. Late afternoon thunderstorms in central Mississippi produced baseball size hail around Jackson, and wind gusts to 70 mph Walnut Grove. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1994: The twelfth and final tropical cyclone of the Atlantic hurricane season formed in the southwestern Caribbean. While Hurricane Gordon was only a Category 1, it killed 1,149 individuals, including 1,122 in Haiti.



## DIG DEEPER!

Henry was caught up in the gold rush. Shortly after arriving in California, he found a mine, staked a claim and began digging. One day he found some ore, became excited, and believed he had struck it rich. He knew without any doubt that fame and fortune would soon be his.

He kept digging for a few weeks but eventually became discouraged and wanted to quit. Finally, a stranger approached him and offered to purchase his mine. In a moment of frustration, he agreed to sell his rights for \$11,000.00.

The new owner was excited about his purchase and began to dig where Henry stopped. And he kept digging for years and years. Eventually the Comstock Mine produced 340 million dollars of gold!

Wanting to encourage the church in Galatia, the Apostle Paul wrote, "So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up for we will reap a harvest of blessings at the appropriate time."

We have all faced those times in our lives when we become discouraged and distressed at doing what we believe is the right thing to do. No one offers a word of thanks or encouragement and there are no visible results to accompany our hard work. But Paul reminds us to keep on doing good and to trust God for the results. Giving in or giving up or giving out is the sure way to forfeit the blessing that God will award us for being faithful.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, may we be faithful to You in what You ask us to do. Protect us from allowing discouragement to destroy us and doubt to defeat us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Galatians 6:9

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 33 of 82

## The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 34 of 82



## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.05.24

2 24 25 52 58 9

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$334,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 22 Mins 4  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.06.24

3 19 42 47 48 7

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$14,080,000**

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 37  
DRAW: Mins 4 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.07.24

5 10 30 37 40 5

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

NEXT 16 Hrs 52 Mins  
DRAW: 4 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.06.24

2 5 9 13 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$91,000**

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 52  
DRAW: Mins 4 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.06.24

12 16 17 39 45 10

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

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 21  
DRAW: Mins 4 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.06.24

12 17 37 58 62 4

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$92,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 21  
DRAW: Mins 5 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 35 of 82

## Upcoming Groton Events

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 36 of 82

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

### Thursday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Brandon Valley def. Huron, 25-23, 25-10, 25-16

Harrisburg def. Brookings, 25-8, 25-11, 25-13

Sioux Falls Jefferson def. Aberdeen Central High School, 25-27, 25-14, 17-25, 25-14, 15-8

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Mitchell, 25-20, 25-10, 25-18

Spearfish def. Douglas, 25-14, 25-12, 25-22

**SDHSAA Playoffs=**

**Class A Region 1 Semifinal**

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Milbank, 17-25, 25-23, 25-18, 22-25, 15-7

Groton def. Webster, 25-13, 25-21, 25-19

**Class A Region 2 Semifinal**

Hamlin def. Clark-Willow Lake, 25-16, 25-18, 25-19

Sioux Valley def. Great Plains Lutheran, 23-25, 25-20, 29-27, 25-21

**Class A Region 3 Semifinal**

Baltic def. Garretson, 25-13, 25-15, 26-24

Dell Rapids def. West Central, 25-9, 25-9, 25-5

**Class A Region 4 Semifinal**

Dakota Valley def. Lennox, 25-11, 25-17, 16-25, 18-25, 15-8

Sioux Falls Christian def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 21-25, 26-24, 25-12, 28-26

**Class A Region 5 Semifinal**

Hanson def. Wagner, 25-14, 21-25, 25-17, 25-22

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Bon Homme, 25-22, 25-22, 25-10

**Class A Region 6 Semifinal**

Miller def. Platte-Geddes, 25-11, 25-9, 25-13

Mobridge-Pollock def. Stanley County, 25-8, 25-17, 25-13

**Class A Region 7 Semifinal**

Lakota Tech def. Pine Ridge, 25-12, 25-18, 25-9

Winner def. Todd County, 25-21, 25-17, 25-16

**Class A Region 8 Semifinal**

Hill City def. Rapid City Christian, 25-19, 25-19, 23-25, 25-17

St Thomas More def. Custer, 25-18, 25-10, 24-26, 14-25, 15-7

**Class B Region 1 Semifinal**

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Northwestern, 15-25, 25-19, 25-23, 25-18

Warner def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-14, 25-12, 25-14

**Class B Region 2 Semifinal**

Castlewood def. DeSmet, 25-18, 25-17, 26-24

Wolsey-Wessington def. Deubrook, 26-24, 25-21, 25-21

**Class B Region 3 Semifinal**

Chester def. Sioux Falls Lutheran, 23-25, 25-14, 25-16, 25-18

Colman-Egan def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-19, 25-14, 25-13

**Class B Region 4 Semifinal**

Gayville-Volin High School def. Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 25-19, 25-21, 21-25, 25-16

Parkston def. Freeman, 25-19, 25-14, 25-23

## **Class B Region 5 Semifinal**

Burke def. Avon, 25-10, 25-19, 25-19

Gregory def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-23, 25-20, 25-12

## **Class B Region 6 Semifinal**

Faulkton def. Ipswich, 25-27, 25-23, 25-15, 33-31

Herreid-Selby def. Potter County, 25-13, 25-19, 25-17

## **Class B Region 7 Semifinal**

Edgemont def. Bennett County, 25-13, 25-21, 25-14

Kadoka def. Jones County, 25-15, 25-4, 25-22

## **Class B Region 8 Semifinal**

Faith def. Timber Lake, 25-15, 25-18, 25-12

Harding County def. Lemmon High School, 25-17, 23-25, 26-28, 25-13, 15-9

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

## **Southern California wildfire destroys 132 structures as officials look for fierce winds to subside**

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER and NOAH BERGER Associated Press

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — Southern California firefighters working to contain a wildfire that has destroyed 132 structures in two days could be assisted by a forecast of fierce wind gusts easing early Friday, officials said.

The Mountain Fire started Wednesday morning in Ventura County and had grown to 32 square miles (about 83 square kilometers) with 5% contained Thursday night.

Some 10,000 people remained under evacuation orders Friday morning as the fire continued to threaten about 3,500 structures in suburban neighborhoods, ranches and agricultural areas around Camarillo in Ventura County.

At least 88 additional structures were damaged in addition to the 132 destroyed, which were mostly homes. Officials did not specify whether they had been burned or affected by water or smoke damage. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

Ten people suffered smoke inhalation or other non-life-threatening injuries, Ventura County Sheriff James Fryhoff said.

Crews working in steep terrain with support from water-dropping helicopters were focusing on protecting homes on hillsides along the fire's northeast edge near the city of Santa Paula, home to more than 30,000 people, county fire officials said.

Officials in several Southern California counties urged residents to be on watch for fast-spreading blazes, power outages and downed trees during the latest round of notorious Santa Ana winds.

Santa Anas are dry, warm and gusty northeast winds that blow from the interior of Southern California toward the coast and offshore, moving in the opposite direction of the normal onshore flow that carries moist air from the Pacific. They typically occur during the fall months and continue through winter and into early spring.

Ariel Cohen, a National Weather Service's meteorologist in Oxnard, said Santa Ana winds were subsiding in the lower elevations but remained gusty across the higher elevations Thursday evening.

The red flag warnings, indicating conditions for high fire danger, expired in the area except in the Santa Susana Mountains, where the warnings will expire by 11 a.m. Friday in the mountains. The Santa Anas are expected to return early-to-midweek next week, Cohen said.

The Mountain Fire was burning in a region that has seen some of California's most destructive fires over the years. The fire swiftly grew from less than half a square mile (about 1.2 square kilometers) to more than 16 square miles (41 square kilometers) in little more than five hours on Wednesday.

By Thursday evening the wildfire was mapped at about 32 square miles (83 square kilometers) and Gov.

Gavin Newsom had proclaimed a state of emergency in the county.

California utilities began powering down equipment during high winds and extreme fire danger after a series of massive and deadly wildfires in recent years were sparked by electrical lines and other infrastructure.

Power was shut off to nearly 70,000 customers in five counties over the heightened risk, Southern California Edison said Thursday. Company spokesperson Gabriela Ornelas could not immediately answer whether power had been shut off in the area where the Mountain Fire was sparked.

The wildfires burned in the same areas of other recent destructive infernos, including the 2018 Woolsey Fire, which killed three people and destroyed 1,600 homes near Los Angeles, and the 2017 Thomas Fire, which burned more than a thousand homes and other structures in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Southern California Edison has paid tens of millions of dollars to settle claims after its equipment was blamed for both blazes.

## **Amsterdam police say 5 hospitalized and 62 detained after attacks on Israeli soccer fans**

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Amsterdam police said Friday that five people were hospitalized and 62 arrested after what authorities described as systematic violence by antisemitic rioters targeting Israeli fans following a soccer match.

The Dutch and Israeli leaders denounced the violence, and condemnation poured in from Jewish groups. Israel's foreign minister left on an urgent diplomatic trip to the Netherlands. Security concerns have shrouded matches with Israeli teams in multiple countries over the past year because of global tensions linked to the wars in the Middle East.

The Amsterdam police said in a post on X that they have started a major investigation into multiple violent incidents. The post did not provide further details about those injured or detained in Thursday night's violence following the Europa League match between Ajax and Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Authorities said extra police would patrol Amsterdam in coming days, and security will be beefed up at Jewish institutions in the city that has a large Jewish community and was home to Jewish World War II diarist Anne Frank and her family as they hid from Nazi occupiers.

Earlier, a statement issued by the Dutch capital's municipality, police and prosecution office said that the night "was very turbulent with several incidents of violence aimed at Maccabi supporters" after antisemitic rioters "actively sought out Israeli supporters to attack and assault them."

It was not immediately clear when and where violence erupted after the match.

"In several places in the city, supporters were attacked. The police had to intervene several times, protect Israeli supporters and escort them to hotels. Despite the massive police presence in the city, Israeli supporters have been injured," the Amsterdam statement said.

"This outburst of violence toward Israeli supporters is unacceptable and cannot be defended in any way. There is no excuse for the antisemitic behavior exhibited last night," it added.

The violence erupted despite a ban on a pro-Palestinian demonstration near the soccer stadium imposed by Amsterdam Mayor Femke Halsema, who had feared that clashes would break out between protesters and supporters of the Israeli soccer club.

There were also incidents involving fans ahead of the match. Dutch broadcaster NOS reported that a Palestinian flag was ripped off a building in the center of the city and riot police blocked pro-Palestinian supporters trying to march toward the Johan Cruyff Arena stadium where the match was being played.

Israel initially ordered that two planes be sent to the Dutch capital to bring the Israelis home, but later the prime minister's office said it would work on "providing civil aviation solutions for the return of our citizens."

A statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said that "the harsh pictures of the assault on our citizens in Amsterdam will not be overlooked," and that Netanyahu "views the horrifying incident with utmost gravity." He demanded that the Dutch government take "vigorous and swift action" against those involved.

Netanyahu's office added that he had called for increased security for the Jewish community in the Netherlands.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 39 of 82

Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof said on X that he followed reports of the violence "with horror." "Completely unacceptable antisemitic attacks on Israelis. I am in close contact with everyone involved," he added, saying that he had spoken to Netanyahu and "emphasized that the perpetrators will be tracked down and prosecuted. It is now quiet in the capital."

Security issues around hosting games against visiting Israeli teams led the Belgian soccer federation to decline to stage a men's Nations League game in September. That game against Israel was played in Hungary with no fans in the stadium.

The violence in Amsterdam will lead to a review of security at two games this month being organized by European soccer body UEFA. France plays Israel at Stade de France near Paris next Thursday in the Nations League and Maccabi Tel Aviv's next Europa League game is scheduled in Istanbul on Nov. 28 against Besiktas.

Ajax won the Europa League match 5-0.

## Judge strikes down Biden administration program shielding immigrant spouses from deportation

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM Associated Press

A federal judge on Thursday struck down a Biden administration policy that aimed to ease a path to citizenship for some undocumented immigrants who are married to U.S. citizens.

The program, lauded as one of the biggest presidential actions to help immigrant families in years, allowed undocumented spouses and stepchildren of U.S. citizens to apply for a green card without first having to leave the country.

The temporary relief from deportation brought a brief sense of security to some 500,000 immigrants estimated to benefit from the program before Texas-based U.S. District Judge J. Campbell Barker put it on hold in August, days after applicants filed their paperwork.

Barker ruled Thursday that the Biden administration had overstepped its authority by implementing the program and had stretched the legal interpretation of relevant immigration law "past its breaking point."

The short-lived Biden administration initiative known as "Keeping Families Together" would have been unlikely to remain in place after Donald Trump took office in January. But its early termination creates greater uncertainty for immigrant families as many are bracing for Trump's return to the White House.

Trump's election victory this week sets the stage for a swift crackdown on undocumented individuals after the Republican ran on promises of "mass deportation." The president-elect energized his supporters on the campaign trail with a litany of anti-immigrant statements, including that immigrants were "poisoning the blood" of the nation.

During his first term, Trump appointed Barker as a judge in Tyler, Texas, which lies in the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, a favored venue for advocates pushing conservative arguments.

Barker had placed the immigration initiative on hold after Texas and 15 other states, led by their Republican attorneys general, filed a legal challenge accusing the executive branch of bypassing Congress to help immigrant families for "blatant political purposes."

Republicans argued the initiative created costs for their states and could draw more migrants to the U.S.

The policy would have applied to people who have been living continuously in the U.S. for at least 10 years, do not pose a security threat and have utilized the existing legal authority known as "parole in place" that offers deportation protections.

Those married to a citizen by June 17, the day before the program was announced, could pay a \$580 application fee and fill out a lengthy application explaining why they deserve humanitarian parole. If approved, applicants would have three years to seek permanent residency and obtain work authorization.

It was not immediately clear Thursday whether anyone had received approval under the program, which only accepted applications for about a week before the judge placed it on hold.

Noncitizen spouses are already eligible for legal status but often have to apply from their home countries. The process typically includes a years-long wait outside of the U.S., which can separate family members with different immigration statuses.

## The Berlin Wall: A divide that once shaped German women's lives still echoes today

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER and KERSTIN SOPKE Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Like many other young women living in communist East Germany, Solveig Leo thought nothing about juggling work and motherhood. The mother of two was able to preside over a large state-owned farm in the northeastern village of Banzkow because childcare was widely available.

Contrast that with Claudia Huth, a mother of five, who grew up in capitalist West Germany. Huth quit her job as a bank clerk when she was pregnant with her first child and led a life as a traditional housewife in the village of Egelsbach in Hesse, raising the kids and tending to her husband, who worked as a chemist.

Both Leo and Huth fulfilled roles that in many ways were typical for women in the vastly different political systems that governed Germany during its decades of division following the country's defeat in World War II in 1945.

As Germany celebrates the 35th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall on Nov. 9, 1989 — and the country's reunification less than a year later on Oct. 3, 1990 — many in Germany are reflecting on how women's lives that have diverged so starkly under communism and capitalism have become much more similar again — though some differences remain even today.

"In West Germany, women — not all, but many — had to fight for their right to have a career," said Clara Marz, the curator of an exhibition about women in divided Germany for the Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Germany.

Women in East Germany, meanwhile, often had jobs — though that was something that "they had been ordered from above to do," she added.

Built in 1961, the Wall stood for 28 years at the front line of the Cold War between the Americans and the Soviets. It was built by the communist regime to cut off East Germans from the supposed ideological contamination of the West and to stem the tide of people fleeing East Germany.

Today only a few stretches of the 156.4-kilometer (97.2-mile) barrier around the capitalist enclave of West Berlin remain, mostly as a tourist attraction.

"All the heavy industry was in the west, there was nothing here," Leo, who is now 81 years old, said during a recent interview looking back at her life as a woman under communism. "East Germany had to pay war reparations to the Soviet Union. Women needed to work our own way out of that misery."

By contrast, Leo said, women in the West didn't need to work because they were "spoiled by the Marshall Plan" — the United States' generous reconstruction plan that poured billions of dollars into West Germany and other European countries after the war.

In capitalist West Germany, the economy recovered so quickly after the total devastation of WWII that people soon started talking of a *Wirtschaftswunder*, or "economic miracle," that brought them affluence and stability less than 10 years after the war.

That economic success, however, indirectly hampered women's quest for equal rights. Most West German women stayed at home and were expected to take care of their household while their husbands worked. Religion, too, played a much bigger role than in atheist East Germany, confining women to traditional roles as caregivers of the family.

Mothers who tried to break out of these conventions and took on jobs were infamously decried as *Rabenmütter*, or uncaring moms who put work over family.

Not all West German women perceived their traditional roles as restrictive.

"I always had this idea to be with my children, because I loved being with them," said Huth, now 69. "It never really occurred to me to go to work."

More than three decades after Germany's unification, a new generation of women is barely aware of the different lives their mothers and grandmothers led depending on which part of the country they lived in. For most, combining work and motherhood has also become the normal way of life.

Hannah Fiedler, an 18-year-old high school graduate from Berlin, said the fact that her family lived in East Germany during the decades of the country's division has no impact on her life today.



"East or West — it's not even a topic in our family anymore," she said, as she sat on a bench near a thin, cobble-stoned path in the capital's Mitte neighborhood, which marks the former course of the Berlin Wall in the then-divided city.

She also said that growing up, she had not experienced any disadvantages because she's female.

"I'm white and privileged — for good or worse — I don't expect any problems when I enter the working world in the future," she said.

Some small differences between the formerly divided parts of Germany linger on. In the former East, 74% of women are working, compared to 71.5% in the West, according to a 2023 study by the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung foundation.

Childcare is also still more available in the former East than in the West.

In 2018, 57% of children under the age of 3 were looked after in a childcare facility in the eastern state of Saxony. That compares with 27% in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia and 44% in Hamburg and Bremen, according to Germany's Federal Statistical Office.

Germany as a whole trails behind some other European countries when it comes to gender equality.

Only 31.4% lawmakers in Germany's national parliament are female, compared to 41% in Belgium's parliament, 43.6% in Denmark, 45% in Norway and 45.6% in Sweden.

Nonetheless, Leo, the 81-year-old farmer from former East Germany, is optimistic that eventually women all over the country will have the same opportunities.

"I can't imagine that there are any women who don't like to be independent," she said.

## **Trump victory spurs worry among migrants abroad, but it's not expected to halt migration**

By MARÍA VERZA, FERNANDA PESCE and CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Donald Trump's victory in the United States presidential election instantly changed calculations for millions of migrants or potential migrants across the globe.

But perhaps not in the way Trump imagined.

Trump has pledged to reduce immigration. But by narrowing the already limited legal pathways into the U.S., migrants will just recalibrate their plans and resort in greater numbers to hiring smugglers, experts say.

In many cases that will mean turning to organized crime groups that increasingly profit from migrant smuggling.

Those potentially affected come from dozens of countries and many have already sold their homes and their possessions to fund the trip.

Venezuelans continue arriving at the U.S. southern border in reduced, but still large numbers. Mexicans made up half of U.S. Border Patrol arrests in September. Chinese come through Ecuador and make their way up through the Americas. Senegalese buy multi-stop flights to Nicaragua, then move north.

The U.N.'s International Organization for Migration estimates there are around 281 million international migrants in the world, or 3.6% of the global population. An increasing number of people will be displaced for political, economic and violence reasons, and more migrants will seek asylum, according to its annual report. It warns that when people cannot find regular pathways, they start looking for "irregular channels that are extremely hazardous."

During Trump's first administration, Mexican border cities were saturated with migrants. Cartels preyed on them, kidnapping them, extorting their families for ransoms and forcibly recruiting them into their ranks. There were hundreds of arrivals every day, as well as thousands who were made to wait out the potentially yearslong U.S. asylum application process in Mexico.

A U.S. program called CBP One brought some order after it was introduced by the Biden administration in early 2023. Migrants no longer have to come to the border to schedule an appointment and can do it on their smartphones. Once overflowing border shelters have emptied and many families are making every effort to go the legal route.

Trump has pledged to end CBP One. He also wants to again restrict refugee resettlement and warned

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 42 of 82

throughout his campaign of mass deportations.

While his victory was deflating and worrisome to those en route to the United States, it was not a deal-breaker.

On Tuesday night, Bárbara Rodríguez, a 33-year-old Venezuelan, should have been sleeping after walking more than eight miles through southern Mexico's tropical heat with some 2,500 others from at least a dozen countries.

Instead, she was watching U.S. election results on her cellphone.

Back in Caracas, Rodríguez helped monitor a polling place for the opposition during Venezuela's July election. After President Nicolas Maduro claimed reelection, his supporters began to harass her family.

"Either my family's lives were going to be at risk or I had to leave the country," she said. In September, she sold her house and left her three children with her mother.

Now her plan of waiting for a CBP One appointment to request asylum at the U.S. border has an expiration date.

"Plans changed. We have until Jan. 20," she said, referring to inauguration day. She has not ruled out hiring a smuggler, she added.

Martha Bárcena, Mexico's former U.S. ambassador during most of Trump's first administration, said migrants were the losers from his immigration policies and that could happen again.

"Organized crime is the big beneficiary, because the income from illegal human trafficking is already equal to or greater than the income from drugs," she said.

Estefanía Ramos of Guatemala woke up worried Wednesday in a Ciudad Juarez shelter across from El Paso, Texas.

"We're trying to figure out what's going to happen to us," the 19-year-old said. "This wasn't the plan."

She and her husband left Guatemala after a gang threatened to harm him and kidnap her, she said. They have been waiting for three months for a CBP One appointment. Two months ago they had a baby girl.

"If we can keep waiting for an appointment we will," Ramos said, adding that she doesn't want to risk an illegal crossing with the baby.

On Wednesday in Ciudad Juarez, a few dozen asylum seekers with appointments waited patiently to be called across the international bridge.

Gretchen Kuhner, director of IMUMI, a nongovernmental legal services organization in Mexico, was in the southern Mexican city of Tuxtla Gutierrez last week, where she found migrant families with young children living in the streets waiting for CBP One appointments.

"They are getting their cellphones charged every day at some makeshift place on the street so they can check their CBP One appointments ... while they're breastfeeding and sleeping in a tent without any water," she said.

"People who need protection are really trying to do it the right way."

Further restrictions on the already difficult process would leave vulnerable populations with few options, said Mark Hetfield, CEO of the U.S.-based refugee support organization HIAS.

"It would mean they have no place to go because there are many, many countries in the hemisphere where there is effectively no asylum system or where even if you could get asylum, you're not necessarily safe," he said.

And then there's the specter of massive deportations. Trump made a similar threat before and didn't deliver, but there's real concern.

Deportations to countries like Cuba and Venezuela could be complicated by icy relations, though Venezuela's Maduro issued a conciliatory message congratulating Trump Wednesday. Advocates in Haiti on Thursday demanded countries, including the U.S., halt deportations because of the country's domestic crisis.

And no country stands to be more impacted than Mexico. There are some 11 million Mexicans living in the U.S., about 5 million of whom don't have legal status. Mexicans sent home more than \$63 billion in remittances last year, mostly from the United States. Mass deportations would shake the finances of millions of families and the Mexican economy would struggle to absorb them.

Migrant advocates and shelter directors in Mexico said they've heard of no government plans to deal with large numbers of deportees.

Mexican aid groups are "not in a position to receive that quantity of people and let's be honest, it's civil society that carries on its shoulders most of the humanitarian response toward those who are deported or in transit," said Rafael Velásquez García, Mexico director for the International Rescue Committee.

Mexico needs to prepare itself for all manner of pressures coming from a Trump administration, said Carlos Pérez Ricart, a professor of international relations at Mexican public research center CIDE.

"What Mexico has to accept is that our country is going to be a holding country for migrants, whether they want it or not," he said. "Trump is going to deport thousands, if not millions of people and he's going to impede the flow of migrants."

## **Australian states back national plan to ban children younger than 16 from social media**

By ROD MCGUIRK Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australia's states and territories on Friday unanimously backed a national plan to require most forms of social media to bar children younger than 16.

Leaders of the eight provinces held a virtual meeting with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to discuss what he calls a world-first national approach that would make platforms including X, TikTok, Instagram and Facebook responsible for enforcing the age limit.

"Social media is doing social harm to our young Australians," Albanese told reporters. "The safety and mental health of our young people has to be a priority."

The government leaders had been discussing for months setting a limit, considering options from 14 to 16 years of age.

While Tasmania would have preferred 14, the state was prepared to support 16 in the interests of achieving national uniformity, Albanese said.

The legislation will be introduced into Parliament within two weeks, and the age ban would take effect a year after it passes into law, giving platforms time to work out how to exclude children. The government has yet to offer a technical solution.

The delay is also intended to allow time to address privacy concerns around age verification.

The main opposition party has given in-principle support to the 16-year age limit since it was announced on Thursday, suggesting the legislation will pass the Senate.

The minor Greens party was critical, saying the ban would prevent the emergence in Australia of future child environmental activists like Sweden's Greta Thunberg.

More than 140 academics with expertise in fields related to technology and child welfare signed an open letter to Albanese last month opposing a social media age limit as "too blunt an instrument to address risks effectively."

Critics say most teenagers are tech savvy enough to get around such laws. Some fear the ban will create conflicts within families and drive social media problems underground.

Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, argues that stronger tools in app stores and operating systems for parents to control what apps their children can use would be a "simple and effective solution."

The government likens the proposed social media age limit to the laws that restrict the sale of alcohol to adults aged 18 and older across Australia. Children still find ways to drink, but the prohibition remains.

"We think these laws will make a real positive difference," Albanese said.

But Lisa Given, professor of information sciences at RMIT University, described the legislation as "really problematic."

"Many of our social networks are actually about the provision of extremely critical information to kids," Given told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"There's no doubt that they're also facing bullying and other challenges online, but they actually need the social supports to know how to navigate the platforms safely and so they need more support from

parents, from care-givers, not less access to a single or multiple platforms," Given added.

Tama Leaver, professor of internet studies at Curtin University, described the government's plan to remove 14 and 15-year-olds from their already established social media accounts as "strange."

"If you've already developed that space in that world, to have it taken away really could do as much harm as the harms that are purportedly being fixed," Leaver said.

"There are so many questions about this that have yet to be answered, but even if we had solid answers about how this might work technically and how this might get implemented socially, it's still hard to believe that this would actually keep kids safe online," he added.

Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said children would retain access to online education and health services.

The legislation would also include strong privacy protections surrounding age verification.

"Privacy must be paramount, including that of children," Rowland said. "We should also be very clear about the realities. These platforms know about their users in a way that no one else does."

Rowland said YouTube would likely be included among the mainstream platforms defined under the legislation as age restricted services.

But YouTube Kids could be exempted. Gaming and messaging services would not face age restrictions, she said,

"This legislation would strike a balance between minimizing the harms experienced by young people during a critical period of their development while also supporting their access to benefits as well," Rowland said.

## **Why people with disabilities in Nairobi are looking beyond public transport to navigate busy city**

By MAGDALENE MWANIKI Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Caroline Mwikali lost her ability to walk at age 13 after an illness. She quickly learned how difficult it is to get around in Kenya's busy capital, Nairobi.

Mwikali, who now works at a car financing company, said public transport is not designed to accommodate wheelchair users like her.

Nairobi's most popular modes of transport include motorbikes along with minivans and minibuses that are not fitted with ramps. They also are not designed to fit wheelchairs in their aisles, so users must be hoisted up the stairs and placed on regular seats while their wheelchairs are put with luggage.

"In most cases, the people manning the bus terminals have to lift you off the wheelchair to help you board the buses. This is not only uncomfortable but leaves you attracting unnecessary attention from the public," Mwikali told The Associated Press.

She is among 2.2% of Kenya's population, or about 900,000 people, who live with a disability. The most common type of disability is mobility-related at 42%.

One entrepreneur, Daniel Gatura, founded Ace Mobility in Nairobi in 2021. Its vehicles are modified with ramps and swivel seats to accommodate people with disabilities and anyone else who needs support commuting.

Gatura said he was inspired by a personal experience growing up.

"My father sustained a spinal cord injury in an accident that left him in a wheelchair when he was just 5 years old. I witnessed the challenges my father faced, including losing his job due to transportation issues," Gatura said.

Users can book rides through the Ace Mobility app. Drivers are trained as caregivers, ensuring they understand how to provide respectful and appropriate assistance to passengers with disabilities.

Gatura said they have 5,000 users.

"We are changing the narrative around disability and reduced mobility. Just because you have a disability doesn't mean you cannot earn for yourself; it doesn't mean you are a nobody in the society," he said.

The transport is more expensive than public transport, charging the equivalent of \$1 per kilometer (0.6

miles). The same amount can be used to pay for a 40-kilometer (24-mile) ride in public transport vehicles. But Gatura noted it delivers people directly to their homes.

"I find the charges quite fair considering the convenience that it offers. I get to travel comfortably and without necessarily moving from my chair. It also somehow preserves my dignity," said Mwikali, who has used the service for four months after a referral from a former classmate.

But others like Cindy Cherotich can't afford the service. She must jostle for space on minibuses while on crutches.

"When I go to the bus station sometimes the public vehicles do not allow me to board," she said. "When they see my crutch and (see) somebody who is OK without crutches, they will let them in and I will be left."

Lucy Nkatha, a disability advocate and coordinator of Kiengu Women Challenged to Challenge Group, an NGO, said she had never heard of Ace Mobility and called for marketing support for such companies.

"It should also be made affordable," she said.

Sandra Nyawira, the disability inclusion adviser at United Disabled Persons of Kenya, noted that Kenya has a number of policies in place to address accommodations for people with disabilities, but implementation is rare. She called for more political will.

"It's one thing to have a policy that speaks to your issues, but then it's another to implement them," she said.

## **In an Israeli settlement named after Trump, residents see opportunity after the election**

By SAM MCNEIL Associated Press

RAMAT TRUMP, Golan Heights (AP) — Israeli residents of "Trump Heights" are welcoming the election of their namesake, hoping Donald Trump's return to the U.S. presidency will breathe new life into this tiny, remote settlement in the central Golan Heights.

During his first term, Trump became the first and only foreign leader to recognize Israel's control of the Golan, which it seized from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel thanked him by rebranding this outpost after him.

But a large-scale influx of new residents never materialized after that 2019 ceremony, and just a couple dozen families live in Trump Heights, or "Ramat Trump" in Hebrew. Job opportunities are limited, and Israel's more than yearlong war against Hezbollah militants in nearby Lebanon has added to the sense of isolation.

Trump's election has inspired hope in the community that it will attract more members and also more funding for security improvements.

"Maybe it can raise more awareness and maybe some support to help here and help our kids here," said Yarden Freimann, Trump Heights' community manager.

Ori Kallner, head of the Golan's regional council, showed off dozens of plots of land, replete with new asphalt roads, lampposts and utility lines, that residents have prepared for future housing developments.

"President Trump's return to the White House definitely puts the town in the headlines," he said.

Hanging on while war rages nearby

Kallner stood next to a metal statue of an eagle and a menorah, symbolizing the United States and Israel, as Israeli warplanes flew overhead. Two explosions from rockets fired from Lebanon punched the hills nearby, and just across the border in Lebanon, plumes of smoke rose into the air from Israeli airstrikes.

An enormous sign with the settlement's name in Hebrew and English gleamed in the sun, while two large sunbaked metal flags of Israel and the United States were faded almost beyond recognition.

Surrounded by ashen ruins of villages fled by Syrians in the 1967 war, the town is perched above the Hula Valley, where Israel has amassed tanks, artillery and troops for its fight in Lebanon. Most towns in the valley have been evacuated. Trump Heights sends its kids to a makeshift daycare in a nearby settlement after the government shuttered all schools in the region in the wake of the Oct. 1 invasion of Lebanon.

"We find ourselves hanging by our fingernails to be in our own community, not be evacuated, and on the other hand, we cannot work, we cannot send our kids to any kind of an education system," said Freimann.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 46 of 82

Trump Heights is only about 7 miles (12 kilometers) from Lebanon and Syria. Alerts for incoming fire gives residents about 30 seconds' head start to get to a bomb shelter.

Trump broke with other leaders on the Golan Heights

Israel annexed the Golan, a strategic plateau overlooking northern Israel, in 1981 in a move that is not internationally recognized.

That changed in March 2019 when Trump, without notice, tweeted that the U.S. would "fully recognize" Israel's control of the territory. His announcement drew widespread condemnation from the international community, which considers the Golan to be occupied Syrian territory and Israel's settlements to be illegal. The Biden administration left the decision intact, but the U.S. remains the lone country to recognize the Israeli annexation.

Kallner said he hopes Trump will now persuade European countries to recognize Israeli sovereignty there.

According to Israeli figures, the Golan is home to about 50,000 people — roughly half of them Jewish Israelis and the other half Arab Druze, many of whom still consider themselves Syrians under occupation.

Israel has encouraged and promoted settlements in the Golan, and the Druze residents operate farms and a tourism and restaurant sector popular with Israelis. But the area has struggled to develop because of its remoteness, several hours from Israel's economic center in Tel Aviv.

That economic hardship has only worsened during the war as the hospitality sector cratered. On July 28, a rocket killed 12 Druze children on a soccer field in the city of Majdal Shams, about 12 miles (20 kilometers) away. Israel invaded Lebanon months later.

In June 2019, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu led an inauguration ceremony for Trump Heights. The U.S. ambassador at the time, David Friedman, noted that the ceremony came days after Trump's birthday and said: "I can't think of a more appropriate and a more beautiful birthday present."

As president, Trump was close with Netanyahu

The Golan recognition was among a series of diplomatic gifts that Trump delivered to Israel during his first term. They included recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the American embassy to the contested city, and a series of diplomatic agreements with Arab countries known as the Abraham Accords.

He has vowed to bring peace to the tumultuous region during his second term, but has not said how.

Netanyahu enjoyed a close relationship with Trump during his first term but ran afoul of the former president when he congratulated Joe Biden on his 2020 victory. The Israeli prime minister announced Tuesday that he was one of the first foreign leaders to call the president-elect and congratulate him on his victory. An official in his office, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal communications, said aides were upbeat and giddy.

"Congratulations on history's greatest comeback!" the Israeli leader said in a statement. "Your historic return to the White House offers a new beginning for America and a powerful recommitment to the great alliance between Israel and America."

At Trump Heights, Kallner was optimistic too: "The Golan community is strong and resilient, and people that want to come and live here are from the same material. I believe we will overcome these challenging times and won't stop growing."

## The story of how Trump went from diminished ex-president to a victor once again

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — As he bid farewell to Washington in January 2021, deeply unpopular and diminished, Donald Trump was already hinting at a comeback.

"Goodbye. We love you. We will be back in some form," Trump told supporters at Joint Base Andrews, where he'd arranged a 21-gun salute as part of a military send-off before boarding Air Force One. "We will see you soon."

Four years later, he's fulfilled his prophecy.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 47 of 82

With his commanding victory over Vice President Kamala Harris, Trump achieved a comeback that seemed unimaginable after the 2020 election ended with his supporters violently storming the Capitol after he refused to accept his defeat.

In the years that followed, Trump was widely blamed for Republican losses, indicted four times, convicted on 34 felony counts, ruled to have inflated his assets in a civil fraud trial and found liable for sexual abuse. He still faces fines that top more than half a billion dollars and the prospect of jail time.

But Trump managed to turn his legal woes into fuel that channeled voters' anger. He seized on widespread discontent over the direction of a country battered by years of high inflation. And he spoke to a new generation — using podcasts and social media — to tell those who felt forgotten that he shared their disdain for the status quo.

And he did so while surviving two attempted assassinations and a late-stage candidate replacement by Democrats.

"This was a campaign of October surprises," Trump campaign senior adviser Chris LaCivita said hours after clinching victory. "When you think about it, whether it was indictments, convictions, assassination attempts, the switching out of the candidate — I mean it was a campaign of firsts on so many different levels."

'Fight! Fight! Fight!'

Trump had entered the general election after sweeping the GOP primaries and routing a crowded field of candidates. The indictments against him dominated news coverage and forced even his rivals to rally around him as he cast himself as the victim of a politically motivated effort to hobble his candidacy.

A late June debate against President Joe Biden — which the Biden campaign had pushed for — ended disastrously for the president, who struggled to put words together and repeatedly lost his train of thought.

When Trump arrived at the Republican National Convention to formally accept his party's nomination for the second time weeks later, he seemed unstoppable. Just two days earlier, a gunman had opened fire at his rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, unleashing a hail of bullets that grazed his ear and left one supporter dead.

After the gunman had been killed, Trump stood, surrounded by Secret Service agents, his face streaked by blood, and raised his fist in the air — shouting "Fight! Fight! Fight!" — as the crowd erupted into cheers. The moment became a rallying cry for his campaign.

"If you want to make somebody iconic, try to throw them in jail. Try to bankrupt them. ... If you want to make somebody iconic, try to kill him," said Roger Stone, a longtime Republican operative who has known Trump for 45 years and was pardoned by the former president. "All of those things failed. They just made him bigger and more powerful as a political force. Every one of those things turbocharged his candidacy."

A sudden reversal

Trump had appeared to be on a glide path to victory. But just days later, Democrats, fearing a blowout loss and panicking over Biden's age and ability to do the job for another four years, successfully persuaded the president to step aside and end his bid, making way for Harris' history-shattering candidacy.

Trump campaign aides insisted they were prepared. Videos for the convention had been cut with two different versions: One featuring Biden, the other Harris, and versions attacking both were played on the big screens in Milwaukee.

But the change sent Trump into a tailspin. He had spent millions, he complained, beating Biden, and now had to "start all over" again — this time facing a candidate who was not only nearly two decades younger, embodying the generational change voters had said they wanted, but also a woman who would have become the country's first female president.

In one particularly hostile appearance, Trump questioned the racial identity of the first woman of color to serve as vice president and to lead a major-party ticket before the National Association of Black Journalists.

"I didn't know she was Black until a number of years ago when she happened to turn Black and now she wants to be known as Black," Trump said of the daughter of Jamaican and Indian immigrants, who had attended a historically Black college and served as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

On his Truth Social site, he amplified a post that suggested Harris had used sexual favors to advance her career.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 48 of 82

Harris fails to make her case for change

Trump's campaign aides quickly pivoted to taking Harris down. They belittled her as unserious, with ads focused on her laugh. They labeled her "dangerously liberal," highlighting the progressive policies she had embraced when she first ran for president in 2020.

They argued her "joyful warrior" messaging was fundamentally at odds with the sour mood of the electorate, and responded gleefully to Harris telling voters "We are not going back" when many voters seemed to want just that.

Though Trump had left office with a dismal approval rating, that number had ticked up considerably in the years that followed, amid concerns over high prices and the influx of migrants who entered the country illegally after Biden relaxed restrictions.

Harris' momentum was just a sugar high, they said. Tony Fabrizio, the campaign pollster, called it "a kind of out-of-body experience where we have suspended reality." Soon, they predicted, what they dubbed the "Harris honeymoon" would subside.

Trump's campaign insisted they did not fundamentally change their strategy with Harris as their rival. Instead, they tried to cast her as the incumbent, tying her to every one of the Biden administration's most unpopular policies. Trump, the 78-year-old former president, would be the candidate of change — and one who had been tested.

Harris played right into their hands. Asked during an October appearance on "The View" if there was anything she would have done differently than Biden over the last four years, she responded that there was "not a thing that comes to mind."

Trump's campaign rejoiced when they heard the clip, which they quickly cut into ads.

Harris, they believed, failed to articulate a forward-looking agenda that represented a break from the unpopular incumbent. And she struggled to distance herself from some of the far-left positions she had taken during the 2020 Democratic primary — sometimes denying positions she was on record as having taken, or failing to offer a clear explanation for her change of heart.

She spent much of the final stretch of the campaign reverting to Biden's strategy of casting Trump as a fundamental threat to democracy.

But the country made clear it was "ready to move in a different direction," said longtime Trump adviser Corey Lewandowski. "They want someone who's going to change. They don't have to think back 20 or 30 years. They can think back to four and five years ago. And they want that back in the White House."

A new Republican coalition

After his 2020 loss, Trump's campaign worked to grow his appeal beyond the white working-class base that had delivered his first victory. The campaign would court young people and Black and Latino men, including many who rarely voted but felt like they weren't getting ahead. They seized on divisions in the Democratic Party, courting both Jewish voters and Muslims.

In a scene that would have seemed unthinkable eight years ago, Trump — the man who called for "a total and complete shutdown of Muslims" entering the country and later perused targeted travel bans — appeared onstage at his last rally of the campaign with Amer Ghalib, the Democratic, Arab American mayor of Hamtramck, Michigan. Days earlier, Trump had gone to the majority Arab American city of Dearborn, Michigan, for a campaign stop.

"They saw him as their last hope to end these wars in the Middle East and bring back peace. And this was made very clear when he came to Dearborn," said Massad Boulos, the father of Trump's son-in-law, who led Trump's outreach with Arab Americans. He noted Harris "didn't even come close to Dearborn."

Trump received another boost when the International Brotherhood of Teamsters declined to endorse either candidate, citing a lack of consensus among its 1.3 million members.

While much of the campaign's messaging centered on the economy and immigration, Trump also tried to court voters with giveaways, promising to end taxes on tips, on overtime pay and on Social Security benefits.

And his aides seized on the culture wars surrounding transgender rights, pouring money into ads aimed



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 49 of 82

at young men — especially young Hispanic men — attacking Harris for supporting “taxpayer-funded sex changes for prisoners,” including one spot featuring popular radio host Charlamagne tha God that aired predominantly during football games.

“Kamala is for they/them. President Trump is for you,” the narrator said.

Trump’s campaign succeeded in its mission, picking up a small but significant share of Black and Hispanic voters, and forging a new working-class coalition crossing racial lines.

“They came from all quarters: union, non-union, African American, Hispanic American, Asian American, Arab American, Muslim American,” Trump in his victory speech. “We had everybody and it was beautiful. It was a historic realignment, uniting citizens of all backgrounds around a common core of common sense.”

Podcast bros and Mickey D’s

The campaign decided early that it would focus much of its efforts on low-propensity voters — people who rarely turn out to the polls and are more likely to get their news from non-traditional sources.

To reach them, Trump began a podcast blitz, appearing with hosts who are popular with young men, including Adin Ross, Theo Von and Joe Rogan. He attended football games and UFC fights, where audiences erupted into cheers at arrivals broadcast live on sports channels.

The campaign also worked to create viral moments. Trump paid a visit to McDonald’s, where he donned an apron, manned the fry station and served supporters through the drive-through window. Days later he delivered a news conference from the passenger seat of a garbage truck, while wearing a yellow safety vest.

Clips of those appearances racked up hundreds of millions of views on platforms like TikTok, which Trump embraced, despite having tried to previously ban the app at the White House.

The appearances helped to highlight an aspect of Trump’s appeal that is often lost on those who aren’t supporters.

Jaden Wurn, 20, a student at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania who was casting his ballot for Trump, said he was drawn to the former president in part because of his sense of humor.

“Trump is able to just chat,” he said. “It can be policy. It can be culture. It could be golf. It could be whatever it is, and he’s just able to sit down and have a nice, good conversation. Be relatable. Crack some jokes. He’s a funny guy. It’s refreshing.”

A new team and a ground game gamble

Unlike past campaigns marked by backstabbing and turnover, Trump’s operation was widely praised for being his most competent and disciplined, with credit given to Florida operative Susie Wiles, who will now serve as his White House chief of staff.

Haunted by lessons from 2020, aides were careful to save money for the race’s final stretch even as they were dramatically outraised by Democrats and shelled out millions on legal expenses.

And they took risks, including outsourcing a large portion of their paid get-out-the-vote operation to outside groups, taking advantage of an FEC ruling that allowed unprecedented coordination with a PAC formed by billionaire Elon Musk, his newest benefactor, and Charlie Kirk’s Turning Point group.

Ten days of chaos

As the race headed into the race’s final stretch, Trump’s team continued to project confidence, even as public polling showing a dead heat. They were on offensive, scheduling rallies in Democratic states like Virginia and New Mexico, as well as what was intended to be the marquee event of the campaign’s end: a rally at New York’s Madison Square Garden.

But the event — which Trump had talked of for years — was derailed long before he even took the stage as a series of pre-show speakers delivered vile, crude and racist insults, including a comedian who called Puerto Rico “a floating pile of garbage.”

Trump was livid, angry that the event had been overshadowed by vetting failures and he was being attacked for something he hadn’t said.

While aides insisted they saw no impact on their polling — their internal data had him leading through the final three weeks of the race, albeit with a razor-thin margin — even Trump’s most diehard supporters

expressed concerns that the fallout was resonating with undecided friends and family members.

"A couple of them were making the comment that he was against Puerto Rico or he's racist and I've been trying to educate them," said Donna Sheets, 51, a caregiver who lives in Christiansburg, Virginia, describing friends who had yet to make up their minds in the race's final stretch.

But yet again Trump caught a break. Biden, in a call organized by a Hispanic advocacy group, responded to the insults by calling Trump's supporters "garbage."

Trump quickly seized on the gaffe, coming up with the idea of hiring a garbage truck to ride in. Aides quickly scrambled to find a truck and print a "Trump" campaign decal to tape to its side.

They also presented him with an orange worker's vest — which he decided he liked so much that he continued to wear it onstage at a subsequent rally in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Supporters began showing up at his rallies wearing their own vests and garbage bags.

Still, Trump continued what felt, at times, like self-sabotage. He doubled down on his controversial pledge to "protect women," saying he would do so whether they "like it or not." He railed against former Rep. Liz Cheney, saying she would be less inclined to send Americans into war if she experienced what it felt like to be standing with nine rifles "trained at her face."

And on the Sunday before the election, at a rally in Pennsylvania, an exhausted Trump, fully unleashed, abandoned his stump speech altogether to deliver a profane and conspiracy-laden diatribe in which he said he "shouldn't have left" the White House after his 2020 loss and wouldn't mind much if reporters were shot.

The performance was so unhinged that Wiles was spotted coming out to stare at Trump as he spoke.

While aides were alarmed, they urged him to stick with the plan. Trump, onstage the next day, seemed to acknowledge their efforts as he repeated a familiar complaint about how he's not allowed to call women "beautiful" anymore, and then asked that it be struck from the record — saying, "So I'm allowed to do that, aren't I, Susan Wiles?"

Victory

As his top aides huddled upstairs in his office at Mar-a-Lago, Trump spent much of election night holding court with friends and club members as well as Musk and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. — leaders of a new Make America Great Again majority that bears little resemblance to the Republican Party of old.

While aides described him as confident, Trump watched the TVs that had been set up in the ballroom intensely as he mingled. This was more than an election, friends noted. He was fighting for his freedom. He will be able to end the federal investigations he faces as soon as he takes office.

After Fox News had called the race, Trump emerged, flanked by campaign staff and family.

"This will forever be remembered as the day the American people regained control of their country," he said.

## Trump's win brings uncertainty to borrowers hoping for student loan forgiveness

By CHEYANNE MUMPHREY Associated Press

Savannah Britt owes about \$27,000 on loans she took out to attend college at Rutgers University, a debt she was hoping to see reduced by President Joe Biden's student loan forgiveness efforts.

Her payments are currently on hold while courts untangle challenges to the loan forgiveness program. But as the weeks tick down on Biden's time in office, she could soon face a monthly payment of up to \$250.

"With this new administration, the dream is gone. It's shot," said Britt, 30, who runs her own communications agency. "I was hopeful before Tuesday. I was waiting out the process. Even my mom has a loan that she took out to support me. She owes about \$18,000, and she was in the process of it being forgiven, but it's at a standstill."

President-elect Donald Trump and his fellow Republicans have criticized Biden's loan forgiveness efforts, and lawsuits by GOP-led states have held up plans for widespread debt cancellation. Trump has not said what he would do on loan forgiveness, leaving millions of borrowers facing uncertainty over their personal

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 51 of 82

finances.

The economy was an important issue in the election, helping to propel Trump to victory. But for borrowers, concerns about their finances extend beyond inflation to include their student debt, said Persis Yu, managing counsel for the Student Borrower Protection Center.

"That's a big part of what is making life unaffordable for them is this burden of expenses that they can't seem to get out from under," Yu said.

Student loan cancellation was not a focus of the campaign for either Trump or Vice President Kamala Harris, who steered clear of the issue at her political events. The issue came up just once in the September presidential debate, when Trump hammered Harris and Biden for failing to deliver their promise of widespread forgiveness. Trump called it a "total catastrophe" that "taunted young people."

Biden promised the student loan cancellation program during his run for the presidency. From its launch, Biden's loan forgiveness faced relentless pushback from opponents who said it heaped advantage on elites and came at the expense of those who repaid their loans or did not attend college.

Biden's first plan to cancel up to \$20,000 for millions of people was blocked by the Supreme Court last year. A second, narrower plan has been halted by a federal judge after Republican-led states sued. A separate policy intended to lower loan payments for struggling borrowers has been paused by a judge, also after Republican-controlled states challenged it.

Overall, Biden's efforts were relatively unpopular, even among those with student loans. Three in 10 U.S. adults said they approved of how Biden had handled student loan debt, according to a poll this spring from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Four in 10 disapproved. The others were neutral or didn't know enough to say.

Project 2025, the blueprint for a hard-right turn in American government that aligns with some Trump priorities, calls for getting the federal government out of the student loan business and doing away with repayment plans that pre-date the Biden administration.

Even without directly addressing student loans, Trump has made promises that would affect them. He has pledged to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education, which manages the \$1.6 trillion federal student loan portfolio. It's unclear which entity would take that responsibility if the department were eliminated, which would require approval from Congress.

Yu noted the Biden administration managed to cancel student loans for about 5 million borrowers, even though the signature forgiveness effort has been blocked. The administration did it by leaning into loan cancellation programs already in effect. For example, an existing student loan forgiveness program for public service workers has granted relief to more than 1 million Americans, up from just 7,000 who were approved before it was updated by the Biden administration two years ago.

"A lot of the cancellation that we saw in the last couple of years was because the Biden administration was committed to making the programs that are actually enshrined in law work for people," Yu said.

Sabrina Calazans, 27, owes about \$30,000 on federal student loans from her college days at Arcadia University in Pennsylvania. Her payments also have been on hold, but she could soon face a monthly payment of over \$300.

"As a first-generation American, I live at home with my family, I contribute to our household finances, and that payment is a lot for me and so many others like me," said Calazans, who is originally from Brazil.

In her role as managing director for Student Debt Crisis Center, Calazans said she has been telling people to stay up to date on developments by using the loan simulator on the Federal Student Aid website and reading updated information on forgiveness qualifications and repayment programs.

"There's a lot of confusion about student loans," Calazans said, and not just among young people. "We're seeing a lot of parents take out more debt for their children to be able to go to school. We're seeing older folks go back to school and having to take out loans as well."

## Leader of the free world has never been a role Trump has embraced. The world has gotten the message

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. presidents usually pay lip service at least to being leaders of the free world, at the helm of a mighty democracy and military that allies worldwide can rally around and reasonably depend upon for support in return.

Not so under President-elect Donald Trump, a critic of many existing U.S. alliances, whose win of a second term this week had close European partners calling for a new era of self-reliance not dependent on American goodwill.

"We must not delegate forever our security to America," French President Emmanuel Macron said at a European summit Thursday.

Based on Trump's first term and campaign statements, the U.S. will become less predictable, more chaotic, colder to allies and warmer to some strongmen, and much more transactional in picking friends globally than before. America's place in world affairs and security will fundamentally change, both critics and supporters of Trump say.

His backers say he simply will be choosier about U.S. alliances and battles than previous presidents.

When it comes to the U.S. role on the world stage, no more talk of the country as leader of the free world, said Fiona Hill, a former Russia adviser to Trump and preceding U.S. presidents.

Maybe "the free-for-all world, his leadership?" Hill suggested in a recent European Council for Foreign Relations podcast. "I mean, what exactly is it that we're going to be leading here?"

Trump, with varying degrees of consistency, has been critical of NATO and support for Ukraine and Taiwan, two democracies under threat that depend on U.S. military support to counter Russia and China.

Trump has shown little interest in the longstanding U.S. role as anchor of strategic alliances with European and Indo-Pacific democracies. Before the election, partners and adversaries already were reevaluating their security arrangements in preparation for Trump's possible return.

European allies in particular bolstered efforts to build up their own and regional defenses, rather than rely on the U.S. as the anchor of NATO, the mutual-defense pact both Trump and running mate JD Vance have spoken of scathingly. Within hours of Trump's win over Vice President Kamala Harris this week, defense chiefs of France and Germany scheduled talks to address the impact.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin have appeared to shape war strategies with hopes that Trump could allow them freer rein.

Victoria Coates, a security adviser to Trump in his first term, rejects any portrayal of him as isolationist.

"I think he is extremely judicious about the application of the American military, and about potentially getting embroiled in conflicts we can't resolve," she said recently on a security podcast.

As evidence of his engagement globally, Coates pointed to Trump's support of Israel as it wages wars against Iranian-backed militant groups in Gaza and Lebanon.

She called Iran's nuclear program the "greatest concern" abroad and suggested its progress toward the possibility of nuclear weapons meant Trump might have to act more forcefully than in his first term, when he surged sanctions on Iran in what he called a "maximum pressure" campaign.

Trump, long an open admirer of Putin, has been most consistent in pointing to U.S. support of Ukraine for possible policy change.

Philip Breedlove, a former Air Force general and top NATO commander, said he can see both positive expectations and deep concerns for Ukraine and NATO in the next four years under Trump.

While Trump's NATO rhetoric during his first administration was often harsh, it didn't lead to any actual U.S. troop reductions in Europe or decreased support for the alliance, Breedlove said. And 23 NATO nations are spending at least 2% of their gross domestic product on defense, compared with 10 in 2020 — a showing that now negates a persistent Trump complaint.

More concerning, Breedlove said, is Trump's vow to end the war in Ukraine right away.

While that goal is noble, "ending wars on terms that are appropriate is one thing. Capitulating to an

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 53 of 82

enemy in order to stop a conflict is a different thing. And that's what worries me," Breedlove said.

He and others have warned that an end to the war that gives Russia additional territory in Ukraine will set a bad precedent. European nations fear it will embolden Putin to come after them.

So do supporters of Taiwan, a democratically run island that China has said it will one day annex, by force if necessary. Trump has ranged from saying Taiwan should pay the U.S. for its defense support to claiming he could charm Chinese President Xi Jinping out of threatening Taiwan.

"One thing that does make me nervous about Trump vis-à-vis the Taiwan Strait is his reliance on unpredictability, his reliance on being something of a chaotic actor in a situation that is finely balanced," said Paul Nadeau, an assistant professor of international affairs and political science at Temple University's Japan campus.

The situation is one "that requires a profound reading of very subtle signals between Taiwan, between the United States, between China," Nadeau said.

The world that Trump will face has changed, too, with Russia, North Korea, Iran and China further consolidating in a loose, opportunistic alliance to counter the West, and particularly the U.S.

In places where the U.S. has withdrawn, Russia, China and at times Iran have been quick to extend their influence, including in the Middle East.

During his first term, Trump repeatedly vowed to pull all U.S. forces out of Iraq and Syria, at times blindsiding Pentagon officials with sudden statements and tweets that left officials fumbling for answers.

A backlash from some Republican lawmakers and counterproposals by U.S. military leaders slowed those plans, including suggestions that some U.S. troops should remain in Syria to protect oil sites. The U.S. still has about 900 troops in Syria, which could plunge under Trump.

The number of U.S. forces in Iraq is already dwindling based on a new agreement between the Biden administration and Baghdad. The plan would wrap up the U.S.-led coalition's mission to fight the Islamic State group by next year but likely shift at least some U.S. troops to northern Iraq to support the fight against IS in Syria.

Trump's first term — followed by Joe Biden's foreign policy increasingly becoming consumed by unsuccessful efforts to reach cease-fires in the Middle East — already have spurred allies to speak of building up their own military strength and that of smaller regional alliances for security.

"Factored into calculations is there's going to be less United States than before" on the world stage, Hill said. "There can't be this dangerous dependency on what happens in Washington, D.C."

## **Racist text messages referencing slavery raise alarms in multiple states and prompt investigations**

By AYANNA ALEXANDER, ALI SWENSON and GARY FIELDS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Racist text messages invoking slavery raised alarm across the country this week after they were sent to Black men, women and students, including middle schoolers, prompting inquiries by the FBI and other agencies.

The messages, sent anonymously, were reported in several states, including New York, Alabama, California, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee. They generally used a similar tone but varied in wording.

Some instructed the recipient to show up at an address at a particular time "with your belongings," while others didn't include a location. Some of them mentioned the incoming presidential administration.

It wasn't yet clear who was behind the messages and there was no comprehensive list of where they were sent, but high school and college students were among the recipients.

The FBI said it was in touch with the Justice Department on the messages, and the Federal Communications Commission said it was investigating the texts "alongside federal and state law enforcement." The Ohio Attorney General's office also said it was looking into the matter.

Tasha Dunham of Lodi, California, said her 16-year-old daughter showed her one of the messages Wednesday evening before her basketball practice.

The text not only used her daughter's name, but it directed her to report to a "plantation" in North

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 54 of 82

Carolina, where Dunham said they've never lived. When they looked up the address, it was the location of a museum.

"It was very disturbing," Dunham said. "Everybody's just trying to figure out what does this all mean for me? So, I definitely had a lot of fear and concern."

Her daughter initially thought it was a prank, but emotions are high following Tuesday's presidential election. Dunham and her family thought it could be more nefarious and reported it to local law enforcement.

"I wasn't in slavery. My mother wasn't in slavery. But we're a couple of generations away. So, when you think about how brutal and awful slavery was for our people, it's awful and concerning," Dunham said.

About six middle school students in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, received the messages too, said Megan Shafer, acting superintendent of the Lower Merion School District.

"The racist nature of these text messages is extremely disturbing, made even more so by the fact that children have been targeted," she wrote in a letter to parents.

Students at some major universities, including Clemson in South Carolina and the University of Alabama, said they received the messages. The Clemson Police Department said in a statement that it had been notified of the "deplorable racially motivated text and email messages" and encouraged anyone who received one to report it.

Fisk University, a historically Black university in Nashville, Tennessee, issued a statement calling the messages that targeted some of its students "deeply unsettling." It urged calm and assured students that the texts likely were from bots or malicious actors with "no real intentions or credibility."

Missouri NAACP President Nimrod Chapel said Black students who are members of the organization's Missouri State University chapter received texts citing Trump's win and calling them out by name as being "selected to pick cotton" next Tuesday. Chapel said police in the southeastern Missouri city of Springfield, home of the university, have been notified.

"It points to a well-organized and resourced group that has decided to target Americans on our home soil based on the color of our skin," Chapel said in a statement.

Nick Ludlum, a senior vice president for the wireless industry trade group CTIA, said: "Wireless providers are aware of these threatening spam messages and are aggressively working to block them and the numbers that they are coming from."

David Brody, director of the Digital Justice Initiative at The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, said that they aren't sure who is behind the messages but estimated they had been sent to more than 10 states, including most Southern states, Maryland, Oklahoma and even the District of Columbia. The district's Metropolitan Police force said in a statement that its intelligence unit was investigating the origins of the message.

Brody said a number of civil rights laws can be applied to hate-related incidents. The leaders of several other civil rights organizations condemned the messages, including Margaret Huang, president and CEO of the Southern Poverty Law Center, who said, "Hate speech has no place in the South or our nation."

"The threat — and the mention of slavery in 2024 — is not only deeply disturbing, but perpetuates a legacy of evil that dates back to before the Jim Crow era, and now seeks to prevent Black Americans from enjoying the same freedom to pursue life, liberty, and happiness," said NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson. "These actions are not normal. And we refuse to let them be normalized."

## Fans flood @Pontifex account after it inadvertently cites New Orleans Saints amid dreadful season

By NICOLE WINFIELD and CHRIS LEHOURITES Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The New Orleans Saints may be one of the worst teams in the NFL this season, but at least they can count on continued prayers from Pope Francis.

The pope — or at least someone in the Vatican communications office — has been inadvertently rooting for the Saints since Nov. 1 — All Saints Day — even as the team lost yet another game and fired their coach.

Thanks to an automatic function on X, formerly Twitter, the team's fleur-de-lis emoji is automatically added

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 55 of 82

to the hashtag #Saints. That has given the impression that the @Pontifex account on X, which has 18.4 million followers and happens to be tweeting a lot about saints lately, was talking about the team when in fact the pope was extolling how actual saints "are precious pearls and are always living and relevant."

The comments sections on the handful of papal #Saint tweets in recent days have blown up, with more than twice as many comments as normal @Pontifex tweets.

"They need more than what you can do Pope Francis. They need to consult the big guy," wrote @DaBears\_26 on Nov. 2.

In the past week, Saints fans have lamented yet another loss at last-place Carolina, which extended the Saints' losing streak to seven games — their longest since 1999 — and brought their record to 2-7. And they have welcomed the firing of Coach Dennis Allen on Monday.

"Even the Pope is excited we fired Dennis Allen," wrote @JonoBarnes.

Some referred to the unwanted distinction earned last week by Derek Carr: He became the first NFL quarterback to lose to 31 teams. While others, non-Saints fans, asked the pope for some equal time.

"Any chance the @HoustonTexans can catch a blessing too?" asked @DustyLeeCook

The Rev. Matthew Schneider, a prominent voice on Catholic Twitter, has been trying for five years to get the Vatican communications office to fix the #Saints fleur-de-lis emoji issue, apparently in vain.

Back in 2019, he posted a comment on another @Pontifex saintly tweet that automatically referenced the team, urging the Vatican communications office to check the hashtags before posting. He did so again this past week, this time directing his request to X.

"It was cute the first time but it's becoming tiresome," he wrote.

The @Pontifex account, which opened in 2012, is the official English-language Twitter handle of the pope. The pope tweets in other languages in variations of the handle.

The Vatican spokesman didn't respond to a request for comment late Thursday. For the record, Francis is a lifelong fan of the San Lorenzo soccer club of his native Buenos Aires.

## Who is Susie Wiles, Donald Trump's new White House chief of staff?

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With her selection as President-elect Donald Trump's incoming White House chief of staff, veteran Florida political strategist Susie Wiles moves from a largely behind-the-scenes role of campaign co-chair to the high-profile position of the president's closest adviser and counsel.

She's been in political circles for years. But who is Wiles, the operative set to be the first woman to step into the powerful role of White House chief of staff?

She has decades of experience, most of it in Florida

The daughter of NFL player and sportscaster Pat Summerall, Wiles worked in the Washington office of New York Rep. Jack Kemp in the 1970s. Following that were stints on Ronald Reagan's campaign and in his White House as a scheduler.

Wiles then headed to Florida, where she advised two Jacksonville mayors and worked for Rep. Tillie Fowler. After that came statewide campaigns in rough and tumble Florida politics, with Wiles being credited with helping businessman Rick Scott win the governor's office.

After briefly managing Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman's 2012 presidential campaign, she ran Trump's 2016 effort in Florida, when his win in the state helped him clinch the White House.

She has a history with Ron DeSantis

Two years later, Wiles helped get Ron DeSantis elected as Florida's governor. But the two would develop a rift that eventually led to DeSantis to urge Trump's 2020 campaign to cut its ties with the strategist, when she was again running the then-president's state campaign.

Wiles ultimately went on to lead Trump's primary campaign against DeSantis and trounced the Florida governor. Trump campaign aides and their outside allies gleefully taunted DeSantis throughout the race — mocking his laugh, the way he ate and accusing him of wearing lifts in his boots — as well as using insider knowledge that many suspected had come from Wiles and others on Trump's campaign staff who

had also worked for DeSantis and had had bad experiences.

Wiles had posted just three times on X this year at the time of her announcement. Shortly before DeSantis dropped out of the presidential race in January, Wiles made a rare appearance on social media. She responded to a message that DeSantis had cleared his campaign website of upcoming events with a short but clear message: "Bye, bye."

She shuns the spotlight — most of the time

Joining up with Trump's third campaign in its nascent days, Wiles is one of the few top officials to survive an entire Trump campaign and was part of the team that put together a far more professional operation for his third White House bid — even if the former president routinely broke through those guardrails anyway.

She largely avoided the spotlight, even refusing to take the mic to speak as Trump celebrated his victory early Wednesday morning.

But she showed she was not above taking on tasks reserved for volunteers. At one of Trump's appearances in Iowa in July of last year, as the former president posed for pictures with a long line of voters, Wiles grabbed a clipboard and started approaching people waiting to get them to fill out cards committing to caucus for Trump in the leadoff primary contest.

"If we leave the conference room after a meeting and somebody leaves trash on the table, Susie's the person to grab the trash and put it in the trash can," said Chris LaCivita, who served as campaign co-chair along with Wiles.

Another of her three posts on X this year was in the closing days of the campaign, clapping back after billionaire Mark Cuban remarked that Trump didn't have "strong, intelligent women" in his orbit. After Wiles' selection as White House chief of staff, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, a Trump backer, quipped on X that the president-elect had chosen a "strong, intelligent woman" as his chief of staff.

She can control some of Trump's worst impulses

Wiles was able to help control Trump's worst impulses — not by chiding him or lecturing, but by earning his respect and showing him that he was better off when he followed her advice than flouted it. At one point late in the campaign, when Trump gave a widely criticized speech in Pennsylvania in which he strayed from his talking points and suggested he wouldn't mind the media being shot, Wiles came out to stare at him silently.

Trump often referenced Wiles on the campaign trail, publicly praising her leadership of what he said he was often told was his "best-run campaign."

"She's incredible. Incredible," he said at a Milwaukee rally earlier this month.

Will she have staying power?

In his first administration, Trump went through four chiefs of staff — including one who served in an acting capacity for a year — in a period of record-setting personnel churn.

A chief of staff serves as the president's confidant, helping to execute an agenda and balancing competing political and policy priorities. They also tend to serve as a gatekeeper, helping determine whom the president spends their time and to whom they speak — an effort under which Trump chafed inside the White House.

Trump has repeatedly said he believes the biggest mistake of his first term was hiring the wrong people. He was new to Washington then, he has said, and didn't know any better.

But now, Trump says, he knows the "best people" and those to avoid for jobs.

## **GOP picks up more key House seats while Democrats insist they still have a path to a majority**

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican leaders projected confidence Thursday that they will keep control of the U.S. House as more races were decided in their favor, while Democrats insisted they still see a path toward the majority and sought assurances every vote will be counted.

The GOP picked up two more hard-fought seats in Pennsylvania, which became a stark battlefield of



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 57 of 82

Democratic losses up and down the ticket. Democrats notched another win in New York, defeating a third Republican incumbent in that state.

Both parties in the House huddled privately on conference calls to assess the political landscape as Congress prepared to return next week to a changed Washington, where a sweep of MAGA-infused GOP power is within reach for President-elect Donald Trump.

"The latest data indicates that we will also hold — and likely grow — our Republican majority in the House," Speaker Mike Johnson said in a letter to colleagues, seeking their support to keep the gavel.

But Democratic Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries said "it has yet to be decided" which party will control the House as several key races remained uncalled.

Seeing their options narrow, Democrats focused on flipping a handful of seats in Arizona, California and possibly Oregon to close the gap.

"We must count every vote," Jeffries said.

A final tally in the House will almost certainly have to wait until next week, at the soonest, when Congress is back in session and prepares to elect its new leaders, including nominees for House speaker and the senator who will replace outgoing GOP Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The election results were beyond what Republicans had even hoped for, including a majority in the Senate, where two races were still undecided — in Arizona between Democrat Ruben Gallego and Republican Kari Lake and in Nevada between Democratic Sen. Jacky Rosen and Republican Sam Brown.

The Associated Press called more races Thursday. In Pennsylvania, Republican Ryan Mackenzie defeated incumbent Democratic Rep. Susan Wild in the Allentown-area district, and Republican Robert Bresnahan dislodged Democratic Rep. Matt Cartwright in the Northeast part of the state.

Pennsylvania's Senate race between Sen. Bob Casey and wealthy businessman Dave McCormick was decided in McCormick's favor, giving Republicans a 53rd seat in the chamber.

Democrats made up some ground in New York, where Laura Gillen beat incumbent GOP Rep. Anthony D'Esposito, the third flip for Democrats in Jeffries' home state.

Attention increasingly focused on the West, where Democrats were eyeing what's left of their path to the majority.

Democrats would need to sweep the most contested races, including two in Arizona and several in California, to win power. But tallies are expected to drag on as California, in particular, counts mail-in ballots that are arriving in the week after the election.

Republican Rep. Richard Hudson, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, told lawmakers on a private call that he's confident the GOP will hold the House majority, according to a Republican who is familiar with the call but spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose details.

Trump is consolidating power in Washington, returning to the White House a much more dominant force than in his first term, when Republicans split over their support for him and some were openly skeptical of if not opposed to his rise.

This time, Johnson and Senate GOP leaders have drawn closer to Trump, relying on his power for their own as they drive a common Republican agenda more aligned with his "Make America Great Again" priorities.

Johnson, in his letter to colleagues, used a football metaphor to say he's "ready to take the field with all of you" to play "the biggest offense of our lives."

While Johnson is in line to remain House speaker in the new Congress, if Republicans keep control, the question of who will replace McConnell, who led his party in flipping Senate control, is its own intense contest.

The choices facing Republican senators for a new leader are between the "Johns" — No. 2 Republican Sen. John Thune and Texas Sen. John Cornyn — and a longshot, Sen. Rick Scott of Florida, who is favored by hard-right Senate conservatives who want Trump to weigh in on the race.

Cornyn and Thune, who both campaigned for Trump, are building support among senators in what is expected to be a close race on private ballots.

Thune has worked to mend a rocky relationship with Trump, and the two spoke as recently as Wednesday, according to another Republican familiar with the private conversation who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss it.

The South Dakota senator had been critical of Trump in the aftermath of the 2020 election for stoking claims of fraudulent voting ahead of the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack. Thune and Trump have been in touch throughout the year, the person said.

Thune has suggested it might be best if Trump stayed out of the leadership race.

"It's his prerogative to weigh in on that," Thune said on Fox News. "Frankly, I think if he lets it play out, we'll get the right person. I've had conversations with him and have told him that we want to get his team in place so that he can hit the ground running and get to work on an agenda to make sure that he and our team succeeds."

The Republicans are eyeing quick action aligned with Trump's day-one priorities, which revolve around cutting taxes, deporting immigrants who are in the country without certain legal status, and reducing federal regulations and operations.

But after the chaos of the past two years of GOP control of the House, it's unclear how much Republicans will be able to accomplish, especially if they have another razor-thin majority with few seats to spare for dissent, in the face of resistance from Democrats.

## **A Texas border county backed Democrats for generations. Trump won it decisively**

By NADIA LATHAN and VALERIE GONZALEZ Associated Press/Report for America

RIO GRANDE CITY, Texas (AP) — Jorge Bazán's family has lived on the U.S.-Mexico border for generations and voted for Democrats as long as he can remember.

He broke the family tradition this year and voted for Donald Trump because he doesn't trust the Democratic Party's economic policies.

"I think they forgot about the middle class," said Bazán, who works for the utility company in Rio Grande City, seat of the most Hispanic county in the nation. "People are suffering right now. Everything's very expensive."

The South Texas region — stretching from San Antonio to the Rio Grande Valley — has long been a Democratic stronghold. A slide toward Trump in 2020 rattled Democrats in the predominately Hispanic area, where for decades Republicans seldom bothered to field candidates in local races. However, few Democrats expected the dramatic realignment that happened Tuesday, when Trump flipped several counties along the border including Hidalgo and Cameron, the two most populous counties in the Rio Grande Valley.

In Starr County, where Bazán lives, voters backed a Republican presidential candidate for the first time in a century. The predominantly Hispanic and working-class rural county, with a median household income of \$36,000 that's one of the lowest in the nation, gave Trump a 16 percentage-point victory margin over Vice President Kamala Harris. Roughly 2 million residents live at Texas' southernmost point, among vast tracts of farmland and many state and federal agents patrolling the border.

Trump's victories in the Rio Grande Valley starkly showed how working-class voters nationwide are shifting toward Republicans. That includes voters on the Texas border, where many Democrats long argued that Trump's promised crackdowns on immigration would turn off voters.

"I was always a lifelong Democrat, but I decided to change to Republican with the political landscape that it is now," said Luis Meza, a 32-year-old Starr County voter. "I felt that going Republican was the better choice, especially with the issues of immigration and everything like that that's going on."

Meza said that he was against Trump at first, but noticed too few changes under President Joe Biden to justify voting for Harris.

Biden won Hidalgo County by less than half the margin that Hillary Clinton did in 2016. Since then, Republicans have invested millions of dollars to persuade Hispanic and working-class voters soured by Democratic policies.

A similar scenario played out in the state's three most competitive races in nearby counties. Republican Rep. Monica De La Cruz claimed a decisive victory in the 15th Congressional District. In the two other races, seasoned Democratic incumbents barely held on to their seats.

Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar narrowly escaped defeat against a political newcomer in the most competitive race of his two-decade career. Cuellar, whose district includes Rio Grande City, was indicted this year on bribery and other charges for allegedly accepting \$600,000 from companies in Mexico and Azerbaijan. His support for abortion restrictions makes him one of the most conservative Democrats in the House.

Democratic Rep. Vicente Gonzalez also narrowly escaped defeat by an opponent he comfortably beat two years ago.

Nationally, Black and Latino voters appeared slightly less likely to support Harris than they were to back Biden four years ago, according to AP VoteCast data. More than half of Hispanic voters supported Harris, but that was down slightly from the roughly 6 in 10 who backed Biden in 2020. Trump's support among those groups appeared to rise slightly compared to 2020.

In McAllen, Texas, Jose Luis Borrego said that inflation and the promise of tougher border restrictions made him vote for a Republican presidential candidate for the first time.

"I wanted to see change and that's why I did vote for Trump. I did vote red. I would not call myself a Republican" Borrego, 37, said. He said that he voted for Hillary Clinton and Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders in prior elections.

Borrego's whole family voted Trump.

"We just (made) this choice, because we didn't have another choice that we felt comfortable with," he said.

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz said he had months of visits to the region during his campaign race against Democratic U.S. Rep. Colin Allred. In a victory speech on Election Day, Cruz said Hispanic voters are leaving the Democratic Party because of immigration.

"They are coming home to conservative values they never left. They understand something the liberal elites never will: There's nothing progressive about open borders," Cruz said. "There is nothing Latino about letting criminals roam free."

Michael Mireles, the director of civil engagement for labor rights group La Unión del Pueblo Entero, believes that Democrats did not engage Hispanic voters enough about the issues that concern them.

"I think that folks on the Democratic side have been really slow to have those conversations with Latino households and families," Mireles said in Hidalgo County after Election Day.

"We can't wait for a big election to have those conversations. By that point, it's too late."

## President-elect Trump names Susie Wiles as chief of staff, first woman in the post

By ZEKE MILLER, MICHELLE L. PRICE and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump has named Susie Wiles, the defacto manager of his victorious campaign, as his White House chief of staff, the first woman to hold the influential role.

Wiles is widely credited within and outside Trump's inner circle for running what was, by far, his most disciplined and well-executed campaign, and was seen as the leading contender for the position. She largely avoided the spotlight, even refusing to take the mic to speak as Trump celebrated his victory early Wednesday morning. She resisted the formal title of campaign manager, avoiding becoming a target, given Trump's history of cycling through people in that role.

Wiles' hire is Trump's first major decision as president-elect and one that could be a defining test of his incoming administration, as he must quickly build the team that will help run the massive federal government. Wiles doesn't bring much federal government experience to the role, but has a close relationship with the president-elect.

On the campaign, Wiles was able to do what few others have been able to: help control Trump's impulses — not by chiding him or lecturing, but by earning his respect and showing him that he was better off when he followed her advice than flouting it.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 60 of 82

Eight years ago, Trump tossed the careful planning of his transition team and instead hired a motley assortment of campaign aides, family members and Republican insiders who spent the better part of his first year in office engaged in infighting that dominated news coverage of the new administration. It was what many experts consider a foundational mistake that hamstrung a president who was new to Washington and government upon his swearing in.

Trump went through four chiefs of staff — including one who served in an acting capacity for a year — during his first administration, part of a record-setting personnel churn. Many top aides were cast out by Trump in his first term, who resented being made to feel managed or condescended to, while others got caught up in ideological spats within the factionalized West Wing.

Trump aides see hope that Wiles' selection marks a sign that the president-elect is aiming to build a more cohesive team, though one that will almost certainly remain less conventional than his Democratic or Republican predecessors.

Trump, who promised in 2016 to hire "only the best people" has since repeatedly said that he believes the biggest mistake of his first term was hiring the wrong people. He was new to Washington then, he has said, and didn't know any better. But now, Trump said, he knows the "best people" and those to avoid for roles in his administration.

"Susie is tough, smart, innovative, and is universally admired and respected. Susie will continue to work tirelessly to Make America Great Again," Trump said in a statement. "It is a well deserved honor to have Susie as the first-ever female Chief of Staff in United States history. I have no doubt that she will make our country proud."

Successful chiefs of staff serve as the president's confidant, help execute a president's agenda and balance competing political and policy priorities. They also tend to serve as a gatekeeper, helping determine whom the president spends his time with and whom he speaks to — an effort Trump chafed under inside the White House.

The chief of staff is "absolutely critical to an effective White House," said Chris Whipple, whose book "The Gatekeepers" details how the White House chief of staff role shapes and defines a presidency. "At the end of the day the most important thing is telling the president what he doesn't want to hear."

"On the plus side, she's shown that she can manage Trump, that she works with him and can sometimes tell him hard truths, and that's really important," said Whipple. "On the minus side, she really has no White House experience and hasn't really worked in Washington in 40 years. And that's a real disadvantage."

Wiles is a longtime Florida-based Republican strategist who ran Trump's campaigns in the state in 2016 and 2020, and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' successful bid for office in 2018. Before that, she ran Rick Scott's 2010 campaign for Florida governor and briefly served as the manager of former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman's 2012 presidential campaign.

Wiles also worked in the offices of former Jacksonville mayors John Delaney and John Peyton.

Chris LaCivita, who along with Wiles served as de-facto campaign manager, described Wiles as someone who is inclusive in conversations, who seeks input from others and is steadfastly loyal.

"Susie is just functionally built differently because she has that rare commodity to be able to work on so many different important issues simultaneously," LaCivita told The Associated Press.

Wiles was the one who was tasked with having the toughest discussions with Trump and on every pivotal conversation. She worked well with his family and developed relationships with Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Elon Musk that put her in position as a key conduit for Trump's budding alliances with those men.

"She can manage really any ego that comes her way," LaCivita said. "And she doesn't do it by any other way other than just being very straightforward and on top of the details."

He added: "The most important commodity in politics is honesty and loyalty and Susie has both in copious amounts."

Wiles was seen by Trump aides as someone who could guide his moods and impulses without necessarily restraining him. Trump often referenced Wiles on the campaign trail, publicly praising her leadership of what he said he was often told was his "best-run campaign."

"She's incredible. Incredible," he said at a Milwaukee rally earlier this month, At a rally in Pennsylvania where Trump made one of his last appearances before the election, he launched into a profane and conspiracy-laden speech. Wiles was spotted standing offstage and appearing to glare at him.

Later, at a rally in Pittsburgh, Trump seemed to acknowledge his adviser's efforts to keep him on message. After complaining that men aren't allowed to call a woman "beautiful" any longer, he asked if he could strike that word from the record. "I'm allowed to do that, aren't I, Susan Wiles?" he mused.

## Cuba left reeling after Category 3 hurricane ravages island and knocks out power grid

By ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba was left reeling Thursday after a fierce Category 3 hurricane ripped across the island, destroying hundreds of homes, knocking out the country's power grid and damaging other infrastructure.

No fatalities were immediately reported in Cuba, and Hurricane Rafael had weakened to a Category 2 storm as it swirled across the gulf toward Mexico where heavy rains were expected in the coming days.

Rafael crossed a western portion of Cuba on Wednesday evening about 75 kilometers (45 miles) west of Havana, where José Ignacio Dimas returned home from his night shift as a security guard to find his apartment building in the historic center of the city had collapsed.

"The entire front wall of the building fell," José Ignacio Dimas said in a tight voice as he scanned the damage early Thursday. Like many buildings in the capital, it was aging and lacked maintenance.

More than 461 homes collapsed because of the hurricane, Cuban authorities said. More than 283,000 people from across the country had been evacuated from their homes, 98,300 of which were in Havana, according to authorities.

Streets across the western swath of the country were riddled with utility poles, wires and trees.

In Havana, residents picked up what debris they could, but huge trees and fallen telephone lines lined the ground, blocking traffic. Concerned about food going bad due to blackouts, a group of residents opened an informal soup kitchen.

"If we don't work together as neighbors, nobody does it," said Ariel Calvo, who was helping to shovel debris Thursday morning.

Lázaro Guerra, electricity director for the Ministry of Energy and Mines, said power had been partially restored in the island's western region and that generation units were powering back up. But he warned that restoring power would be slow-going as crews took safety precautions.

On Thursday morning, the hurricane was located about 260 miles (420 kilometers) west-northwest of Havana. It had maximum sustained winds of 105 mph (165 kph) and was moving west-northwest at 9 mph (15 kph).

Earlier in the week, Rafael brushed past Jamaica and battered the Cayman Islands, downing trees and power lines and unleashing heavy flooding in some areas.

Authorities in Jamaica are searching for a couple last seen inside a car that was swept away by floodwaters, police told Radio Jamaica News.

Thousands of customers in Jamaica and Little Cayman remained without power as crews worked to restore electricity after the storm.

Rafael was expected to keep weakening as it spins over open waters and heads toward northern Mexico, although the hurricane center warned there was "above average uncertainty" in the storm's future track.

Meanwhile, many Cubans were left picking up the pieces from Wednesday night, after a rocky few weeks in the Caribbean nation. In October, the island was hit by a one-two punch. First, it was hit by island-wide blackouts stretching on for days, a product of the island's energy crisis. Shortly after, it was slapped by powerful hurricane that struck the eastern part of the island and killed at least six people.

The disasters have stoked discontent already simmering in Cuba amid an ongoing economic crisis, which has pushed many to migrate from Cuba.

Classes and public transport were suspended on parts of the island and authorities canceled flights in and out of Havana and Varadero. Thousands of people in the west of the island had been evacuated as a preventative measure.

Rafael is the 17th named storm of the season.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted the 2024 hurricane season was likely to be well above average, with between 17 and 25 named storms. The forecast called for as many as 13 hurricanes and four major hurricanes.

An average Atlantic hurricane season produces 14 named storms, seven of them hurricanes and three major hurricanes.

## **Argentine prosecutors charge 3 people linked to the death of former One Direction star Liam Payne**

By ALMUDENA CALATRAVA Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Three people have been charged in connection with the death of Liam Payne, a former member of musical group One Direction who died after falling from the balcony of his hotel room in Buenos Aires last month, Argentine prosecutors said Thursday.

Prosecutor Andrés Madrea charged the three suspects, whose identities were not revealed, with the crimes of “abandonment of a person followed by death” and “supplying and facilitating the use of narcotics,” the prosecutor’s office said. Madrea also requested their arrest to judge Laura Bruniard, who ruled the three cannot leave the country.

Payne fell from his room’s balcony on the third floor of his hotel in the upscale neighborhood of Palermo, in the Argentine capital. His autopsy said he died from multiple injuries and external bleeding.

Prosecutors also said that Payne’s toxicological exams showed that his body had “traces of alcohol, cocaine and a prescribed antidepressant” in the moments before his death.

Investigators said hours after Payne’s death that he was by himself when he fell. But the prosecutors’ office said Thursday that one of the people charged was often with the singer during his time in Buenos Aires. The second is a hotel staffer who allegedly gave Payne cocaine during his stay between Oct. 13 and 16. And the third is a drug dealer.

The charges in Payne’s case bear some resemblance to the U.S. cases stemming from the death of “Friends” star Matthew Perry a year ago. The actor’s personal assistant and a longtime friend are among those charged with helping supply him with ketamine in the final months of his life, leading up to his overdose on the anesthetic.

Three young men were similarly charged in the opioid-overdose death of rapper Mac Miller in 2018.

Local authorities gathered, among other pieces of evidence, Payne’s cell phone records, material for forensics and testimonies. They are yet to unlock the singer’s personal computer – which is damaged – and other devices that were seized.

Payne’s autopsy showed his injuries were neither caused by self-harm nor by physical intervention of others. The document also said that he did not have the reflex of protecting himself in the fall, which suggests he might have been unconscious.

Prosecutors in Argentina also ruled out the chances of Payne committing suicide.

One Direction was among the most successful boy bands of recent times. It announced an indefinite hiatus in 2016 and Payne — like his former bandmates Zayn Malik, Harry Styles, Niall Horan, and Louis Tomlinson — pursued a solo career.

The singer had posted on his Snapchat account that he traveled to Argentina to attend Horan’s concert in Buenos Aires on Oct. 2. He shared videos of himself dancing with his girlfriend, American influencer Kate Cassidy, and singing along in the stands. Cassidy had left Argentina after the show, but Payne stayed behind.

## Canada's Trudeau revives a Cabinet-level panel to address concerns about a Trump presidency

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Thursday he is re-establishing a special Cabinet committee on Canada-U.S. relations to address his administration's concerns about another Donald Trump presidency.

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, who is also the country's finance minister, will chair the committee, which also will include other top officials including ministers of foreign affairs, public safety and industry.

"Following the election of President Donald Trump for a second term, the Cabinet Committee will focus on critical Canada-U.S. issues," Trudeau's office said in a statement Thursday.

Canada is one of the most trade-dependent countries in the world, and 75% of Canada's exports go to the U.S.

During Trump's first time, his move to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, and reports that he was considering a 25% tariff on the auto sector were considered an existential threat in Canada at the time.

Trudeau called Trump on Wednesday to congratulate him and the two discussed the new free trade deal Trump reached during his first term with Canada and Mexico, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which replaced NAFTA.

Ottawa will soon have to focus on a scheduled review of the agreement in 2026.

Although Trump once called Trudeau "weak" and "dishonest" during his first term, ties between the two countries have remained among the closest in the world.

Freeland addressed reporters twice on Wednesday in an effort to reassure Canadians.

"I know a lot of Canadians are anxious. I want to say with utter sincerity and conviction to Canadians that Canada will be absolutely fine," Freeland said.

"We have a strong relationship with the United States. We have a strong relationship with President Trump and his team. Let's remember that our trading relationship today is governed by the trade deal concluded by President Trump himself and his team," Freeland said.

During the recent election campaign, Trump has proposed tariffs of 10% to 20% on foreign goods — and in some speeches has mentioned even higher percentages.

Nelson Wiseman, a political science professor at the University of Toronto, said Canada should expect new tariffs and pressure to increase its military budget.

According to NATO figures, Canada was estimated to be spending 1.33% of GDP on its military budget in 2023, below the 2% target that NATO countries have set for themselves. Trudeau has said Canada will meet the alliance's target by 2032. Trump has urged NATO countries to boost their own defense spending to ease the burden on the U.S. to deter the alliance's enemies.

"I expect that the free trade deal will be slightly modified as it was during Trump's first presidency and not dramatically," Wiseman said.

"Tariffs will hurt the Canadian economy economy but not cripple it. Canada has some cards to play in negotiations including countervailing tariffs, the concerns of American business leaders, and Canada's storehouse of critical minerals."

The Canadian government notes the U.S. and Canada are each other's largest trade partners with nearly \$3.6 billion Canadian (US\$2.7 billion) worth of goods and services crossing the border each day in 2023.

The ties between the two countries are without parallel anywhere in the world.

There is close co-operation on defense, border security and law enforcement, and a vast overlap in culture, traditions and pastimes — with shared baseball, hockey, basketball and soccer leagues. About 400,000 people cross the world's longest international border each day and about 800,000 Canadians live in the U.S.

Robert Bothwell, a professor of Canadian history and international relations at the University of Toronto,

said Canadians should be worried about potential rash actions on tariffs and trade.

"How would you feel if old Uncle Donald was feeling whimsical one morning and decided to do ... oh, whatever he'd just heard on Fox News?" Bothwell said.

## Federal Reserve cuts its key interest rate by a quarter-point amid postelection uncertainty

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve cut its key interest rate Thursday by a quarter-point in response to the steady decline in the once-high inflation that had angered Americans and helped drive Donald Trump's presidential election victory this week.

The rate cut follows a larger half-point reduction in September, and it reflects the Fed's renewed focus on supporting the job market as well as fighting inflation, which now barely exceeds the central bank's 2% target.

Asked at a news conference how Trump's election might affect the Fed's policymaking, Chair Jerome Powell said that "in the near term, the election will have no effects on our (interest rate) decisions."

But Trump's election, beyond its economic consequences, has raised the specter of meddling by the White House in the Fed's policy decisions. Trump has argued that as president, he should have a voice in the central bank's interest rate decisions. The Fed has long guarded its role as an independent agency able to make difficult decisions about borrowing rates, free from political interference. Yet in his previous term in the White House, Trump publicly attacked Powell after the Fed raised rates to fight inflation, and he may do so again.

Asked whether he would resign if Trump asked him to, Powell, who will have a year left in his second four-year term as Fed chair when Trump takes office, replied simply, "No."

And Powell said that in his view, Trump could not fire or demote him: It would "not be permitted under the law," he said.

Thursday's Fed rate cut reduced its benchmark rate to about 4.6%, down from a four-decade high of 5.3%. The Fed had kept its rate that high for more than a year to fight the worst inflation streak in four decades. Annual inflation has since fallen from a 9.1% peak in mid-2022 to a 3 1/2-year low of 2.4% in September.

When its latest policy meeting ended Thursday, the Fed issued a statement noting that the "unemployment rate has moved up but remains low," and while inflation has fallen closer to the 2% target level, it "remains somewhat elevated."

After their rate cut in September — their first such move in more than four years — the policymakers had projected that they would make further quarter-point cuts in November and December and four more next year. But with the economy now mostly solid and Wall Street anticipating faster growth, larger budget deficits and higher inflation under a Trump presidency, further rate cuts may have become less likely. Rate cuts by the Fed typically lead over time to lower borrowing costs for consumers and businesses.

Powell declined to be pinned down Thursday on whether the Fed would proceed with an additional quarter-point rate cut in December or the four rate cuts its policymakers penciled in for 2025.

Diane Swonk, chief economist at accounting giant KPMG, said she thought Powell was reluctant to provide hints about the Fed's next moves because of the uncertainty caused by Trump's election victory.

"He's not willing to go too far out ahead of his skis, given how much could change," she said. "In an environment where you don't know how promises on the campaign trail translate to actual policies, you don't want to front-run it."

Still, Matthew Luzzetti, an economist at Deutsche Bank, said there were signs that the Fed might end up announcing fewer rate cuts next year than many economists expect. The job market and the economy are looking healthier than they appeared in September, when the Fed announced an outsize half-point rate cut.

"Nothing in the economic data," Luzzetti said, "suggests that the (Fed) has any need to be in a hurry" to get rates down substantially."



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 65 of 82

On Thursday, Powell did express confidence that inflation, despite some recent higher-than-expected readings, would keep falling back to the Fed's target.

"We feel like the story is very consistent with inflation continuing to come down on a bumpy path over the next couple of years, and settling around 2%," he said.

The economy is clouding the picture by flashing conflicting signals, with growth solid but hiring weakening. Consumer spending, though, has been healthy, fueling concerns that there is no need for the Fed to reduce borrowing costs and that doing so might overstimulate the economy and even re-accelerate inflation.

Financial markets are throwing yet another curve at the Fed: Investors have pushed up Treasury yields since the central bank cut rates in September. The result has been higher borrowing costs throughout the economy, thereby diminishing the benefit to consumers of the Fed's half-point cut in its benchmark rate, which it announced after its September meeting.

Broader interest rates have risen because investors are anticipating higher inflation, larger federal budget deficits, and faster economic growth under a President-elect Trump. Trump's plan to impose at least a 10% tariff on all imports, as well as significantly higher taxes on Chinese goods, and to carry out a mass deportation of undocumented immigrants would almost certainly boost inflation. This would make it less likely that the Fed would continue cutting its key rate. Annual inflation as measured by the central bank's preferred gauge fell to 2.1% in September.

Economists at Goldman Sachs estimate that Trump's proposed 10% tariff, as well as his proposed taxes on Chinese imports and autos from Mexico, could send inflation back up to about 2.75% to 3% by mid-2026.

The economy grew at a solid annual rate just below 3% over the past six months, while consumer spending — fueled by higher-income shoppers — rose strongly in the July-September quarter.

But companies have scaled back hiring, with many people who are out of work struggling to find jobs. Powell has suggested that the Fed is reducing its key rate in part to bolster the job market. If economic growth continues at a healthy clip and inflation climbs again, though, the central bank will come under pressure to slow or stop its rate cuts.

Asked at his news conference about Americans who are feeling little relief from the pain of high prices and who helped fuel Trump's victory, Powell said:

"It takes some years of real wage gains for people to feel better, and that's what we're trying to create, and I think we're well on the road to creating that. Inflation has come way down, the economy is still strong here, wages are moving up, but at a sustainable level.

"I think what needs to happen is happening, and for the most part has happened, but it will be some time before people regain their confidence and feel that."

## **Rioters who stormed Capitol after Trump's 2020 defeat toast his White House return**

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As it became clear Donald Trump was returning to the White House, the Florida man who posed for photos with then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's lectern during the Capitol riot popped a bottle of Trump-branded sparkling wine. "Y'all are in trouble," he said after taking a sip in a video shared on social media.

Rioters who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, are celebrating Trump's victory and hoping he makes good on his campaign trail promise to pardon them.

Trump didn't mention the Jan. 6 defendants, whom he has called "hostages" and "patriots," during his victory speech on Wednesday. But his defeat of Vice President Kamala Harris throws into doubt the future of the largest prosecution in Justice Department history over the unprecedented assault on a seat of American democracy.

More than 1,500 people have been charged with federal crimes stemming from the riot that left more than 100 police officers injured and sent lawmakers running into hiding as they met to certify Joe Biden's 2020 victory. More than 1,000 defendants have pleaded guilty or been convicted at trial of charges, includ-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 66 of 82

ing misdemeanor trespassing offenses, assaulting police officers and seditious conspiracy.

Trump's praise of Jan. 6 defendants was a centerpiece of his campaign, with rallies honoring them as heroes featuring a song he collaborated on with a group of jailed rioters. Trump hasn't explained how he will decide who gets pardoned. But he has suggested he would consider granting them even for those accused of assault as well as the former Proud Boys leader convicted of orchestrating a violent plot in 2020 to keep Trump in power.

During his first term as president, Trump deployed his pardon power in overtly political ways, granting clemency in his final days in office to a broad range of political allies -- including five defendants convicted in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation -- as well as celebrities, Republican members of Congress and the father of Jared Kushner, his son-in-law.

Jacob Lang, a Capitol riot defendant who's jailed while awaiting a trial in Washington, posted within hours of Trump's victory that he and other Jan. 6 "political prisoners" were "finally coming home."

"There will be no bitterness in my heart as I walk out of these doors in 75 days on inauguration day," Lang wrote.

Lawyers for some Jan. 6 defendants cited Trump's victory in requests to hold off on sentencing their clients.

Defense attorney Marina Medvin said her client, Christopher Carnell, is "expecting to be relieved of the criminal prosecution that he is currently facing when the new administration takes office." Michelle Peterson, an assistant federal public defender, argued it would be "fundamentally unfair" to sentence a client whose case may be dismissed by Trump's Justice Department.

Judges swiftly denied both requests and refused to delay separate hearings for their respective cases on Friday.

Other defense attorneys on Wednesday asked for a Jan. 6 defendant's trial to be postponed. They argued that their client, Mitchell Bosch, cannot receive a fair trial in Washington so soon after the election given that voters in the nation's capital overwhelmingly supported Harris over Trump.

"Mr. Bosch understands that the President-elect's proclamations of stolen elections and pardons for patriots are not relevant evidence in his trial. However, they are highly relevant to the ability of the jury pool to be fair and impartial," the lawyers wrote.

A trial is scheduled to start next week for Steve Baker, a writer charged with Capitol riot-related misdemeanors. Baker, who has written articles about the Jan. 6 riot for the conservative outlet Blaze News, posted a photo of a press credential for him to cover Congress.

"I plan on covering J6, 2025 'inside' the Capitol," he wrote on Wednesday, adding a winking face emoji.

Of the more than 1,000 convicted rioters who have been sentenced, over 650 have received prison time ranging from a few days to 22 years. Hundreds of people who went into the Capitol but did not attack police or damage the building were charged only with misdemeanors. The violence and destruction by other members of the mob have been documented in videos and other evidence heard in court, including testimony from police officers about being beaten and scared for their lives as they defended the Capitol.

Trump has said he would issue pardons to Capitol rioters on "Day 1" of his presidency. He told Time Magazine he would consider pardoning all of the Jan. 6 defendants, though later added: "If somebody was evil and bad, I would look at that differently." He told NBC's "Meet the Press" last year that he would consider pardoning former Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio, who was sentenced to 22 years in prison after being convicted of seditious conspiracy. Trump said Tarrio was treated "horribly."

When pressed during an event in July, Trump said he "absolutely" would pardon rioters accused of assaulting police — if they were "innocent." When the interviewer noted she was talking about convicted rioters, Trump replied that they were convicted "by a very tough system."

Kim Wehle, a University of Baltimore law professor and author of a book about presidential pardons, said presidents have the unfettered power to issue mass pardons.

"The pardon system is set up for winners and losers. Who gets them and who doesn't get them is completely subjective. It's completely arbitrary and based on the whims of the president," Wehle said. "Donald Trump could fashion the pardon however he wants to fashion the pardon, and the general public

wouldn't be able to challenge it."

Presidents have used their power to issue mass pardons for the sake of promoting national unity. George Washington pardoned Whiskey Rebellion rebels. Abraham Lincoln pardoned former Confederate soldiers after the Civil War. Jimmy Carter pardoned Vietnam War draft dodgers.

Many of those expressing support for Jan. 6 defendants also echoed Trump's campaign talk of seeking retribution against political foes. Julie Kelly, a right-wing political commentator who calls herself a "J6 conspiracy theorist" on her social media profile, posted that Washington-based U.S. Attorney Matthew Graves' "reign of terror is going to end soon."

"Then we turn the tables," Kelly wrote.

## White evangelical voters show steadfast support for Donald Trump's presidency

By PETER SMITH Associated Press

After former President Donald Trump gave his victory speech early Wednesday, at the Palm Beach Convention Center, dozens of his supporters gathered in a lobby to sing "How Great Thou Art," reciting from memory the words and harmonies of a classic hymn, popular among evangelical Christians.

It was a fitting coda to an election in which Trump once again won the support of about 8 in 10 white evangelical Christian voters, according to AP VoteCast, a sweeping survey of more than 120,000 voters. That level of support — among a group that represented about 20% of the total electorate — repeats similarly staggering evangelical support that Trump received in 2020.

Pastor Robert Jeffress of First Baptist Church of Dallas, one of Trump's most prominent evangelical supporters since the 2016 campaign, called the election a "great victory."

"Yes, there were some faith issues important to evangelicals, but evangelicals are Americans, too," Jeffress said. "They care about immigration, they care about the economy."

Some Trump critics fear he will implement a Christian nationalist agenda they see as giving Christians a privileged position in the country and flouting the separation of church and state.

Even if some of the administration's expressions of religion are in rhetoric rather than policy, that can have an impact in a country that is more secular and religiously diverse than in past generations, said Andrew Whitehead, author of "Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States."

"For those who do not embrace that expression of Christianity or the Christian religion or no religion at all, they will feel marked as 'other' and not truly American," said Whitehead, associate professor of sociology at Indiana University Indianapolis.

Whitehead anticipated that a Christian nationalist view will likely motivate restrictive immigration policies on the grounds of protecting traditional American culture, such as the first Trump administration's ban on travel from several Muslim-majority countries.

Jeffress dismissed concerns of those who predict a Christian nationalist administration.

"People who are not Christians are unduly worried he's going to institute some kind of oppressive theocracy. He has no interest in doing that," Jeffress said, noting that Trump has shown no interest in banning same-sex marriage or imposing an absolute abortion ban.

Trump's strongest supporters among evangelical leaders can likely expect the kind of White House access they had in the first Trump term.

Trump has proclaimed a sense of divine mandate.

"Many people have told me that God spared my life for a reason," Trump said in his victory speech, referring to the widespread proclamations among evangelical supporters that he received miraculous divine protection in the near-fatal assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13. "And that reason was to save our country and to restore America to greatness."

On the campaign trail, Trump pledged to "protect Christians in our schools and in our military and our government" and in "our public square." Many church-state battles in recent years have focused on Chris-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 68 of 82

tian symbols in public settings, such as displays of crosses.

The Republican platform pledged to defend Christians as well as Jews facing persecution. While it included a general pledge to protect the worship of all faith groups, those were the only two singled out by name. The platform also championed the right to "pray and read the Bible in school."

Trump is pledging to support other evangelical priorities, such as support for Israel and a pushback on transgender rights, saying, "God created two genders, male and female." Evangelicals have been dismayed that Trump has distanced himself from the strictest antiabortion proposals, though evangelical leaders saw Trump as preferable to Harris' strong advocacy for abortion rights.

Pro-Trump rallies featured expressions that have been embraced by Christian nationalists, such as the song "God Bless the U.S.A." Many at Trump rallies wear shirts proclaiming, "Jesus is my savior, Trump is my president."

Evangelicals' support of Trump initially took many by surprise, given his casino ventures, multiple marriages, accusations of sexual misconduct and, more recently, his central role in fomenting the 2021 Capitol riot and his conviction on fraud charges. But many supporters dispute these accusations or see him as an imperfect but powerful champion.

"People support President Trump not for his piety but for his policies," Jeffress said.

John Fea, a history professor at Messiah University in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, who wrote a book on the evangelical backing for Trump in his 2016 campaign, said the persistence of that support was not surprising.

In this campaign, Fea said he spoke with evangelicals who were uncomfortable with Trump. They were "looking for any reason to vote for Harris," such as some moderation on abortion. "I don't think Harris was giving them much."

It wasn't just white, non-Hispanic evangelicals supporting Trump. So did about just over half of Latino evangelicals and about 6 in 10 white Catholics, according to AP VoteCast. Overall, about 6 in 10 Mormons also backed the former president.

Pastor Abraham Rivera of La Puerta Life Center in North Miami, Florida, attributed Trump's popularity among all Latinos, and evangelicals in particular, to their conservative values regarding morality and family.

"The gender identity issue that the left pushes a lot, I think it puts off a lot of Latino evangelicals," Rivera said. Members of his congregation voiced some concerns about Trump's "personality or things he says," but not his policies, Rivera said.

He expects the frequent contacts that Latino evangelical leaders had with Trump's first administration to continue, giving them a voice. In contrast, he felt doors "were shut closed" in the Biden White House, which seemed to disregard the values of many conservatives.

But Rivera added: "The idea that some evil Christian right is going to take over everything is just crazy."

Fea said a Christian nationalist agenda may be more rhetorical than substantive on the national level — whereas he said there are genuine cases of it on the local level. He anticipated that the Trump administration would not push back against such things as a new Louisiana law requiring the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools and an Oklahoma education official's order for public schools to incorporate the Bible into lessons. Both face court challenges.

The 2024 Republican platform pledged to use "existing federal law to keep foreign Christian-hating Communists, Marxists, and Socialists," as well as "jihadists" out of America. On the campaign trail, Trump said he would form a federal task force to fight the "persecution against Christians in America."

Other groups, nationally and within local churches, are poised to push back on a Christian nationalist agenda.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State pledged to resist any Trump administration policies that privilege Christians and use claims of religious freedom as a "license to discriminate," said Andrew Seidel, the group's vice president of strategic communications.

He anticipates the incoming Trump administration has a plan to implement the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025, which he said has a Christian nationalist blueprint, despite Trump distancing himself from it.

"This time, they are ready for a win," Seidel said. "Last time they were the dog that caught the car. They didn't know what they were doing. They're going to be ready to go on day one."

The Rev. Tim Schaefer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Madison, Wisconsin, said he opposes Christian nationalism in part because it defies the separation of church and state – an important belief in his Baptist tradition.

"Our job then is to remind folks that we were not established as a Christian nation," he said. "There was a desire on behalf of the founders to be a religiously pluralistic nation."

## **Putin congratulates Trump on his election victory in his first public comments on the US vote**

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday congratulated Donald Trump on his election victory in his first public comment on the U.S. vote, and he praised the president-elect's courage during the July assassination attempt.

"His behavior at the moment of an attempt on his life left an impression on me. He turned out to be a brave man," Putin said at an international forum following a speech in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

"He manifested himself in the very correct way, bravely as a man," he added.

Putin also said that what Trump has said "about the desire to restore relations with Russia, to help end the Ukrainian crisis, in my opinion, deserves attention at least."

The Kremlin earlier welcomed Trump's claim that he could negotiate an end to the conflict in Ukraine "in 24 hours" but emphasized that it will wait for concrete policy steps.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on his election as president of the United States of America," Putin said in a question-and-answer session at the conference.

As to what he expects from a second Trump administration, Putin said, "I don't know what will happen now. I have no idea."

"For him, this is still his last presidential term. What he will do is his matter," added Putin, who this year began a fifth term that will keep him in power until 2030 and could seek six more years in office after that.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Thursday the Kremlin is not ruling out the possibility of contact between Putin and Trump before the inauguration, given that Trump "said he would call Putin before the inauguration."

Peskov has emphasized that Moscow views the U.S. as an "unfriendly" country that is directly involved in the Ukrainian conflict. He dismissed arguments that Putin's failure to reach out quickly to Trump could hurt future ties, saying that Moscow's relations with Washington already are at the "lowest point in history" and arguing that it will be up to the new U.S. leadership to change the situation.

The Kremlin's cautious stand reflected its view of the U.S. vote as a choice between two unappealing possibilities. While Trump is known for his admiration of Putin, the Russian leader has repeatedly noted that during Trump's first term, there were "so many restrictions and sanctions against Russia like no other president has ever introduced before him."

## **Biden gets blamed by Harris allies for the vice president's resounding loss to Trump**

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden's name wasn't on the ballot, but history will likely remember Kamala Harris' resounding defeat as his loss too.

As Democrats pick up the pieces after President-elect Donald Trump's decisive victory, some of the vice president's backers are expressing frustration that Biden's decision to seek reelection until this summer — despite long-standing voter concerns about his age and unease about post-pandemic inflation as well as the U.S.-Mexico border — all but sealed his party's surrender of the White House.

"The biggest onus of this loss is on President Biden," said Andrew Yang, who ran against Biden in 2020

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 70 of 82

for the Democratic nomination and endorsed Harris' unsuccessful run. "If he had stepped down in January instead of July, we may be in a very different place."

Biden will leave office after leading the United States out of the worst pandemic in a century, galvanizing international support for Ukraine after Russia's invasion and passing a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill that will affect communities for years to come.

But having run four years ago against Trump to "restore the soul of the country," Biden will make way after just one term for his immediate predecessor, who overcame two impeachments, a felony conviction and an insurrection launched by his supporters. Trump has pledged to radically reshape the federal government and roll back many of Biden's priorities.

"Maybe in 20 or 30 years, history will remember Biden for some of these achievements," said Thom Reilly, co-director of the Center for an Independent and Sustainable Democracy at Arizona State University. "But in the shorter term, I don't know he escapes the legacy of being the president who beat Donald Trump only to usher in another Donald Trump administration four years later."

Biden on Thursday avoided directly addressing the electorate's seeming repudiation of his presidency. Instead, he noted that Americans will feel the effects of the administration's signature legislative efforts for years to come.

"Don't forget all that we accomplished," Biden said in a brief Rose Garden address attended by Cabinet members and top aides but not by Harris. "It's been a historic presidency — not because I am president but because of what we've done. What you've done."

He issued a statement shortly after Harris delivered her concession speech Wednesday, praising her for running an "historic campaign" under "extraordinary circumstances."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Democrats got caught up in a wave of anti-incumbency in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that upturned governments in democracies around the globe irrespective of ideology. She did not directly respond to questions about criticism that Biden waited too long to bow out.

"He believed he made the right decision," Jean-Pierre said at her daily briefing.

Only about 4 in 10 voters in the 2024 presidential election approved of how Biden handled his job as president, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide. Roughly 6 in 10 disapproved, and Donald Trump won a strong majority of those voters who were dissatisfied with Biden.

Some high-ranking Democrats, including three advisers to the Harris campaign, expressed deep frustration with Biden for failing to recognize earlier in the election cycle that he was not up to the challenge. The advisers spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

Biden, 81, ended his reelection campaign in July, weeks after an abysmal debate performance sent his party into a spiral and raised questions about whether he still had the mental acuity and stamina to serve as a credible nominee.

But polling long beforehand showed that many Americans worried about his age. Some 77% of Americans said in August 2023 that Biden was too old to be effective for four more years, according to a poll by the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs.

The president bowed out on July 21 after getting not-so-subtle nudges from Democratic Party powers, including former President Barack Obama and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California. Biden endorsed Harris and handed over his campaign operation to her.

Massachusetts Rep. Seth Moulton, one of several Democratic lawmakers who publicly pressed Biden to step aside this summer, said Thursday on CNN that the Democratic Party "would have been much better off" if Biden had left the race earlier.

Yang argued that Democratic Party leaders also deserve blame for taking too long to push out Biden. With few exceptions, most notably Minnesota Rep. Dean Phillips, Democrats shied away talking publicly about Biden's age.

"Why was this not coming from any Democratic leaders?" Yang said. "It's a lack of courage and independence and an excess of careerism, if I just keep my mouth shut, we'll just keep on trucking along."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 71 of 82

The campaign was also saddled by anger among some Arab American and young voters over its approach to Israel's conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon. Sen. Bernie Sanders, an ally of Biden and Harris, said in a statement that Democrats lost the thread on working-class Americans' concerns.

"Will the big money interests and well-paid consultants who control the Democratic Party learn any real lessons from this disastrous campaign?" the Vermont independent said. "Will they understand the pain and political alienation that tens of millions of Americans are experiencing?"

Democratic National Committee Chair Jaime Harrison took to social media Thursday to push back on Sanders' critique, saying that Biden was "the most-pro worker President of my lifetime."

Harris managed to spur far greater enthusiasm than Biden was generating from the party's base. But she struggled to distinguish how her administration would differ from Biden's.

Appearing on ABC's "The View" in September, Harris was not able to identify a decision where she would have separated herself from Biden. "There is not a thing that comes to mind," Harris said, giving the Trump campaign a sound bite it replayed through Election Day.

The strategists advising the Harris campaign said the compressed campaign timetable made it even more difficult for Harris to differentiate herself from the president.

Had Biden stepped aside early in the year, they said, it would have given Democrats enough time to hold a primary. Going through the paces of an intraparty contest would have forced Harris or another eventual nominee to more aggressively stake out differences with Biden.

The strategists acknowledged that overcoming broad dissatisfaction about rising costs in the aftermath of the pandemic and broad concerns about the U.S. immigration system weighed heavy on the minds of voters in key states.

Still, they said that Biden had left Democrats in an untenable place.

Harris senior adviser David Plouffe in a posting on X called it a "devastating loss." Plouffe did not assign blame and said the Harris campaign "dug out of a deep hole but not enough." The post was later deleted.

At the vice president's concession speech on Wednesday, some Harris supporters said they wished the vice president had had more time to make her pitch to American voters.

"I think that would have made a huge difference," said Jerushatalla Pallay, a Howard University student who attended the speech at the center of her campus.

Republicans are poised to control the White House and Senate. Control of the House has yet to be determined.

Matt Bennett, executive vice president at the Democratic-aligned group Third Way, said this moment was the most devastating the party has faced in his lifetime.

"Harris was dealt a really bad hand. Some of it was Biden's making and some maybe not," said Bennett, who served as an aide to Vice President Al Gore during the Clinton administration. "Would Democrats fare better if Biden had stepped back earlier? I don't know if we can say for certain, but it's a question we'll be asking ourselves for some time."

## 50 European leaders assess how Trump will affect their fortunes and seek a common stance on Russia

By RAF CASERT and JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Around 50 European leaders on Thursday called for a stronger defense posture across the continent that no longer necessitates a fundamental dependence on Washington as they gave a guarded welcome to U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who spoke to Trump after the election result, also had warm words to say about him. However, he took issue with the incoming president's assertion that Russia's war with Ukraine could be ended in a day.

"If it is going to be very fast, it will be a loss for Ukraine," Zelenskyy said.

The European Political Community summit on Thursday in Hungary's capital Budapest reassessed trans-Atlantic relations in the hope that Trump's second U.S. presidency will avoid the strife of his first admin-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 72 of 82

istration.

"He was elected by the American people. He will defend the American interests," French President Emmanuel Macron told the other leaders.

"The question is whether we are willing to defend the European interest. It is the only question. It is our priority," Macron said.

Time and again, leaders stepped up to say European defense efforts should be increased.

After the summit he hosted, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said, "There was agreement that Europe should take more responsibility for securing peace and safety. To put this more bluntly, we cannot wait for the Americans to protect us."

During his first 2017-2021 term, Trump pushed the European NATO allies to spend more on defense, up to and beyond 2% of gross domestic product, and to be less reliant on U.S. military cover. That point has totally sunk in.

"He was the one in NATO who stimulated us to move over the 2%. And now, also thanks to him, NATO, if you take out the numbers of the U.S., is above the 2%," NATO chief Mark Rutte said.

Charles Michel, the council president of the 27-nation EU, agreed that the continent needed to become less reliant on the United States.

"We have to be more masters of our destiny," he said. "Not because of Donald Trump or Kamala Harris, but because of our children."

During his election campaign, Trump threatened anything from a trade war with Europe to a withdrawal from NATO commitments and a fundamental shift of support for Ukraine in its war with Russia — all issues that could have groundbreaking consequences for nations across Europe.

"Of course he said a lot of things during the campaign," said Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof, adding they won't all be appearing in his official policies. "Trans-Atlantic cooperation is of the utmost importance both for the U.S. and European interests."

For now, European leaders hope a new beginning holds the promise of smoother relations.

Rutte, who was Dutch prime minister during Trump's first presidency, said, "I worked with him very well for four years. He is extremely clear about what he wants. He understands that you have to deal with each other to come to joint positions. And I think we can do that."

And Rutte insisted that the challenges posed by Russia in Ukraine affected both sides of the Atlantic.

"Russia is delivering the latest technology into North Korea in return for North Korean help with the war against Ukraine. And this is a threat not only to the European part of NATO, but also to the U.S. mainland," he said as he arrived at the summit.

During the campaign, Trump said he could end the war in Ukraine, now well into its third year, in a single day. Ukraine and many of its European backers fear that this means a peace on terms favorable to Russian President Vladimir Putin and involving the surrender of territory.

European allies in NATO hope to convince Trump that if he helps to negotiate any peace, it should be done from a position of strength, for both Ukraine and the U.S.

Earlier, Zelenskyy told reporters in Budapest that Europe and the U.S. need each other to remain strong.

"It was a good, productive conversation. Of course, we cannot yet know what his specific actions will be. But we hope that America will become stronger. This is the kind of America Europe needs. And a strong Europe is what America needs. This is the bond between allies that should be valued and must not be lost," he said.

However, he dismissed Orbán's assertion that first and foremost a ceasefire was in order, underscoring the tension between the two leaders.

"Ceasefire first, and then 'we'll see.' Who are 'we?'" Zelenskyy said. "Are your children dying, are your houses being destroyed? What are you talking about?"



## Police find 11 bodies dumped by a highway in southern Mexico and 4 more in the resort of Acapulco

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Police in a southern Mexico region rife with drug cartel violence have found 11 bodies, including two minors, dumped by a highway, prosecutors in the state of Guerrero said Thursday.

Also Thursday, authorities in the nearby resort of Acapulco said four bodies, all strangled to death, were found in a car there.

The 11 bodies were found late Wednesday after police received a tip about an abandoned pickup truck on the main thoroughfare of the city of Chilpancingo, the state capital. The city of 300,000 has been the scene of gruesome drug gang violence as two rival cartels fight for control of the area.

Prosecutors did not specify the ages of the two dead minors but said that two of the 11 bodies were female. Local media reported the bodies had been dismembered and stuffed in plastic bags, but prosecutors did not respond to requests to confirm that.

The highway where they were found is also the main route between Mexico City and the resort of Acapulco, 60 miles (100 kilometers) to the south.

In early October, the city's mayor was killed and beheaded just a week after he took office. Alejandro Arcos took office on Oct. 1 in Chilpancingo, and his beheaded body was found in a pickup truck a week later, his head placed on the vehicle's roof.

Two rival drug gangs, known as the Tlacos and the Ardillos, are fighting for control of the drug and extortion business in the city.

In 2023, gang violence in Chilpancingo became so brazen that one of the gangs staged a demonstration of hundreds of people, hijacked a government armored car, blocked a major highway and took police hostage to win the release of arrested suspects.

In Acapulco, prosecutors said police got a tip late Wednesday about a car parked on a downtown street with two dead men with cords tied around their necks in the back seat. Police found two more bodies in similar conditions in the trunk of the car.

## CDC calls for expanded testing for bird flu after blood tests reveal more farmworker infections

By JONEL ALECCIA AP Health Writer

Federal health officials on Thursday called for more testing of employees on farms with bird flu after a new study showed that some dairy workers had signs of infection, even when they didn't report feeling sick.

Farmworkers in close contact with infected animals should be tested and offered treatment even if they show no symptoms, said Dr. Nirav Shah, principal director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The new guidance comes after blood tests for 115 farmworkers in Michigan and Colorado showed that eight workers — or 7% — had antibodies that indicated previous infection with the virus known as Type A H5N1 influenza.

"The purpose of these actions is to keep workers safe, to limit the transmission of H5 to humans and to reduce the possibility of the virus changing," Shah told reporters.

The CDC study provides the largest window to date into how the bird virus first detected in March in dairy cows may be spreading to people. It suggests that the virus has infected more humans than the 46 farmworkers identified in the U.S. as of Thursday. Nearly all were in contact with infected dairy cows or infected poultry.

Outside experts said it's notable that the study prompted the CDC to take new action. Previous recommendations called for testing and treating workers only when they had symptoms.

"This is a significant move towards the assessment that these H5N1 viruses are a greater risk than the CDC estimated before," said Dr. Gregory Gray, an infectious disease researcher at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

Every additional infection in animals or humans gives the virus the chance to change in potentially dangerous ways, said Angela Rasmussen, a virus expert at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada.

"It shows yet again that we are not responding effectively to the H5N1 cattle outbreak in humans or animals and if we continue to let this virus spread and jump from species to species, our luck will eventually run out," Rasmussen said in an email.

The CDC study included 45 workers in Michigan and 70 in Colorado tested between June and August. Of the eight workers with positive blood tests, four reported no symptoms. All eight cleaned milking parlors and none used respiratory protection such as face masks. Three said they used eye protection.

High levels of the virus have been found in the milk of infected cows, increasing the risk of exposure and infection, researchers said.

Researchers said that efforts to monitor dairy workers for illness have been hindered by several barriers including the reluctance of farm owners and farmworkers to allow testing.

Rasmussen and others have criticized the federal response to the outbreak as too slow and "lackluster." "These studies should have been performed months ago and should have been prioritized," she said.

The virus has been confirmed in at least 446 cattle herds in 15 states. Last week, the Agriculture Department said a pig at an Oregon farm was confirmed to have bird flu, the first time the virus was detected in U.S. swine.

## **An 8-hour Russian drone barrage keeps Kyiv on edge as the war in Ukraine nears 1,000 days**

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Dozens of Russian drones targeted Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, in an eight-hour nighttime attack, authorities said Thursday as Russia kept up its relentless pounding of Ukraine after almost 1,000 days of war.

Lone Russian drones and also swarms of drones entered Ukrainian airspace from various directions and at a variety of altitudes, officials said, in what was an apparent attempt to stretch air defense systems and unnerve city residents.

Ukrainian air defenses "neutralized" three dozen drones, but falling debris caused damage to a hospital as well as residential and office buildings in Kyiv, local authorities said. A fire was ignited on the 33rd floor of an apartment building.

At least two people were reported injured.

Drone attacks on Kyiv have recently been occurring almost every day, with nighttime explosions and the continuous buzzing sound of drones keeping the city on edge. Russia is deploying about 10 times more Iranian-made Shahed drones than it was this time last year, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said earlier this week.

Ukraine's forces are struggling to match the might of Russia's military, which is much bigger and better equipped. Western support is crucial for Ukraine to sustain the costly war of attrition. The uncertainty over how long that aid will continue deepened this week with Donald Trump elected as the next U.S. president. Trump has repeatedly taken issue with U.S. aid to Ukraine.

Russia, meanwhile, is trying to grind down Ukraine's appetite for the fight and sap the West's support for Kyiv by drawing out the conflict.

The Russian barrages mostly involve Iranian Shahed drones, which terrorize civilians, according to Andrii Kovalenko, head of the state Center for Countering Disinformation.

Russia is aiming to save and stockpile its missiles, which are much more powerful than drones, Kovalenko claimed on Thursday, though Russia has used missiles effectively in its campaign to knock out Ukraine's power grid.

Also, the drone attacks gradually wear down Ukraine's air defenses, making it more vulnerable to future missile launches.

During the day on Thursday, Russia launched five attacks using missiles and glide bombs on the south-

ern city of Zaporizhzhia, killing at least four people and injuring 18. The attacks also damaged residential buildings and a hospital, Ukraine's National Police said.

The injured included three children — a four-month-old girl and two boys, aged 1 and 10, officials said. Power outages were reported in the Zhytomyr region, which borders Kyiv to the west, following a Russian attack there, according to the energy company Zhytomyroblenergo.

Another Russian drone attack injured one person in the southern city of Odesa, regional Gov. Oleh Kiper said, and drone debris damaged an 11-story residential building.

## **For many Iranians, Trump's return intensifies worries about war. Yet some see reasons for hope**

By MEHDI FATTAHI and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranians, like many around the world, are divided on what Donald Trump's next presidency will bring: Some foresee an all-out war between Tehran and Washington, particularly as other conflicts rage in the region. Others hold out hope that America's 47th president might engage in unexpected diplomacy as he did with North Korea.

But nearly all believe something will change in the U.S.-Iran relationship.

"Trump will use tougher levers against Iran," warned Ahmad Zeidabadi, a political analyst. "Iranian officials will keep rejecting him and that could make him escalate his pressure."

And while Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say on all matters of state, has repeatedly expressed his own disgust with Trump, Iran's new reformist president has kept the door open to talks with Trump to seek relief from international sanctions to buoy a cratering economy. The Iranian rial, in a free fall for years, hit its lowest value against the dollar on Wednesday before slightly recovering.

The U.S. and Iran have had an adversarial relationship since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution and the takeover of the U.S. Embassy and 444-day hostage crisis that followed.

Trump's first term in office was marked by a particularly troubled period, when he pursued a policy of "maximum pressure" against Tehran. He unilaterally withdrew America from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, leading to the sanctions hobbling the economy, and ordered the killing of the country's top general.

Confirmation of Trump's reelection came too late for most Wednesday papers. On Thursday, hewing to the official line, many decried the victory. The newspaper Hamshahri put an artist's rendering of Trump in an orange prison jumpsuit and handcuffs under the headline: "Return of the murderer." The hard-line Javan newspaper said it was "back to the crime scene."

On the streets of Tehran, opinions varied more. Some feared a return to the low points of Trump's first presidency. Others expressed joy.

"I'm very happy that Trump has won because he is really a powerful man," said Fatemeh Kaveh, 40. "I see him as a role model in terms of personality, and I always watch his stories (on social media), and I believe in him. I'm very happy he won."

But the one opinion that matters above all in Iran's theocracy is that of Khamenei, who has been the country's paramount ruler for six American presidencies. He has made his views on Trump clear.

"I do not consider Trump as a person worth exchanging any message with and I have no answer for him, nor will I respond to him in the future," Khamenei told the late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2019. Those comments came a year after Trump withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear accord, which offered Iran relief from international sanctions in return for restrictions meant to prevent it from building an atomic bomb.

Then came Trump's decision to assassinate Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, a prominent figure within Iran, in a 2020 drone strike in Baghdad.

Khamenei's personal website still hosts a video that imagines Trump being killed in an Iranian drone strike as he plays golf with former U.S. Secretary of State and CIA chief Mike Pompeo. Both men have received additional protection over Iranian threats to their lives — and the country has been accused of hacking Trump campaign associates in hopes of hurting his prospects. Iranians have also not forgotten

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 76 of 82

Soleimani's killing.

"It is a good time for Iran to retaliate — the murderer of our hero has come back," said Tehran resident Reza Solatani, 39. "He should eventually pay for his crime."

The question now is how that hard-line approach will fare amid the economic crisis and other challenges. A string of mass protests have escalated in the last few years, most recently with the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini and women rejecting the state-mandated headscarf, or hijab.

Iran remains locked in the Mideast wars roiling the region, and its leaders have threatened a retaliatory strike after Israel's Oct. 26 attack. Its allies are battered, including the militant groups of its self-described "Axis of Resistance," like Hamas, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthi rebels. Support for those groups while Iranians struggle economically has been a protest cry.

Trump's election means "peace will return to Lebanon and Gaza and Iran will not spend our money there," said Zohreh Naghavi, a 36-year-old who works in a clothing store. "It is good news."

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who will mark his first 100 days in office next week, campaigned on a promise of outreach to the West to lift sanctions over Iran's nuclear program — which now enriches uranium to near weapons-grade levels.

On Thursday, Pezeshkian appeared to remain open to talks with Washington — even in the wake of Trump's victory — saying that "it doesn't matter who has won the U.S. elections."

"We will in no way have a closed and limited approach in the expansion of ties with other countries," he said, according to the state-run IRNA news agency.

That leaves open the possibility for negotiations. Trump in his first term famously courted North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Some Iranians have imagined the president-elect doing the same in Tehran.

"Because Trump is a showman he might announce that he wants to talk to Pezeshkian in person," said Zeidabadi, the analyst. "Unfortunately, the problem is that (the government) can't accept that. Even if some people in the government are interested in doing that, the majority of hard-liners won't let that happen and this can make Trump more angry too."

Still, some feel Iran already is at its breaking point.

"I think Iran has no choice but to make peace with Trump, considering the situation of the dollar (exchange rate) and the livelihoods of people and the high prices," said Sina Khaledian, a 32-year-old nurse. "There is lack of medicine and health care. They have to do this. I think the country's capacity to endure has been exhausted."

## Carbon pollution from high flying rich in private jets soars

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Carbon pollution from private jets has soared in the past five years, with most of those small planes spewing more heat-trapping carbon dioxide in about two hours of flying than the average person does in about a year, a new study finds.

About a quarter million of the super wealthy — worth a total of \$31 trillion — last year emitted 17.2 million tons (15.6 million metric tons) of carbon dioxide flying in private jets, according to Thursday's study in the Nature journal Communications Earth & Environment. That's about the same amount as the 67 million people who live in Tanzania,

Private jet emissions jumped 46% from 2019 to 2023, according to the European research team that calculated those figures by examining more than 18.6 million flights of about 26,000 airplanes over five years.

Only 1.8% of the carbon pollution from aviation is spewed by private jets and aviation as a whole is responsible for about 4% of the human-caused heat-trapping gases, the study said.

It may seem like a small amount, but it's a matter of fairness and priorities, said the study's lead author, Stefan Gossling, a transportation researcher at the business school of Sweden's Linnaeus University.

"The damage is done by those with a lot of money and the cost is borne by those with very little money," Gossling said.

The highest emitting private jet user that the team tracked — but did not identify by name — spewed 2,645 tons (2,400 metric tons) of carbon dioxide in plane use, Gossling said. That's more than 500 times

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 77 of 82

the global per person average of either 5.2 tons (4.7 metric tons) that the World Bank calculates or the 4.7 tons (4.3 metric tons) that the International Energy Agency figures and Gossling cites.

"This report presents further proof that billionaires are causing the climate crisis," said Jonathan Westin, executive director of the advocacy organization Climate Organizing Hub. "They are clinging to their private jets and oil profits while regular people see increasing floods, hurricanes and wildfires."

Earlier this year the International Energy Agency calculated that the world's top 1% of super-emitting people had carbon footprints more than 1,000 times bigger than the globe's poorest 1%.

Gossling's study counted more than 35,600 tons (32,300 metric tons) of carbon pollution from just five global events — 2022's World Cup in Qatar, 2023's World Economic Forum, 2023's Super Bowl, the 2023 Cannes film festival and the 2023 United Nations climate negotiations in Dubai. That came from 3,500 private jet flights.

"It's a grim joke that the billionaire class is flying private jets to the annual climate conferences, and the United Nations should crack down on this hypocritical practice," said Jean Su, energy justice director for the Center for Biological Diversity.

Researchers also examined more than 1,200 flights by celebrity actors, singers and directors, but Gossling declined to give the public figures' names.

Many private flights aren't even for business "nor are they necessary," Gossling said. "They are very often lifestyle related."

While the study "does shine a bright light on some of the most gluttonous emitters, i.e. the very wealthy," University of Pennsylvania climate scientist Michael Mann said the focus shouldn't be on individual behaviors and someone's carbon footprint. He called that "a distraction from the primary task at hand, which is decarbonizing our societal infrastructure through systematic change and policy."

That's the problem, Gossling said.

"We have been told for a long time that it is the system that needs to change, not the individual," Gossling said. "That has meant that nobody has been responsible for their lifestyles."

"The problem is that the 26,000 aircraft and the individuals using them will say 'We are just a small group. We are not relevant in terms of emissions.' But everybody else will look at the small group and say, 'Look these are the super-emitters, if they are not relevant, how can we be relevant?'" Gossling said. "And then you have this pointing at each other of two different groups that locks us in a circular argument."

About 51% of those private jets burn at least 239 gallons of fuel per hour. That translates to more carbon emissions in two hours and one minute than the IEA's estimate of the average person's yearly 4.7 tons (4.3 metric tons) of pollutants, the study calculated.

"Given that technology is not going to resolve (climate change), I think the answer is clear. We need to start at the top," Gossling said.

Gossling said the way to address the high-flying emissions is to charge a tax or landing fee equivalent to the damage done by each ton of emissions. That's about \$200 or 200 euros. Westin called for a private jet ban.

The United States is by far the hub of private jets with more than 68% of the globe's private aircraft, about 5 per 100,000 people, the study found. But Gossling said private jets are everywhere, even in poor countries.

In the United States, Alaska has the most private jet flights per person, at nearly 5,000 per 100,000 residents, according to a different study by the student travel company Rustic Pathways.

## Florida's iconic Key deer face an uncertain future as seas rise

By FREIDA FRISARO, LYNNE SLADKY and DANIEL KOZIN Associated Press

BIG PINE KEY, Fla. (AP) — The world's only Key deer, the smallest subspecies of the white-tailed deer, are found in piney and marshy wetlands bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico on the Florida Keys. For years, their biggest threat was being struck by vehicles speeding along U.S. Highway 1 or local roads.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 78 of 82

But those waters surrounding the islands now pose the biggest long-term risk for this herd of about 800 deer as sea rise jeopardizes their sole habitat.

These charismatic diminutive deer have been listed as endangered for almost 60 years after their numbers dipped to about 50 from hunting and poaching long ago. Yet they've made a tremendous comeback, with a peak population of about 1,000 in the mid-2010s before a deadly parasite and Hurricane Irma took a heavy toll.

However, experts and wildlife advocates say this conservation success story today is at risk of being undone by climate change. Sea level rise is already altering the landscape of Big Pine Key and at least 20 smaller islands the deer call home.

The bulk of the deer live on Big Pine Key, a marshy island 30 miles (48 kilometers) from Key West. They roam neighborhoods where about 4,500 people live, browsing on lush gardens and drinking water from buckets residents put out for them as natural freshwater supplies dwindle.

Key deer are far smaller than their North American counterparts, with the biggest bucks standing less than 3 feet (1 meter) tall at the shoulder and weighing around 75 pounds (34 kilograms).

"They were always vulnerable," said Chris Bergh, the South Florida program manager for the Nature Conservancy, who oversees sea level rise projects and lives in Big Pine Key. "They're much more vulnerable now. And with the sea level rising and their habitat shrinking, they're becoming even more so."

## Highway deer deaths

On Big Pine Key, mom and pop bars and restaurants dot either side of bustling U.S. 1, along with gas stations and small motels. The main industry revolves around the water — charter boats, fishing, diving, vacation rentals.

To protect the deer from being hit by vehicles, signs tell motorists they're entering deer habitat. A 2-mile (3.2-kilometer) stretch of U.S. 1 is elevated and fenced, allowing deer to cross under the road. And speed limits are strictly enforced, often frustrating tourists driving to Key West.

Deer still are struck at an alarming rate. "The bottom line is that some 90 to 120 deer are known to be killed by vehicles each year," said Jan Svejksky, chief scientist for Save Our Key Deer.

Wildlife officials have worked hard get out the message: Don't feed Key deer. They fear deer will approach cars and go near roadways for handouts.

Even with the traffic deaths, the population has remained stable. But a larger threat looms.

## Climate change impacts on deer

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration projects that by 2100, seas will rise 1.5 feet to 7 feet (0.5 to 2 meters) in parts of the Florida Keys. The threat is greatest to low lying islands like Big Pine Key, where the highest point is only about 8 feet (2.4 meters) above sea level.

Sea rise will continue to shrink freshwater and food sources Key deer need to survive, experts say.

"So as the sea rises, that shrinks the amount of available freshwater, the amount of available, palatable vegetation, the places for bearing their young," said Bergh of the Nature Conservancy. "It puts them increasingly in conflict with people who are also occupying those higher grounds."

In addition to sea rise, climate change brings the threat of stronger hurricanes, with storm surges that can damage deer habitat and freshwater supplies.

Salt water intrusion also is responsible for killing many of the Florida slash pines that gave Big Pine Key its name. Mangroves are growing in their place in an ever-changing environment, choking deer habitat even more.

## Shrinking habitat drives deer to neighborhoods

Key deer on Big Pine Key move through neighborhoods, munching on gardens. Some people even have names for ones that frequent their yards.

"They are very gentle, very, very gentle," said Connie Ritchie, who sometimes sees about 30 deer a day. "And the longer you live here, the more you want to protect them. Big time. Protect them because they're so innocent."

"They have certain plants that they really love," Ritchie said, noting that the federal deer refuge here hosts events where it gives away native plants. "So they're trying to teach us to plant the plants that the

deer won't eat."

Development on Big Pine Key began in the 1970s and 1980s "when entire swaths of land on islands that still held deer were developed into planned subdivisions, complete with saltwater canal networks to provide lot-buyers with direct water access," said Svejksky of Save Our Key Deer.

While the key remains mostly rural with modest Florida bungalows and more palatial places, development has taken away some deer habitat.

"We have lots of people and the wildlife living in the same really concentrated area," said Katy Hosokawa, a park ranger at the National Key Deer Refuge, established in 1957 on 8,542 acres (3,457 hectares) of Big Pine Key. "So the more houses that we build, or the less lands that we have protected, the less areas that they have that are safe."

The deer have adapted to the humans and move freely between wild spaces and the neighborhoods. "They roam, they spend their day grazing," Hosokawa said. "We don't have a really nutritionally dense soil, so they need to eat a lot of food to get what they need. But trust me, they're very good at it. If it's soft and tender, they will try to eat it."

Future of the deer

The future, while uncertain, looks grim.

Just six inches (15 centimeters) of sea rise, expected by 2030, would mean loss of 16% of the freshwater holes on Big Pine Key, said Nova Silvy, professor emeritus with Texas A&M University who has studied Key deer since 1968 and has lived here for several years.

By 2050, sea rise is expected to overtake about 84% of the 1,988 remaining acres (805 hectares) of the preferred habitat on Big Pine Key — and "the deer will already be gone," Silvy said.

What happens if the deer can't survive in the Keys?

Bergh said he prefers to buy more time to keep the deer viable here. "And at some point, if that's no longer possible, I personally think zoos are the most responsible alternative," he said. "But that's a terrible alternative. Who wants that for a wild animal?"

In rare instances, scientists have been allowed to relocate endangered species threatened by climate change as a last resort. But Silvy said, "The problem is if you take them any other place with deer, they're going to interbreed and then you've lost the Key deer."

## **New DNA evidence rewrites long-told stories of people in ancient Pompeii**

By LAURA UNGAR AP Science Writer

When a volcanic eruption buried the ancient city of Pompeii, the last desperate moments of its citizens were preserved in stone for centuries.

Observers see stories in the plaster casts later made of their bodies, like a mother holding a child and two women embracing as they die.

But new DNA evidence suggests things were not as they seem — and these prevailing interpretations come from looking at the ancient world through modern eyes.

"We were able to disprove or challenge some of the previous narratives built upon how these individuals were kind of found in relation to each other," said Alissa Mittnik of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany. "It opens up different interpretations for who these people might have been."

Mittnik and her colleagues discovered that the person thought to be a mother was actually a man unrelated to the child. And at least one of the two people locked in an embrace — long assumed to be sisters or a mother and daughter — was a man. Their research was published Thursday in the journal *Current Biology*.

The team, which also includes scientists from Harvard University and the University of Florence in Italy, relied on genetic material preserved for nearly two millennia. After Mount Vesuvius erupted and destroyed the Roman city in 79 A.D., bodies buried in mud and ash eventually decomposed, leaving spaces where they used to be. Casts were created from the voids in the late 1800s.

Researchers focused on 14 casts undergoing restoration, extracting DNA from the fragmented skeletal

remains that mixed with them. They hoped to determine the sex, ancestry and genetic relationships between the victims.

There were several surprises in “the house of the golden bracelet,” the dwelling where the assumed mother and child were found. The adult wore an intricate piece of jewelry, for which the house was named, reinforcing the impression that the victim was a woman. Nearby were the bodies of another adult and child thought to be the rest of their nuclear family.

DNA evidence showed the four were male and not related to one another, clearly showing “the story that was long spun around these individuals” was wrong, Mittnik said.

Researchers also confirmed Pompeii citizens came from diverse backgrounds but mainly descended from eastern Mediterranean immigrants – underscoring a broad pattern of movement and cultural exchange in the Roman Empire. Pompeii is located about 150 miles (241 kilometers) from Rome.

The study builds upon research from 2022 when scientists sequenced the genome of a Pompeii victim for the first time and confirmed the possibility of retrieving ancient DNA from the human remains that still exist.

“They have a better overview of what’s happening in Pompeii because they analyzed different samples,” said Gabriele Scorrano of the University of Rome Tor Vergata, a co-author of that research who was not involved in the current study. “We actually had one genome, one sample, one shot.”

Though much remains to be learned, Scorrano said, such genetic brushstrokes are slowly painting a truer picture of how people lived in the distant past.

## European climate agency says this will likely be the hottest year on record — again

By MELINA WALLING Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — For the second year in a row, Earth will almost certainly be the hottest it’s ever been. And for the first time, the globe this year reached more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming compared to the pre-industrial average, the European climate agency Copernicus said Thursday.

“It’s this relentless nature of the warming that I think is worrying,” said Carlo Buontempo, director of Copernicus.

Buontempo said the data clearly shows the planet would not see such a long sequence of record-breaking temperatures without the constant increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere driving global warming.

He cited other factors that contribute to exceptionally warm years like last year and this one. They include El Nino — the temporary warming of parts of the Pacific that changes weather worldwide — as well as volcanic eruptions that spew water vapor into the air and variations in energy from the sun. But he and other scientists say the long-term increase in temperatures beyond fluctuations like El Nino is a bad sign.

“A very strong El Nino event is a sneak peek into what the new normal will be about a decade from now,” said Zeke Hausfather, a research scientist with the nonprofit Berkeley Earth.

News of a likely second year of record heat comes a day after U.S. Republican Donald Trump, who has called climate change a “hoax” and promised to boost oil drilling and production, was reelected to the presidency. It also comes days before the next U.N. climate conference, called COP29, is set to begin in Azerbaijan. Talks are expected to focus on how to generate trillions of dollars to help the world transition to clean energies like wind and solar and avoid more warming.

Also on Thursday, a report released by the United Nations Environment Programme called for increased funds to adapt to global heating and its consequences. It found that the \$28 billion spent worldwide to adapt to climate change in 2022 — the latest year the data is available — is an all time high. But it’s still far short of the estimated \$187 to \$359 billion needed every year to deal with the heat, floods, droughts and storms exacerbated by climate change.

“Earth’s ablaze,” said U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a pre-recorded statement marking the report’s release. “Humanity’s torching the planet and paying the price” with the vulnerable most affected, he said.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 81 of 82

"Frankly, there is no excuse for the world not to get serious about adaptation," said UNEP's director Inger Andersen. "We need well-financed and effective adaptation that incorporates fairness and equity."

Buontempo pointed out that going over the 1.5 degree Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) threshold of warming for a single year is different than the goal adopted in the 2015 Paris Agreement. That goal was meant to try to cap warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times on average, over 20 or 30 years.

A United Nations report this year said that since the mid-1800s on average, the world has already heated up 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 degrees Fahrenheit) — up from previous estimates of 1.1 degrees (2 degrees Fahrenheit) or 1.2 degrees (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit). That's of concern because the U.N. says the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals of the world's nations still aren't nearly ambitious enough to keep the 1.5 degree Celsius target on track.

The target was chosen to try to stave off the worst effects of climate change on humanity, including extreme weather. "The heat waves, storm damage, and droughts that we are experiencing now are just the tip of the iceberg," said Natalie Mahowald, chair of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Cornell University.

Going over that number in 2024 doesn't mean the overall trend line of global warming has, but "in the absence of concerted action, it soon will," said University of Pennsylvania climate scientist Michael Mann.

Stanford University climate scientist Rob Jackson put it in starker terms. "I think we have missed the 1.5 degree window," said Jackson, who chairs the Global Carbon Project, a group of scientists who track countries' carbon dioxide emissions. "There's too much warming."

Indiana state climatologist Beth Hall said she isn't surprised by the latest report from Copernicus, but emphasized that people should remember climate is a global issue beyond their local experiences with changing weather. "We tend to be siloed in our own individual world," she said. Reports like this one "are taking into account lots and lots of locations that aren't in our backyard."

Buontempo stressed the importance of global observations, bolstered by international cooperation, that allow scientists to have confidence in the new report's finding: Copernicus gets its results from billions of measurements from satellites, ships, aircraft and weather stations around the world.

He said that going over the 1.5 degree Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) benchmark this year is "psychologically important" as nations make decisions internally and approach negotiations at the annual U.N. climate change summit Nov. 11-22 in Azerbaijan.

"The decision, clearly, is ours. It's of each and every one of us. And it's the decision of our society and our policymakers as a consequence of that," he said. "But I believe these decisions are better made if they are based on evidence and facts."

## Today in History: November 8, Florida election recount begins

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Friday, Nov. 8, the 313th day of 2024. There are 53 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 8, 2000, a statewide recount began in Florida, which emerged as critical in deciding the winner of the 2000 presidential election. The recount would officially end on Dec. 12 upon orders from the U.S. Supreme Court, delivering Florida's electoral votes and the presidency to George W. Bush.

Also on this date:

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln won reelection as he defeated Democratic challenger George B. McClellan.

In 1889, Montana was admitted to the Union as the 41st state.

In 1923, Adolf Hitler launched his first attempt at seizing power in Germany with a failed coup in Munich that came to be known as the "Beer-Hall Putsch."

In 1942, the Allies launched Operation Torch in World War II as U.S. and British forces landed in French North Africa.

In 1950, during the Korean War, the first jet-plane battle took place as U.S. Air Force Lt. Russell J. Brown

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 08, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 136 ~ 82 of 82

shot down a North Korean MiG-15.

In 1960, John F. Kennedy won the U.S. presidential election over Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

In 1974, a federal judge in Cleveland dismissed charges against eight Ohio National Guardsmen accused of violating the civil rights of students who were killed or wounded in the 1970 Kent State shootings.

In 2012, Jared Lee Loughner was sentenced to life in prison without parole for the January 2011 shootings in Tucson, Arizona, that killed six people and wounded 13 others, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful storms ever recorded, slammed into the central Philippines, leaving more than 7,300 people dead or missing, flattening villages and displacing more than 5 million.

In 2016, Republican Donald Trump was elected America's 45th president, defeating Democrat Hillary Clinton in an astonishing victory for a celebrity businessman and political novice.

In 2018, tens of thousands of people fled a fast-moving wildfire in Northern California that would become the state's deadliest ever, killing 86 people and nearly destroying the community of Paradise.

Today's Birthdays: Racing Hall of Fame jockey Angel Cordero Jr. is 82. Singer Bonnie Raitt is 75. TV personality Mary Hart is 74. Actor Alfre Woodard is 72. Singer-songwriter Rickie Lee Jones is 70. Nobel Prize-winning author Kazuo Ishiguro is 70. Filmmaker Richard Curtis is 68. Chef and TV personality Gordon Ramsay is 58. Actor Courtney Thorne-Smith is 57. Actor Parker Posey is 56. Actor Gretchen Mol is 52. News anchor David Muir is 51. Actor Matthew Rhys is 50. Actor Tara Reid is 49. TV personality Jack Osbourne is 39. Actor Jessica Lowndes is 36. Baseball player Giancarlo Stanton is 35. R&B singer SZA is 35.